

DAILY BULLETIN



AIDS 2010

News and Information from the XVIII International AIDS Conference

21 July 2010 | Edition 4

Wednesday Plenary Speakers Highlight Antiretroviral Access

Wednesday's plenary speakers will highlight several key issues in the push for universal access to antiretroviral therapy.

Anti-HIV Drugs for Prevention

Dr. Bernard Hirschel (Switzerland) of the Infectious Diseases Service Geneva University Hospitals said that treatment as prevention is a promising strategy that needs to be properly evaluated in clinical trials. It is known that decreased viral load lowers the risk of HIV transmission and that effective treatment lowers viral load to undetectable levels. Funding agencies are currently evaluating proposals that provide more definitive data than current studies. In such studies, a number of communities would be randomized to receive the "test-and-treat" approach or to continue as before. These trials face logistical, practical and ethical obstacles. However, without more definitive data, the intuitive appeal of "test-and-treat" is unlikely to translate into action on a global scale. In the meantime, based on the available evidence, the medical community must strive to provide treatment under current guidelines to those patients in need, leading to better individual and societal outcomes, including decreasing HIV incidence.

A Proposal for Change: Managing Patents for Access to AIDS Medicines for All

Ellen 't Hoen (The Netherlands) of UNITAID will discuss intellectual property and the Medicines Patent Pool, a new mechanism that allows patent holders to voluntarily offer the intellectual property related to their AIDS medicines, under certain conditions. Any company wishing to use the intellectual property to produce the drugs can do so in exchange for a royalty payment. According to 't Hoen, if licenses for patents on AIDS drugs are not made available in countries that grant patents, generic competition will no longer be able to play a role in bringing down prices. By making licenses available and harnessing the power of competition in medicines markets, the Medicines Patent Pool could promote the availability of better and more robust treatments and generate considerable cost savings.

ART Advances – Into the Next Decade

Dr. James Hakim (Zimbabwe) of the University of Zimbabwe will call on the HIV/AIDS community to accelerate access to antiretroviral therapy that maintains the long-term health of PLHIV; develop point-of-care diagnostics that allow clinicians to prescribe medications wisely; and improve health delivery systems that can efficiently provide therapy to those still in need. Despite the rapid scale-up of ART, the world is not moving fast enough to keep up with the pace of five new HIV infections for every two PLHIV who gain access to ART. As countries move to adopt new WHO treatment recommendations, equity and human rights must remain paramount to implementing a progressive and comprehensive HIV response in. According to Hakim, the Millennium Development Goals serve as a clear roadmap to the overall achievement of the sanctity of human dignity.

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

IAS/ANRS Young Investigator Award

Funded by the IAS and the Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le SIDA et les hépatites virales (ANRS), these US\$2,000 awards support young researchers (under age 35) in HIV/AIDS. The tracks and HIV Reservoirs Workshop winners are:

Track A: Basic Science

Stephanie Planque, United States, Abstract TUA0101

Track B: Clinical Sciences

Gabriel Chamie, United States, Abstract TUPDB304

Track C: Epidemiology and Prevention Sciences

Joseph Larmarange, Mali, Abstract THPE0379

Track D: Social and Behavioural Sciences

Michaela Leslie-Rule, Tanzania, Abstract WEAD0203

Track E: Economics, Operations Research, Care and Health Systems

Gesine Meyer-Rath, United States, Abstract WEAE0201

Track F: Policy, Law, Human Rights and Political Science

Khalil Elouardighi, France, Abstract TUA0304

HIV Reservoirs Workshop

Patricia Monteiro, Canada, Abstract WEAA0205

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On Science, Not Ideology.

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Visit the Global Village

Activities in the Global Village are in full swing, with delegates and the public interacting in the various networking zones that focus on priority populations, issues and geographic regions. Visit the CONDOMIZE Zone, where you can touch, taste and feel different condoms and lubricants. In the Human Rights Networking Zone, you can watch video screenings or participate in a panel discussion or skills-building workshop on HIV- and human rights-related topics. For more information on the wide variety of Global Village activities, refer to the Programme Activities guide.

Programme Highlights

When Does HIV Funding Strengthen Health Systems?

Location: Session Room 4, 11:00-12:30

This session will highlight how funding for HIV/AIDS has (and has not) strengthened health systems overall.

Funding Global Health: Can Innovative Mechanisms Save the Day?

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

Utilizing a discussion-based format, participants will explore whether new funding mechanisms can raise necessary funds for development, including health, in the context of a global recession and contracting resources for HIV; whether disease-specific programmes are viable in such an economic climate; and what arguments advocates can make to ensure that resources continue to be available.

