The Industry Liaison Forum (ILF) is an initiative of the International AIDS Society (IAS) that brings together industry, independent investigators, non-governmental organizations, foundations and other stakeholders to enhance HIV prevention and treatment access and outcome in resource limited settings.

The ILF provides the platform for industry to engage, communicate and collaborate with other stakeholders to improve HIV research, health policy and health delivery for the benefit of populations, who remain grossly underserved by the benefits of clinical progress.

The ILF fulfills its mission by: identifying research gaps; promoting targeted research; identifying challenges and best practices; disseminating information, conducting analyses; consulting and convening stakeholders; providing industry expertise, and supporting capacity building for research.
History of the ILF

The Industry Liaison Forum (ILF) was founded in 2001. The purpose of ILF was to establish a partnership forum that would mobilize stakeholders to address the complex and interrelated research issues on HIV/AIDS.

The ILF emerged from a shared need identified by investigators, physicians and industry representatives that a number of confounding issues limit our potential for research success in resource-poor countries. At the same time, the role and responsibility of pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies in the fight against the HIV epidemic needed to be formally acknowledged and supported.

Unique multi-stakeholder forum

The ILF is exemplary of a unique collaboration between stakeholders in the global response to HIV/AIDS and serves as a platform for creative thinking and constructive dialogue around HIV research. The ILF Advisory Group consists of senior clinicians and public health experts from pharmaceutical and diagnostic industry, academia, NGOs, international organisations, and UN agencies.

Recent/current activities

Through a 10-month consultative process involving investigators, clinicians, industry, civil society and UN agencies, the ILF and its partners have identified 20 priority research questions that address critical knowledge gaps in clinical and operational research for women and children. These questions were published in a consensus statement entitled ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS: Advancing an HIV Research Agenda for Women and Children (published in 2010), which was endorsed by 15 partner organisations. The importance of women and children and the foresight of the ILF’s focus on these issues was affirmed in June 2011 at the UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York that placed special emphasis on the elimination of paediatric HIV and the health of mothers.

Future outlook

In the coming years, ILF will maintain its role as convening diverse stakeholders in order to overcome clinical and operational challenges in HIV research.

Over the next three years, the ILF will continue to prioritize prevention and treatment for women and children in resource-limited settings, with an emphasis on prevention and treatment outcomes, as well as access.

The ILF will support research and other strategies to: enhance treatment management; scale-up prevention of mother-to-child transmission programmes; improve prevention and treatment access and outcomes for these vulnerable populations; optimize the potential of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and other chemoprevention interventions; and support best practices in public health policy and delivery.