



## Opening Session Speaker Bios

### **SUNDAY, 18 July**

**19:00–21:30, Session Room 1**

**Julio MONTANER, MD, FRCPC** (Canada), *AIDS 2010 Chair; President, International AIDS Society; Director, British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS; Chair in AIDS Research and Head, Division of AIDS, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia*  
Dr. Montaner received his medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires. In 1981, he joined the University of British Columbia (UBC) as a post-doctoral fellow, completed a residency in Internal Medicine and Respiratory Medicine and was Chief Resident for the Department of Medicine in 1986/1987. He is the Director of the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, the Chair in AIDS Research and Head of Division of AIDS in the Faculty of Medicine at UBC.

Dr. Montaner's clinical research interests include antiretroviral therapy, respiratory complications of HIV infection, salvage therapy, multiple-drug rescue therapy, initiation of treatment, treatment interruptions, therapeutic drug monitoring, and pharmacology and drug interactions. His recent research has been primarily focused on the implementation of his Seek and Treat for Optimal Prevention of HIV/AIDS (STOP HIV/AIDS) initiative, which will utilize HIV treatment as an HIV prevention strategy in British Columbia. The initiative seeks to drastically decrease HIV-related morbidity and mortality in the province.

Dr. Montaner is one of the first three recipients of the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Avant-Garde Award. The award is intended to stimulate high-impact research that may lead to groundbreaking opportunities for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS in drug users.

**Brigitte SCHMIED, MD** (Austria), *AIDS 2010 Local Co-Chair; President, Austrian AIDS Society; HIV Department and Outpatient Clinic, Otto-Wagner-Hospital*

Dr. Brigitte Schmied received her medical education at the University of Vienna Medical School and received her medical degree in 1987. After completing her internship at the Krankenhaus Rudolfstiftung, Vienna, she was a resident in respiratory medicine at Vienna's Otto-Wagner-Hospital, where she has treated HIV patients since 1990. After board registration in 1994, Dr. Schmied has worked as a consultant at Otto-Wagner-Hospital, heading the HIV Department and Outpatient Clinic since 2002.

Dr. Schmied has served on the board of the Austrian AIDS Society since its founding in 1990 and was elected President in 2002. She chaired the German-Austrian AIDS Conference in Vienna in 2005 and was Co-Chair of the conference in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in 2007. She is also a board member of the Austrian HIV Cohort Study Group and AIDS Life. As a member of the German-Austrian Treatment Guidelines Committee, Dr. Schmied has been responsible for the implementation of treatment guidelines in these two countries since 2002. In her capacity as partner of the European AIDS Treatment Network, she has been engaged in various cooperative programmes concerning HIV education in Eastern European countries.

Dr. Schmied's primary research interests include HIV and pregnancy, and the care of HIV-positive pregnant women and infant prophylaxis, as well as post-exposure prophylaxis. She pioneered the immediate initiation of antiretroviral post-exposure prophylaxis and propagated its implementation throughout Austria. She has been an investigator in numerous antiretroviral therapy trials and actively involved in the implementation of information and education campaigns in Austria.

**Vladimir ZHOVTYAK** (Ukraine), *President, East Europe and Central Asia Union of PLWH and Chair, Coordination Council, All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH*

Mr. Zhovtyak is a well-known and respected leader of the HIV community in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) and has been openly living with HIV since 2000. He has demonstrated commitment and leadership in advocating for the rights of people living with HIV (PLHIV), and increased access to antiretroviral treatment, substitution therapy, and services for PLHIV in Ukraine, as well as in other EECA countries. Mr. Zhovtyak is recognized by national and regional decision-makers at the highest political level throughout the region and serves on the Commonwealth of Independent States Intergovernmental Committee on HIV/AIDS.

The East Europe and Central Asia Union of PLWH (ECUO) is a unique organization in the EECA region, joining PLHIV communities and organizations from 14 countries. During the opening ceremony of the 2009 Eastern European and Central Asian AIDS Conference, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé stated, "ECUO is an inspiring example of how to unify and mobilize people living with HIV as a force for social transformation." The ECUO secretariat is based in Kiev, Ukraine, where the strongest PLHIV community in EECA is represented by the All-Ukrainian Network of PWH (Network). Mr. Zhovtyak led an initiative by a group of PLHIV that eventually became the Network, a nationwide organization that now serves as the principal recipient for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's grant in Ukraine. The Network now has 46 branches across the country, playing a crucial role in overcoming the HIV epidemic. Since 2005, Mr. Zhovtyak has also led the development of ECUO as its President.

**Alexandra (Sasha) VOLGINA** (Russian Federation), *Director, Svecha (Candle)*

Sasha Volgina has been living with HIV since 2000, when she was diagnosed after years of injecting drug use. In 2003, Ms. Volgina began working with FrontAIDS, the first treatment advocacy group in Russia and later became director of Svecha, a self-support group she co-founded.

