

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

May 2009



The Continuum of Care project provides a wide range of care for people living with HIV/AIDS from 20 referral hospitals in Cambodia. One program is the Friends Help Friends home-based care. Credit: UNAIDS/O. O'Hanlon

The Vancouver Summit: Strengthening Research, Improving ART Delivery

The 2nd Global Experts Summit: Leading by Example in the Public Health Approach to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

A group of over 60 experts met in Vancouver, Canada, in February 2009 to establish consensus recommendations for action on international clinical guidance and ART-related operations research. The recommendations from the Vancouver Summit are intended to inform and advance international normative clinical guidance and to provide an agenda for operations research that will drive improvements in the development, delivery and evaluation of ART programmes using the public health approach.

The Public Health Approach

The public health approach, recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2006 as a way of rapidly expanding access to ART, includes strategies aimed at streamlining ART delivery in low- and middle-income countries, such as:

- standardizing drug regimens
- simplifying formularies
- simplifying clinical decision-making
- monitoring HIV drug resistance at the population level.

This approach has helped to rapidly expand access to ART in some of the poorest regions of the world, but has also raised a series of clinical, programmatic and health systems questions regarding how to maximize these programmes' impact.

It will be critical to answer these operations research questions – questions which have broad programmatic and policy relevance – as the global public health field moves into the "second wave" of ART delivery. This is particularly important in the context of the global financial crisis and the widening gap between the estimated need and the resources available from bilateral, multilateral and private donors.

Background

The Vancouver Summit was the culmination of work, led by the IAS, which began with the release of the Sydney Declaration before IAS 2007. The declaration called for scaling up of resources for HIV research, including operations research, in conjunction with the scale up of HIV care and treatment programmes.

WHO subsequently convened a meeting of experts to address knowledge gaps in delivering treatment and care using the public health approach and released the WHO/IAS/Global Fund/World Bank Consensus Statement at AIDS 2008. The statement's release raised awareness of the need for an operations research agenda to answer these questions and drive improvements in ART delivery.

The Vancouver Summit was co-organized with the World Bank and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and co-hosted by the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

A convenience sample of ART-related operations research activities funded or implemented by summit participants was also undertaken and is available [online](#). The IAS encourages members and other stakeholders to add to the information in the research summary (based on the definition provided), so that it can serve as an ongoing clearinghouse on ART-related operations research.

The summit programme focused on five thematic areas:

1. Maximizing the positive impact of ART on prevention
2. ART initiation
3. Optimization of ART drug regimens
4. Monitoring of ART
5. Programme implementation and health systems strengthening

[Read more](#)

Latest NEWS

[Message from the President & the Executive Director](#)

[IAS Launches New Fellowship and Scholarship Programmes](#)

[Regional AIDS Societies' Conferences](#)

[News from CROI](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

MEMBERS' Area

[Check Your Membership Status](#)

[Renew Your Membership](#)

[Find Other IAS Members](#)

[Subscribe to AIDS Journal](#)

[More about Membership](#)

IAS 2009 Update

Amidst Global Recession IAS 2009 to Focus Attention on Africa

As the first IAS conference to be held in Africa, the 5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2009) in Cape Town will refocus the international community's attention on the continued challenges facing the region, while highlighting the latest efforts to fight them. As the first major international AIDS meeting held in South Africa following national elections, the conference will provide an ideal opportunity to review the new South African government's plans for the HIV/AIDS response.

[Read more](#)

[Visit the IAS 2009 Website](#)

[Register now](#)



World AIDS News

[World AIDS News by Mark Mascolini for IAS](#)



AIDS Journal

[New Platform for AIDS Journal](#)

[To the AIDS Journal Website](#)