AIDS 2014, 20-25 July 2014 Melbourne
IAS Events and Activities at AIDS 2014
Welcome to Melbourne and to the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014). As President and Acting Executive Director of the International AIDS Society, we are excited to be part of such an important conference for all those working in the HIV field and we are extremely grateful to our international, regional and local partners who have so strongly supported the conference secretariat during the last two years. It is thanks to their help and the commitment of our experts who make up the various Conference Committees that we are able to present a robust and dynamic programme which we, are sure, will offer conference delegates plenty of opportunities to engage with fellow participants and speakers, hear the latest research, and take part in dynamic debates.

It is our firm believe that the way to end the epidemic is to increase dialogue and cooperation and to step up the pace together. The International AIDS Conference provides the IAS with the opportunity to organize events related to our organizational priorities and to interact with our members and conference participants. We encourage all AIDS 2014 delegates to attend our events and to join us for the IAS Members’ Meeting: “IAS Advocacy and Research Promotion Priorities: HIV Cure, Key Affected Populations (KAPs) and Paediatric HIV”. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the IAS’s strategic priorities for 2014 and 2016 and to meet the newly elected members of the IAS Governing Council (GC).

We also invite delegates to visit the IAS booth where they can learn more about the IAS, its conferences, and its advocacy and research promotion activities, including the Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS). Visitors have the opportunity to collect information on each of you to sign the declaration: http://www.aids2014.org/declaration.aspx

We look forward to a great conference. If you cannot attend AIDS 2014 in person, we warmly encourage you to follow the conference remotely via the online resources available at www.aids2014.org.

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi - IAS President
Bernard Kadasia- IAS Acting Executive Director

It is fitting in many ways, that after three decades of the HIV epidemic, the International AIDS Conference is finally coming to Australia. Fitting because Australia has punched way above its weight at a global level in response to HIV – from the very beginning.

There’s much to admire in Australia’s well documented response to HIV: its bipartisan political approach to the disease has undoubtedly been a major driver in Australia having one of the lowest rates of HIV infection worldwide. The inclusion of key affected populations – sex workers, people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men and transgender people – as equal from the outset has been fundamental in an effective response. And lastly, the capacity building in HIV-related science and research has played a pivotal role in driving evidence-based public health policy, innovation and access to the latest treatment and prevention strategies for affected communities.

As a scientist I am enormously proud of what Australian science has contributed in the fight against the epidemic and I am thrilled about the direction of HIV science generally speaking. It is my hope that the AIDS 2014 programme will reflect that growing sense of optimism but it is equally a priority of the conference that it tackles head on those barriers to implementing that science on the ground.

Stigma and discrimination still remain major barriers in the delivery of treatment and prevention to those key affected populations at highest risk. The AIDS2014 Melbourne Declaration, launched on May 17, 2014, states that non-discrimination is fundamental to an evidence-based response to HIV and effective public health programmes and calls for the immediate and unified opposition to these discriminatory and stigmatizing practices. I call on each of you to sign the declaration: http://www.aids2014.org/declaration.aspx

On behalf of all my colleagues at the Alfred Hospital, Monash University and the Burnet Institute and across Australia, the Melbourne Planning Group and our other strategic partners, I would like to thank the International AIDS Society (IAS), led by my esteemed colleague Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, IAS President and International Chair of AIDS 2014, for this wonderful opportunity to host AIDS 2014 in Melbourne and bringing the conference to the Asia Pacific Region.

Lastly, I strongly urge delegates to get out and see Melbourne too - the city has embraced the conference like no other before it and amongst some 160 different cultural events taking place in the city around the conference, is literally painting itself red for the week!

Sharon Lewin
AIDS 2014 Local Co-Chair
IAS Events and Activities at AIDS 2014

The International AIDS Society (IAS) will host a range of activities before and during the conference week together with various partners. All locations are in the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre unless otherwise noted.

The following activities are confirmed to date. For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.aids2014.org.

The entire AIDS 2014 programme is available online through the Programme-at-a-Glance (PAG): http://pag.aids2014.org/ and through the mobile application (free download).

IAS Exhibition Booth

Exhibition booth 410
10:00 – 18:30
Monday 21 – Thursday, 24 July,
Sunday, 20 July, 12:00 – 18:30
IAS Exhibition Booth
The IAS exhibition booth delegates can learn more about the IAS and its conferences, and its advocacy and research promotion activities, including the Journal of the International AIDS Society. Visitors have the opportunity to collect information on the upcoming IAS 2015 and AIDS 2016 conferences, meet IAS staff and network with IAS members and representatives from the IAS Governing Council. Delegates can also apply for, or renew their IAS membership at the Membership Desk. In addition, the IAS provides visitors with Internet access in the Internet area of the exhibition booth.

IAS Office
The IAS office is located on the ground floor of the Melbourne Convention Centre, near the Hilton South Wharf entrance.

IAS Events and Activities

Pre-Conference Event: 
“HIV and Health systems: Fostering Quality and Quality Improvement (QI) in the context of HIV Scale Up”

Event partners: ICAP at Columbia University, UNICEF, PEPFAR, World Health Organization, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National Institutes of Health

Friday 18 July, 17:00 – 19:00,
Saturday 19 July, 08:00-17:30
Quay West Hotel
By invitation only

The over-arching goal of the meeting, organized by ICAP at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health in partnership with the International AIDS Society, is to convene policy makers and technical experts in HIV, health systems, health care quality and quality improvement to identify the policy-relevant information, capacity building needs and priority research questions shared by Health Ministries and other key implementers in order to strengthen health systems to improve the quality of HIV prevention, care and treatment services to achieve the goals of an AIDS-free generation.

