

# DAILY BULLETIN



AIDS 2010

News and Information from the XVIII International AIDS Conference

20 July 2010 | Edition 3

## Tuesday Plenary Highlights Early HIV Infection, Violence Against Women, Treatment Access

Bringing together a broad array of expertise, Tuesday's plenary session will highlight several types of interventions to mitigate the effects of the HIV epidemic, from the scientific to the social.

### New Concepts in HIV Pathogenesis: Implications for Interventions

Dr. Anthony Fauci (United States) of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases will describe how a growing understanding of the early and complex pathogenic events that occur within the first hours to days of sexual exposure to HIV is informing the development of HIV vaccines, prevention interventions, early treatment of HIV infection, and research for a cure. These early events, which include the spread of virus to lymphoid tissue and the establishment viral reservoirs, determine the subsequent course of HIV infection and represent a period of vulnerability for the virus that provides a window of opportunity for intervention.

Dr. Fauci also will discuss recent data from his laboratory on the role of a cellular protein receptor for the HIV envelope on the surface of CD4+ T cells called  $\alpha 4\beta 7$  that, in certain forms, defines a subset of CD4+ T cells that are highly susceptible to productive HIV infection. The  $\alpha 4\beta 7$  receptor guides immune system cells to the gut, where HIV rapidly targets and depletes CD4+ T cells, triggering the process that ultimately leads to AIDS. According to Fauci, an HIV envelope conformation that allows initial binding to  $\alpha 4\beta 7$  on mucosal CD4+ T cells should be seriously considered as a target for HIV vaccine development.

### Violence against Women and Girls

Everjoice Win (Zimbabwe) of ActionAid International will discuss the magnitude of violence perpetrated against women and girls around the world and the strong links between violence and HIV. Gender inequality perpetuates both violence and HIV, according to Win, describing violence as a cause and a consequence of HIV. For example, women are more likely to be on the receiving end of violent or coercive sexual intercourse and HIV-positive women are more likely than men to be targets of domestic violence from partners or family members who blame or stigmatize them.

### Key Universal Access Stats

- Five million of the 15 million people in need of HIV treatment have access to life-saving medicines.
- Globally only about 40% of people living with HIV know their HIV status.
- According to a recent study, the HIV transmission rate among sero-discordant heterosexual partners in seven sub-Saharan African countries was 92% lower when the HIV-positive partner was on treatment.
- Ten million AIDS-related deaths could be prevented if treatment access is scaled-up under UNAIDS Treatment 2.0 plan.

Treatment 2.0 fact sheet, UNAIDS, accessed 16 July 2010

## Human Rights March, Rally and Live Performance by Annie Lennox

Beginning at 18:30 on Tuesday, 20 July conference delegates and the public are invited to congregate at Schottentor (accessible from the conference site via the U2 underground line). The march, part of the Human Rights and HIV/AIDS: Now More Than Ever campaign, will begin at 20:00 and end at Heldenplatz, where a rally with government leaders, advocates and people affected by HIV will be held. Singer/songwriter/activist Annie Lennox will give a live performance and a special presentation of her SING Campaign. For more information, visit [www.HIVHumanRightsNow.org](http://www.HIVHumanRightsNow.org).

For example, women are more likely to be on the receiving end of violent or coercive sexual intercourse and HIV-positive women are more likely than men to be targets of domestic violence from partners or family members who blame or stigmatize them.

While the international community has recognized violence against women as a violation of human rights and human rights treaties establish the responsibility of states for preventing violations, punishing perpetrators and ending impunity, Win will call for the recognition and prioritization of violence against women in the AIDS response, and vice versa. Win will urge governments not to use culture, religion, or tradition as excuses for not addressing violations of women's human rights and implement stronger anti-violence laws that take HIV into account.

### Universal Access: Treatment and Prevention Scale Up

South African Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi will discuss efforts to achieve universal access to treatment and prevention. A medical practitioner by training, Motsoaledi has a long history of public service focusing on strategies to address poverty, unemployment and access to services.

### Women, Girls and HIV Investigator Prize

The Women, Girls and HIV Investigator Prize will be presented to Naina Rani (India) for her abstract *Mainstreaming the prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT) program with the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM): experiences from southern India* by singer/songwriter/activist Annie Lennox, founder of the SING Campaign and a UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador. The award is offered jointly by the IAS-Industry Liaison Forum and UNAIDS, and supported by the International Centre for Research on Women and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS. The US\$2,000 prize is awarded to an investigator from a low-income or middle-income country whose abstract demonstrates excellence in research and/or practice that addresses women, girls and gender issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Location: Session Room 1, 8:55-10:30

## Programme Highlights

### Starting HAART: When to Take the First Step?

Location: Session Room 1, 11:00-12:30

Using a courtroom-type setting, participants will present the pros and cons of starting HIV treatment at a higher CD4 count. Issues will include potential side effects of long-term treatment and the cost and sustainability of such regimens.