Youth Speak Out on Sustainable Response to HIV/AIDS

Location: Session Room 2, 13:00-14:00

This interactive session will feature lively discussion about the roles of and challenges for youth organizations and young people – especially young PLHIV, young drug users and other most-at-risk groups – in the response to HIV/AIDS.

Men Who Have Sex With Men: Homophobia and HIV in Africa

Location: Session Room 3, 13:00-14:00

This session will examine the political, cultural and social barriers to ensuring quality service provision for MSM in Africa.

How and When? Truth about Children Infected with and Affected by HIV

Location: Global Village Session Room 1, 14:30-16:00

Speakers will discuss status disclosure for HIV-positive children and continuum of care.

Use of Antiretrovirals for Prevention: PrEP, PEP and ART

Location: Session Room 6, 14:30-16:00

ART for Prevention: What are the Implications?

Location: Session Room 1, 16:30 – 18:00

These two sessions will discuss the potential, implications and feasibility of using antiretroviral therapy for treatment and prevention among HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals.

Regional Session on Asia and the Pacific

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

The session will highlight the HIV/AIDS response in the Asia-Pacific region within the context of the conference theme and the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.

Pre-Conference on Children Urges Comprehensive Family Care

The pre-conference on children, hosted by the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS and the Teresa Group, provided an opportunity for participants to discuss issues focused on improving support and care for families and younger children affected by HIV/AIDS. Symposium attendees called for family-centred prevention, treatment and care for children, with a strong emphasis on eliminating pediatric AIDS and reducing maternal mortality while expanding and connecting services related to the care and support of children. Speaking at the meeting, titled “Children and HIV: Family Support First,” Elizabeth Mataka, UN Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa, said, “HIV/AIDS services need to be integrated with maternal and child health, as well as with TB, nutrition and family planning programmes, in order to serve the health and well-being of women, their children and families.” The pre-conference attracted 440 attendees from 67 countries.

Conference Hubs Expand Reach of AIDS 2010

From New York to Sydney and Taipei to Maputo, at least 45 organizations worldwide are bringing AIDS 2010 to their communities. Targeting scientists, community activists and others involved in the HIV/AIDS response, these organizations are using conference hubs to strengthen their HIV response locally, build professional capacities among local stakeholders and engage regional leaders. Hubs are featuring screenings of selected sessions, workshops and trainings, and moderated discussions on how information presented at the conference can be used locally. Through discussion and debate, the hubs are helping to strengthen the local response to HIV/AIDS with the possibility of developing comprehensive plans for future actions at the local or regional levels.

The conference secretariat invites delegates to organize similar activities upon returning home, using webcasts of many conference sessions that will continue to be available following the meeting. For more information, contact the hubs team at hubs@aids2010.org.

Rapporteur Reports

During the conference, an international team of rapporteurs will prepare summaries of all sessions. Community leaders also will share their perspectives. Session reports and daily summaries in each track will be available in the Programme-at-a-Glance on the conference website. Rapporteur teams also will be dedicated to covering activities in the Global Village and Youth Pavilion. Those summaries will be available online and at the Rapporteur Session on Friday, 23 July.

Announcements

Donation Boxes

As a part of its commitment to social responsibility, the conference secretariat has implemented a donation programme. To contribute, you can place any items you do not wish to take home (delegate bags, stationary, printed materials, etc.) in one of the donation boxes located in Foyer A, Foyer D, the concourse and the Global Village.

Affiliated Event

Tonight, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is bringing together representatives of community-based organizations from around the world that provide health services for gay men and other MSM. Service providers or others interested in learning about these models are invited to attend “Creating a Network of Service Providers for Gay Men” at the Hotel Wandl, Petersplatz 9, 20:30-22:30.

Programme Updates – Wednesday, 21 July

Symposium **WESY08: How and When? Truth about Children Infected with and Affected by HIV**
Natalya Yurchenko is unable to attend.

Symposium **WESY09: Regional Session on Asia and the Pacific**
Sunil Pant is unable to attend.

Symposium **WESY10: Following the Funds: From Financing Services to Social Protection**
Charu Garg is unable to attend. Replacement will be announced.

Oral poster discussion **WEPDC2: HIV Testing Scale-Up: Innovations and Impact Abstract WEPDC201** will be presented by **Catherine A. Dodds, United Kingdom**.

Oral poster discussion **WEPDE2: Innovations in Laboratory Support of Health Services**
Abstract **WEPDE202** will be presented by **Regina Osih, South Africa**.