Ms. Volgina's first mass media and public speaking experience was in late 2003 when she participated in Right for Life, a programme co-organized by Svecha. At the time, she was forced to make her presentation wearing a mask to avoid hostility and discrimination. Since then, she has disclosed her HIV status for the Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS mass media campaign. In September 2005, Ms. Volgina received MTV's Staying Alive award in recognition of her contribution to the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Ms. Volgina has organized numerous workshops across the Russian Federation devoted to self-support groups, treatment, the work of community-based organizations and advocacy. She is one of the leading experts in care and treatment and organizing care for active drug users living with HIV in Russia, and a vocal advocate for the equal rights for people living with HIV and people who inject drugs in their access to quality healthcare.

**Yves SOUTEYRAND, PhD** (France), *Coordinator of the Strategic Information Unit, HIV/AIDS Department, World Health Organization*

Dr. Yves Souteyrand has served as Coordinator of the Strategic Information Unit in the World Health Organization's HIV/AIDS Department since 2004 after serving previously as

Senior Adviser to the Department Director. Dr. Souteyrand received his PhD from the University of Aix en Provence and has worked at the French Ministry of Health as a researcher in charge of implementing research programmes in public health and health systems research. Between 1993 and 2003, Dr. Souteyrand was Head of Public Health and Socio-Behavioural AIDS Research for the National Medical and Health Research Institute (INSERM). Dr. Souteyrand leads the publication of the annual global progress report on the health-sector response to universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment, published by WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS. He is a member of the UNAIDS/WHO Working Group on Global HIV/AIDS and STI Surveillance and one of the publishers of the biannual AIDS epidemic update.

**Alois STÖGER** (Austria), *Federal Minister of Health of the Republic of Austria*

Alois Stöger has served as Minister of Health of the Republic of Austria since December 2008. Born in Linz, Austria, Mr. Stöger began his career as a machinist, serving from 1986 to 2008 as Secretary of the Austrian Metalworkers, Miners and Energy Supply Workers Trade Union, where he was responsible for youth affairs, education, legal representation and electricity utilities.

Mr. Stöger was chairman of the Youth Section of the Upper Austrian Trade Union Federation from 1982 to 1986 and chairman of Education of the Urfahr District Austrian Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) from 1997 to 2006. He has been an active member of the social insurance system since 1995, most recently serving as chairman of the Upper Austrian Regional Health Insurance Fund from 2005 to 2008.

**John DALLI** (Malta), *European Commissioner, Health and Consumer Policy*

John Dalli has served as a Cabinet Minister in the Maltese Government since 1987, having first been elected to the House of Representatives of Malta on behalf of the Nationalist Party. He has served as Parliamentary Secretary for Industry (1987–1990), Minister of Economic Affairs (1990–1992), Minister of Finance (1992–1996, 1998–2003), Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion (2004). Between March 2008 and February 2010, Mr. Dalli served as Minister for Social Policy, which includes the health, housing, employment and industrial relations portfolio. As a qualified accountant, Mr. Dalli also has worked in the private sector in Malta and abroad, both in industry and as an independent consultant. In February 2010, Mr. Dalli was appointed as European Commissioner responsible for Health and Consumer Policy.

**Sharon LEWIN, FRACP, PhD** (Australia), *Director of the Infectious Diseases Unit at The Alfred Hospital; Professor of Medicine at Monash University in Melbourne; Co-Director of the Centre for Virology, Burnet Institute, Melbourne, Australia*

Dr. Sharon Lewin is an infectious diseases physician and basic scientist. She completed her medical training at Monash University, followed by a PhD in virology at the Burnet Institute and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, The Rockefeller University in New York City. Dr. Lewin heads a research laboratory that aims to understand why HIV and hepatitis B virus persist and evade the immune system. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has received competitive research funding from the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council, the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust. Dr. Lewin is the immediate past president of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, the peak body in Australia that represents health professionals and scientists who work in HIV medicine.

**Rachel ARINII JUDHISTARI** (Indonesia), *Independent Youth Alliance; Bali Youth Force; Asian-Pacific Research and Resource Centre for Women*

Rachel Arinii Judhistari is an active youth advocate from Indonesia. She is the founder of the Independent Youth Alliance (Aliansi Remaja Independen), the only youth-led organization

focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Indonesia, which works to promote the rights of marginalized young people. Ms. Arinii Judhistari initiated and leads the Bali Youth Force, which enables young people from Asia and Pacific to participate meaningfully in the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. Ms. Arinii Judhistari currently works with the Asian-Pacific Research and Resource Centre for Women (ARROW) as its youngest staff member, leading a programme focusing on young people, HIV/AIDS and education in seven countries of South East Asia, including the Mekong River delta and China.

Ms. Arinii Judhistari also has been appointed as Asia and the Pacific Regional Focal Point for Global Youth Coalition on AIDS, a youth-led global organization with United Nations Consultative (ECOSOC) status that connects 4,000 young leaders from 180 countries in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In addition, Ms. Arinii Judhistari has worked with the Indonesian Red Cross, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Women Health Coalition, the Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She has delivered speeches at multiple international conferences.

