

DAILY BULLETIN



AIDS 2010

News and Information from the XVIII International AIDS Conference

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Prevention, Human Rights Central Themes at Plenary

Today's Plenary presenters will highlight priorities and future directions in HIV prevention initiatives along with the Jonathan Mann Memorial Lecture focused on human rights.

Combination HIV Prevention: Moving from Debate to Action

Dr. Carlos Cáceres (Peru) of the Institute of Studies in Health, Sexuality and Human Development will discuss combination HIV prevention, which includes multiple biomedical interventions, behavioural approaches and structural changes. Some members of the academic and policy community have expressed doubts about the need, feasibility and efficiency of combination prevention. According to Cáceres, such views may not capture the fundamental nature of combination prevention. Combination prevention increasingly is considered a "sensible" concept that is comprehensive, strategic, and evidence- and human rights-based. Because of the added value of combination prevention strategies, the concept should become a guiding principle of the HIV response.

Vertical Transmission

Dr. Elaine Abrams (United States) of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs at Columbia University will call for a new era in the prevention of vertical transmission. While some countries have demonstrated more noteworthy successes in this area over the last several years, large numbers of children remain at risk for HIV infection. Abrams said that failure to attain more substantial achievements in this area can be attributed primarily to a constricted approach to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission centered on HIV testing and simplified antiretroviral prophylaxis regimens. Key advances needed to achieve perinatal transmission of less than 5% by 2015 include the rapid geographic expansion of prevention and treatment services, increased awareness of the human rights of PLHIV and innovative strategies to prevent new infections in young girls and women.

No Excuses: A Living Experience of the Struggle for Rights - Jonathan Mann Memorial Lecture

According to Meena Saraswathi Seshu (India) of Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM, programmes that claim to be committed to rights-centred responses too often do not reflect that commitment. Seshu will present examples of rights-centred responses to the HIV epidemic using real-life stories of programmes in western India shaped by the participation of sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), rural women living in poverty and young people. In India, sex workers' involvement in shaping some HIV education and health services have helped them go from social pariahs to leaders in the HIV response, while gaining community respect. Through this evolution, communities have found the strength to challenge generations of entrenched discrimination and abuse against MSM, overturn social norms that impeded young people's access to comprehensive sexuality education, and bring to the centre of its collective consciousness the hidden problem of violence against women.

IAS/CCABA Prize for Excellence in Research Related to the Needs of Children Affected by AIDS

The prize will be presented to Priscilla Akwara (United States) for her abstract Who is the vulnerable child? Using survey data to identify children at risk in the era of HIV and AIDS by AIDS 2010 Chair and IAS President Julio Montaner and Lorraine Sherr of the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS Steering Committee. The US\$2,000 prize is offered jointly by the IAS and CCABA. The prize is awarded to an investigator whose abstract demonstrates excellence in research likely to lead to improved services for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

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

Help Us Evaluate AIDS 2010

Delegates are strongly encouraged to complete the online anonymous survey that will be emailed to you in August. Your feedback is critical to assess the conference's performance and its impact on the HIV/AIDS response. Main survey findings will be presented in the AIDS 2010 Evaluation Report, which will be posted on the conference website by early 2011. Responses will be carefully taken into consideration for planning AIDS 2012.

The Conference Evaluation Team would like to thank those who participated in interviews and/or have already completed the online instant poll.

Sign the Vienna Declaration

"Sign the declaration!" was the conclusion of a meeting of people who use drugs, scientists, policy experts and health professionals from around the world who gathered in the Global Village yesterday to hear about the next steps planned for the Vienna Declaration.

While consensus was that the declaration's impact must live on beyond the end of the conference, this week is the key chance for conference attendees to join the call for change. The Vienna Declaration is a scientific statement seeking to address the HIV epidemic among persons who inject drugs, among other harms, through the incorporation of scientific evidence into drug policies.

During the Global Village session, declaration organizers talked about the actions and public outreach that are planned to continue building on the momentum generated to date, leading up to AIDS 2012 in Washington, DC. Over 11,000 individuals and hundreds of leading public health, human rights and scientific organizations have signed, including five Nobel Laureates and three former Latin American presidents. You can sign the declaration on computers in the Global Village or online at www.viennadeclaration.com. Lend your name before the final number of endorsements is announced at the closing ceremony!

Programme Highlights

Regional Session on Europe and Central Asia

Location: Session Room 2, 11:00-12:30

Presenters will discuss the current state of the epidemic in the region and an agenda for moving forward, with a specific focus on MSM, migrants, people who use drugs, PLHIV and young people. Presentations in English and Russian. Headsets available in Halls C or D.

