

AIDS 2010 Pre-Conference Basic Science Workshop:

“Towards a Cure”: HIV Reservoirs and Strategies to Control them

16-17 July 2010, Vienna

The International AIDS Society

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading membership association for individuals working professionally in HIV/AIDS. The IAS has over 13,000 members from 183 countries, and is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The IAS organizes the world's premier gathering on HIV/AIDS, the International AIDS Conference, which takes place every two years. In the intervening years the IAS organizes the HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention Conference, a scientific meeting focused on current biomedical research and its application to the scale up of HIV prevention, treatment and care.

The IAS uses its conferences as platforms for information-sharing, education and advocacy to ensure an evidence-based response to the epidemic. Beyond its conferences, IAS works with its partners throughout the world to accelerate research, implementation of proven technologies and other interventions and to protect the human rights of people living with and most affected by HIV/AIDS.

Basic Science and the International AIDS Conference

Scientific research has led to remarkable discoveries in the quarter century since HIV was first discovered. Today, individuals living with HIV can expect to live a relatively normal lifespan if they are diagnosed and treated early enough and are able to access and adhere to potent antiretroviral drug regimens. A deadly disease has been transformed into a chronic manageable condition, largely due to the efforts of basic scientists

The International AIDS Conference, which began as a relatively small scientific meeting in 1985 in Atlanta, is now the largest, most inclusive conference on any health or development issue. The conference might better be described as the “world forum” on

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HIV/AIDS, a meeting that includes over 25,000 participants from all scientific disciplines, the community, and leadership across the spectrum of the response to the epidemic. In recent years, the number of basic scientists participating at the International AIDS Conference has decreased, as many are drawn primarily to smaller meetings focused on their particular area of work. Both the conference and the response are weaker for the scarcity of basic science delegates. The opportunity for the conference to mobilize the wider field of HIV behind the need for ongoing investment in basic science, towards a cure and a vaccine in the future, is lost without strong representation from basic science at the meeting itself.

In order to increase the focus on basic science at the next International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010), which will be held in Vienna, the IAS will organize a high level, invitation-only, basic science workshop in advance of the conference, to be chaired by 2008 Nobel Laureate for Medicine and IAS Governing Council member Françoise Barré-Sinoussi. The workshop will focus on the topic of HIV reservoirs and strategies to control them. It will be directly followed up with a series of translational sessions at AIDS 2010 itself that report back on the discussions held at the workshop for a wider audience.

The strategies currently being investigated to control HIV reservoirs may hold the key to a cure for HIV disease in the future. It is widely known that current antiretroviral drugs cannot completely eradicate the virus from the body because HIV remains in some cells in a non-replicating stage called latent infection. The persistence of latent HIV reservoirs in different compartments of the body is one of the main barriers to the eradication of HIV infection.

Through organizing this workshop and the series of sessions at AIDS 2010 itself, IAS aims to increase the interactions between basic scientists and other stakeholders in the HIV response by creating incentives for basic scientists to participate in the International AIDS Conference and creating incentives for the wider community to engage in basic science.

Details regarding the Workshop:

IAS will convene a 2-day workshop, beginning with at noon on 16 July 2010 and ending at the end of 17 July for up to 200 invited basic science researchers in Vienna, Austria, immediately preceding the XVIII International AIDS Conference, to take place 18-23 July. The workshop will be chaired by Françoise Barré-Sinoussi.

The workshop will include senior, mid-career and junior scientists, as well as a small number of clinical researchers and community representatives. It will be an invitation-only meeting, but some participants will be selected through an online abstract submission process. Journalists from renowned scientific journals such as *The Lancet* and *Science Magazine* will be invited to participate, as well as senior administrators from major research institutions around the world.

The workshop will be closely linked to the AIDS 2010 conference programme. Track A (basic science) abstracts submitted to and accepted by the XVIII International AIDS Conference and related to the topic of viral reservoirs and strategies to control them will be presented and discussed at the closed workshop, and results from the workshop will be shared with the expected 25,000-30,000 participants attending AIDS 2010. The translational implications of the findings presented at the pre-conference basic science workshop will be discussed at AIDS 2010 through sessions and other events.

Strong emphasis will be placed on ensuring representation of scientific excellence throughout the world and scholarships will be provided for at least 38 participants who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

1. Organize an invitation-only workshop of up to 200 basic scientists from a wide range of laboratories and institutions throughout the world; of senior, mid-career and junior scientists; and including a small number clinical researchers and community representatives. The aims will be to:
 - a. Present state of the art basic science research on the control of HIV reservoirs
 - b. Accelerate research on viral reservoirs as the way towards a potential cure for HIV disease
 - c. Provide an opportunity for scientists working to control HIV reservoirs to share ideas, debate and network amongst their peers
 - d. Highlight the importance of basic science to the HIV response and re-engage the broader HIV community in basic science
 - e. Strategize how to accelerate the translation of findings into clinical practice
2. Propose and develop sessions at AIDS 2010 reporting on the workshop outcomes: bridging translational sessions between Basic Science and Clinical Research Tracks.
3. Register as an affiliated event on the AIDS 2010 conference website (www.aids2010.org) and promote the workshop on the IAS website (www.iasociety.org) and through other media.
4. Produce a final report, including:
 - a. Synthesis of meeting presentations and related abstracts
 - b. Refined research agenda on strategies to control viral reservoirs
5. Publicize the report to the broad HIV community to stimulate interest in and advocacy for expanded basic science research, in partnership with scientific journals.