**Michel SIDIBÉ** (Mali), *Executive Director, UNAIDS, and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations*

Michel Sidibé has been the Executive Director of UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations since January 2009. He is committed to transforming UNAIDS into a results-oriented organization and to supporting countries to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

In 1987, Mr. Sidibé joined UNICEF in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). In his 14 years at UNICEF, he oversaw programmes across 10 francophone countries in Africa. He also served as a UNICEF country representative in several African countries, including Burundi, Swaziland and Uganda. Mr. Sidibé became the Director of the Country and Regional Support Department of UNAIDS in 2001. In 2007, he was appointed as UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director of Programmes and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. Sidibé was named one of the 50 personalities of the year from the fields of science, politics, economics and civil society in 2009 by the newspaper *Le Monde* and in 2007 he was awarded an honorary professorship at Stellenbosch University of South Africa.

**Kgalema MOTLANTHE** (South Africa), *Deputy President, Republic of South Africa*

Kgalema Motlanthe is the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and the Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC). He also serves as a Member of Parliament, Secretary-General of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Trade Unionist of the Congress of South African Trade Unions. A fierce opponent of apartheid, Motlanthe organized student protests and joined the militant wing of the ANC in the 1970s. He was jailed for almost a year in 1976 and the following year was convicted of terrorism and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on Robben Island, where he served alongside Nelson Mandela and Jacob Zuma. Upon his release in 1987, he joined the NUM, became a skilled negotiator, and, in 1992, was named leader of the powerful union. He was elected Secretary-General of the ANC in 1997 and became its Deputy President a decade later. When Thabo Mbeki stepped down as South Africa's President in 2008, Motlanthe was named the nation's Interim President. He served until May 2009, when Jacob Zuma was elected President; Motlanthe then became South Africa's Deputy President.

**Paula AKUGIZIBWE** (Rwanda), *Advocacy Coordinator at the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa*

Paula Akugizibwe is the Advocacy Coordinator at the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), which conducts training and advocacy in the Southern African region to improve access to and quality of TB and HIV services, and advances a human rights-based response to health. Prior to joining ARASA in 2008, Ms. Akugizibwe worked as a procurement analyst at the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative in Rwanda, coordinating supply of second-line and paediatric antiretrovirals to Rwanda and Burundi. She also has experience working in community pharmacy and with human rights organizations in Botswana. Ms. Akugizibwe has served on technical advisory groups for the Southern African Development Community and the World Health Organization on issues related to TB. She has a Bachelor of Pharmacy and is currently completing her Master in Public Health (Epidemiology) at the University of Cape Town.

**Annie LENNOX** (United Kingdom), *Singer/Songwriter/Activist; Founder of the SING Campaign: A Voice for HIV/AIDS Women and Children; UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador*

Annie Lennox is a celebrated singer and songwriter whose work with the duo Eurythmics and as a solo artist is well-known worldwide. Ms. Lennox was born in Aberdeen, Scotland and left home in 1971 to attend the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 1979, she and friend Dave Stewart formed Eurythmics, selling more than 75 million albums and achieving more than 20 international hits over the next decade.

In 1992, Ms. Lennox released her debut solo album, "Diva", entering the charts at number 1 in the United Kingdom. Throughout her career, Ms. Lennox has received numerous awards, including the Ivor Novello Award; eight BRITS, including Lifetime Achievement Award; three Grammys; MTV Video Music Awards; a World Music Award; the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers awards, including the Founders Award; The Billboard Century Award; and an Oscar for her work on the movie *Lord of The Rings*. She has also worked with several humanitarian organizations, including Oxfam, Amnesty International, Comic Relief, and Greenpeace.

Ms. Lennox's fourth solo album, "Songs of Mass Destruction", was released in October 2007, and it included the song SING/JIKELELE, which launched the SING campaign ([www.annielennoxsing.com](http://www.annielennoxsing.com)). Through SING, Ms. Lennox works to raise awareness of and support for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. She serves as an International Goodwill Ambassador for UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

**Heinz FISCHER, Dr. jur.** (Austria), *Federal President of the Republic of Austria*

Dr. Heinz Fischer has served as Federal President of the Republic of Austria since 2004, having been re-elected in April 2010. Born in Graz, Austria, President Fischer studied law and political science at the University of Vienna, receiving his doctorate in law in 1961.

In 1971, he was elected to the Austrian National Council, of which he was president from 1990 to 2002. From 1975 to 1983 and again from 1987 to 1990, President Fischer served as chairman of the Social Democratic Group of the Austrian National Council. He was an associate professor of political science at the University of Innsbruck from 1978 and was appointed full professor in 1994. From 1983 to 1987, President Fischer served as Federal Minister for Science and Research.

He has authored numerous articles and books and has honorary doctorates from the Faculty of Law of the University of Tel Aviv (2008) and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (2009).