Scaling Up Male Circumcisions: From Research to Practice

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

This oral abstract session includes presentations examining male circumcision prevalence and scale-up initiatives in Kenya and Uganda, circumcision-related adverse events in the United States and the potential impact of adult circumcision among MSM in San Francisco.

Leaders Against Criminalization of Sex Work, Sodomy, Drug Use or Possession, and HIV Transmission

Location: Session Room 4, 14:30-16:00

Participants will discuss the decriminalization of sex work, sodomy and drug use/possession, decriminalization as an HIV prevention issue, opposition to those efforts, and engaging politicians in decriminalization efforts.

Regional Session on USA and Canada

Location: Session Room 2, 14:30-16:00

Presenters will provide epidemiological data and examine current and future trends in both countries. A member of the activist community will deliver an assessment of responses to the epidemic.

Sessions Highlight Health and Human Rights of Sex Workers

Several presenters today will address the health and human rights of sex workers in countries around the world. Speakers at an oral abstract session will discuss sex worker rights and discrimination, community mobilization, decriminalization and the potential impact of PEPFAR's so-called "anti-prostitution pledge". (Sex Work, Punitive Laws and Human Rights, Session Room 5, 11:00-12:00)

Members of the Global Network of Sex Work Projects from Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia will describe sex worker human rights issues in their countries or regions and illustrate the connections between human rights abuses and access to health care. They also will describe community participation in rights-based programming and strategic responses to human rights abuses. (Sex Work: Only Rights Can Stop the Wrongs, Session Room 3, 14:30-16:00)

Prevention and Care of HIV and Tuberculosis: Focus of Special Session

During a Special Session today, UNAIDS and the Stop TB Partnership will announce a joint initiative aimed at halving the number of deaths from tuberculosis among PLHIV by 2015 as compared with 1994 levels. Today, approximately one in four deaths among PLHIV is TB-related, representing about 500,000 preventable deaths annually. Presenters will discuss efforts to fight TB/HIV and call on governments and organizations to scale up TB prevention, including the provision of ART for TB patients living with HIV, and increase resources for research. During the session, Katherine Todrys of the United Kingdom will be awarded the IAS TB/HIV Research Prize for her abstract, *HIV and TB management in 6 Zambian prisons demonstrate improved but ongoing prevention, testing, and treatment gaps*.

The US\$2,000 IAS prize on TB/HIV research, which will be presented by Papa Salif Sow of the IAS Governing Council, aims to generate interest and stimulate research on basic, clinical and operations research in TB/HIV prevention, care and treatment.

Presenters at an abstract session directly following the Special Session will speak about TB/HIV testing, counseling, treatment and care.

Special Session: No More People Living with HIV Dying from TB

Location: Session Room 2, 12:55-14:00

Oral Abstract Session: Models of HIV-TB Integration and Care

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

Youth Pre-Conference Celebrates Diversity, Human Rights

To recognize human diversity, celebrate human rights and make the voice of youth heard at AIDS 2010, about 300 youth delegates from 95 countries convened in Vienna from 13 to 16 July for a youth pre-conference. Participants met with the aim of networking and improving their knowledge and skills. Ten youth organizations worked together to ensure youth participation in decision-making and organizing youth activities and advocacy campaigns prior to and during the conference.

AIDS 2010 Local Co-Chair Brigitte Schmied welcomed participants, noting that 40% of new HIV infections occur among young people. "Your presence here today means you're aware of the problem – thus you should try to be a part of a solution. We need young leaders like you to build a stronger response to HIV/AIDS!" International AIDS Society Acting Executive Director Mats Ahnlund called on young people to take a lead in the fight against HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination. The event was finalized by a youth reception with participation of UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé.

To learn more about the AIDS 2010 Youth Programme and Vienna Youth Force, visit www.youthaids2010.org.

Programme Updates Thursday, 22 July

Late breaker abstract session **THLBF1**

Abstract **LBPE54** will be presented in this session by **Kim Ashburn, United States** replacing **THLBF106**.

Late breaker abstract session **THLBB2**

Abstract **THLBB201** will be presented by **Curtis Cooper, Canada**.

Oral abstract session **THAC02 Novel Approaches to HIV Testing**

Abstract **THAC0205** will be presented by **Sara Gillen, United States**.

Oral abstract session **THAE02 Financing of HIV Programmes**

Abstract **THAE0203** will not be presented.

Oral abstract session **THAF01 Sex Work, Punitive Laws and Human Rights**

Abstract **THAF0103** will be presented by **Dan Allman, Canada**.

Oral abstract session **THAC01 Scaling Up Male Circumcisions**

Abstract **THAC0105** will be presented by **Jonathan Fuchs, United States**.