### Human Resources: The Ultimate Bottleneck

Location: Session Room 6, 11:00-12:30

Addressing the challenge of adequate human resources in the scale-up of HIV services in low- and middle-income countries is crucial to their success. This session will show how task shifting and sharing, as well as expert patients and peer educators, have enabled the expansion of the HIV workforce.

### Safety and Effectiveness of 1% Tenofovir Vaginal Microbicide Gel in South African Women: Results of the CAPRISA 004 Trial

Location: Session Room 7, 13:00-14:00

Presenters will provide safety and efficacy data from CAPRISA 004, an update on the current state of microbicide development, and implications of trial results on microbicide and PrEP research.

### What Have You Done for HIV/AIDS Lately? The Role of Human Rights Mechanisms in Advancing the AIDS Response

Location: Session Room 1, 13:00-14:00

Three high-level human rights officials will discuss the links between human rights and HIV, successes in integrating human rights into the context of HIV, and primary challenges for the future.

### Bridging the Divide: Inter-Disciplinary Partnerships for HIV and Health Systems

Location: Session Room 4, 13:00-14:00

This session aims to facilitate discussion of policy related to HIV, global health initiatives, and universal access and MDG targets. Participants will highlight strategies to leverage HIV programming to improve other services.

### Durban +10: A New Call to Activism

Location: Session Room 9, 13:00-14:00

Ten years on from the XIII International AIDS Conference in Durban, more than five million people in developing countries have access to medications. This session is meant as a celebration of those achievements and a call for increased action over the next decade.

### The Future of Universal Access: Parts 1 & 2

Location: Session Room 1, 14:30-16:00, 16:30-18:00

This two-part session will address the question: What must change to make universal access a reality? Moving forward, the path must be informed by lessons learned from the successes and failures of past efforts.

### The Lancet Series: Global HIV Epidemic Among People Who Use Drugs

Location: Session Room 5, 14:30-16:00

High-profile researchers and community members will summarize the *Lancet's* original series on the HIV epidemic among people who use drugs, which captures a "sea change" in terms of international response to HIV prevention and treatment among this at-risk population.

### Regional Session on the Middle East and North Africa

Location: Session Room 2, 16:30-18:00

The session will highlight the response to the HIV epidemic in the Middle East and North Africa region within the context of the conference theme and the UN goal of universal access.

## Global Leaders: End to Homophobia and Human Rights Abuses at MSM Pre-Conference

In response to high HIV prevalence rates among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) around the world, global health leaders called for an end to the human rights abuses against MSM that contribute to HIV vulnerability. The call came at BE HEARD, an all-day pre-conference event hosted by the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF). "Our vision of zero AIDS will never see the light unless we end criminalization of people by their sexual orientation," said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé at the opening plenary.

The event showcased presentations from more than 100 of the world's top experts on the health and human rights of sexual minorities, with over 500 attendees from more than 80 countries. The momentum from the MSM Pre-Conference continues throughout AIDS 2010 in the MSM Networking Zone at the Global Village. The Zone features a full schedule of programming, including sessions on ARV-based prevention among MSM, human rights violations and homophobia, and essential tools for advocates focused on MSM populations.

## Announcements

### Recycling

In an effort to ensure that AIDS 2010 is socially responsible, recycling bins are available throughout the conference venue. Please deposit any recyclables in the appropriate containers. In addition, the conference is offsetting carbon emissions and reducing the number of printed publications.

### Opioid Substitution Therapy

Delegates seeking to continue opioid substitution therapy (OST) during the conference can get additional information in the Harm Reduction Networking Zone located in the Global Village, Hall A.

### Printing Unavailable in Internet Café

Printing services are not available in the Internet Café. Delegates can use a computer with Internet access free of charge.

## Programme Updates – Tuesday, 20 July

### Bridging session TUBS01: Starting HAART: When to Take the First Step

Anandi Yuvaraj is unable to attend. **Mark Heywood, South Africa**, will discuss the community perspective.

### Abstract session TUAFO1: Refugees and Asylum Seekers and HIV: Deportation and Human Rights Violations

Abstract TUAFO102 will be presented by **Rainer Brandl, Austria**.

Oral poster discussion TUPDD2: Social and Sexual Networks

Abstract TUPDD206: Health seeking behavior-Q structures of rural and urban women with HIV, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and reproductive tract infections (RTIs) has been added and will be presented by **Suprabha Tripathi, United States**.