Planning Process:

The planning process is guided by a steering committee, and executed by a programme committee. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi is chairing the workshop and both planning committees. The IAS secretariat is responsible for all aspects of the meeting planning and logistics.

The Steering Committee (SC) met during the in 5th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention in Cape Town on 21 July 2009, to start the workshop planning process. It is comprised of:

Workshop Chair

- IAS Governing Council member, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi

SC Core Members

- Ben Berkhout
- Mike Cohen
- Aikichi Iwamoto
- Pontiano Kaleebu
- Manuel Romaris
- Mark Wainberg
- Jack Whitescarver

AIDS 2010 A & B Track Co-Chairs

- Christine Rouzioux and Alexandra Trkola
- Anton Pozniak and Paula Munderi

IAS Representatives:

- IAS President - Julio Montaner
- IAS Executive Director - Robin Gorna
- IAS Senior Manager for Conference Programmes - Emily Blitz
- IAS Senior Manager for Programmes & Initiatives - Shirin Heidari

The Steering Committee is giving general direction (themes, scholarship criteria, etc) to the Programme Committee, which will in turn define and prepare the workshop non-abstract driven sessions and select the abstracts from AIDS 2010 programme which will be presented at the workshop.

The Programme Committee, which met in Vienna during AIDS 2010 Joint Programme Committees Meeting in January 2010, includes:

- Françoise Barré-Sinoussi,
- Moncef Benkirane,
- Nicolas Chomont,
- Tae-Wook Chun,
- David Goldstein,
- Paul Gorry,
- Alain Lafeuillade,
- Javier Martinez-Picado,
- Paula Munderi,
- Nicaise Ndembi,
- Anton Pozniak,
- Christine Rouzioux,
- Alexandra Trkola,
- Didier Trono,
- Carine Van Lint,
- Eric Verdin.

Planning Timeline:

| Activity | Date | Who/Where |
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| Steering Committee meeting - Adoption of themes, workshop programme structure, budget & outreach plan | 20 July , 2009 | In Cape Town, during IAS 2009 |
| Steering Committee and Programme Committee Conference call : decide on symposium suggestions to AIDS 2010 programme committees & scholarships criteria | 29 September, 2009 | 7am EST, 1pm CET |
| Programme Committee meeting - Adoption of workshop agenda (non-abstract) & bridging sessions suggestions AIDS 2010 programme committees | 9 January 2010 | In Vienna, the day before the JPC Meeting |
| Develop workshop sessions & support development of conference sessions | February to July 2010 | Programme Committee |
| Selection of best basic science abstracts | 31 March 2010 | Programme Committee, after AIDS 2010 Marathon Meeting |
| Selected online applications for scholarship | 31 March 2010 | Programme Committee |

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| Workshop | 16-17 July 2010 | In Vienna, venue to be determined |
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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

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| | <u>16 July 2010</u> |
| <u>13:00-14:00</u> | <u>Networking Lunch & Posters Discussions</u> |
| <u>14:00-14:30</u> | <u>Opening Keynote</u> |
| <u>14:30-16:00</u> | <u>Session 1 - Where and what are viral reservoirs? <i>HIV-1 Reservoirs and Sanctuary Sites</i></u> |
| <u>16:00-16:30</u> | <u>Break</u> |
| <u>16:30-18:00</u> | <u>Session 2 - What are the mechanisms of persistence?</u> |
| <u>18:30</u> | <u>Reception & Prizes Presentation at the Academy of Science</u> |

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| | <u>17 July 2010</u> |
| <u>9:00-10:30</u> | <u>Session 3 -What is the role of the immune system in HIV persistence?</u> |
| <u>10:30-11:00</u> | <u>Break</u> |
| <u>11:00-12:30</u> | <u>Session 4 - What genetic factors are at play?</u> |
| <u>12:30-14:30</u> | <u>Networking Lunch & Posters Discussions</u> |
| <u>14:30-16:00</u> | <u>Session 5 - Which Potential Therapeutic Interventions and How to Evaluate Them?</u> |
| <u>16:00-16:30</u> | <u>Break</u> |
| <u>16:30-17:00</u> | <u>Closing Keynote - Eradication versus Remission: Is Eradication possible?</u> |
| <u>17:00-17:15</u> | <u>HIV Reservoirs @ AIDS 2010</u> |