Pre-Conference Event: 
“Setting the Pace: Gay Men, MSM, and Transgender People in the Global AIDS Response”

Pre-Conference Event:
“Towards an HIV Cure”

Event partners: National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Agency for AIDS Research (France) (ANRS)

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 July,
Victoria University – City Flinders Campus
By registration only

The IAS and the “Towards an HIV Cure” Advisory Board will convene a two-day pre-conference symposium immediately prior to AIDS 2014. The symposium, co-chaired by Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, IAS President, Steven Deeks, Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and Sharon Lewin, Director of the Infectious Diseases Unit, Alfred Hospital, Monash University, and Burnet Institute will provide a platform to present state-of-the-art basic science, pre-clinical and clinical research towards an HIV cure. The best abstract presented by a young investigator will be awarded at the symposium. The symposium will bring together 250 basic and clinical researchers, funding administrators, regulators, scientific journalists and community advocates.
Pre-Conference Workshop: “Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV Research”
Saturday 19 July, 08:00 – 17:15, Vibe Savoy Hotel Melbourne
By invitation only

In collaboration with the U.S. Centers for AIDS Research and the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the IAS awards the grant programme, “Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV Research” (CNIHR). The focus of the programme is developmental research by scientists from outside the field of HIV research which addresses important questions related to prevention, treatment and care. The initiative aims to foster cross disciplinary research, promote novel ideas and aid in the success of investigators at an early-career stage. Following a robust and competitive application process, new grantees were selected and each awarded up to USD 150,000.

CNIHR grantees from 2012, 2013 and 2014, together with their mentors, will attend a pre-conference workshop. The workshop provides an opportunity for CNIHR 2013 grantees to report on their research progress and for new grantees to present their prospective research projects. The new grantees will be announced immediately before the plenary session on Thursday, 24 July.

IAS-ILF/CIPHER Thematic Roundtable on Paediatric HIV
Saturday 19 July, 18:00 – 21:00, Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens
By invitation only

The IAS-Industry Liaison Forum (IAS-ILF) roundtable series aims to convene scientific and technical experts from industrial and non-industrial organizations to discuss topics relevant to HIV where a multi-stakeholder approach can lead to solutions. The first of this series, on paediatric antiretrovirals (ARVs), was held in Geneva on 27 November 2013 and gathered representatives from 13 ARV manufacturers and 12 international organizations to identify challenges specific to paediatric ARVs and discuss multi-stakeholder approaches to addressing those challenges (meeting report available here: http://tinyurl.com/oqv9mq2).

At AIDS 2014, a follow-up roundtable on paediatric HIV will be held to widen the scope of the discussion from including mainly ARV manufacturers and international organizations to include investigators from the largest HIV paediatric cohorts worldwide. The objective will be to identify key challenges in optimizing paediatric HIV care and treatment and approaches for multi-stakeholder collaboration. This roundtable is being organized in collaboration with CIPHER.

Introduction to HIV Research for 2014 CNIHR Grantees
Sunday 20 July, 09:00 – 11:00, IAS office (MCEC)
By invitation only

This session will provide 2014 grantees with an introduction to three main areas of HIV research: HIV prevention, ARV treatment and drug resistance and research towards a cure. Senior experts will present both the essentials and the state-of-the-art of HIV science. The session will prepare 2014 grantees with a strong foundation of HIV knowledge and will enable them to get the most out of the conference.

Sunday July 20, 11.15-13.15, Room 111-112, (MCEC)

In the context of constrained funding for the HIV and AIDS response, the need has increased to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness (E2) of HIV/AIDS programs to achieve the greatest impact. This session will present experiences from countries and agencies in E2. Panellists and participants will discuss the impact and the future of E2.
**CIPHER Stakeholder Meeting**  
Sunday 20 July, 14:00 – 15:30, IAS office (MCEC)  
*By invitation only*

The Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER) is the flagship paediatric initiative of the IAS aimed at optimizing clinical management and delivery of services to infants, children and adolescents affected by HIV in resource-limited settings, through research promotion and advocacy. Launched in 2012 thanks to a generous grant from ViiV Healthcare and with their continued support, CIPHER’s projects include a competitive Research Grant Programme, a global Paediatric HIV Cohort Collaboration and an Online Paediatric HIV Cohort Database, among others. This meeting is an opportunity for CIPHER stakeholders and grantees to review CIPHER’s programme, discuss next steps and network.

**Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS) Editorial Board Meeting**  
Tuesday 22 July, 12:30 – 14:30, IAS Office (MCEC)  
*By invitation only*

The *Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS)* is an official, multidisciplinary, open-access, indexed journal of the IAS whose objective is to serve as a platform for the dissemination of essential and innovative HIV and AIDS research. This meeting will provide editorial board members with the opportunity to review the Journal’s activities over the last year, reflect on the 10 years of the Journal’s existence overall, and discuss its future strategy and operations.

**Satellite Session:  “Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV Research: Fostering innovation and a new generation of HIV researchers”**  
Monday 21 July, 18:30 – 20:30, Room 111 – 112

CNHRI grantees, who have been awarded in conjunction with AIDS 2012, will present their research results during the satellite session. Their presentations will provide insights into innovative approaches and creative solutions to understand and overcome key obstacles in the HIV field ranging from HIV infections and comorbidities to research towards a cure. The session will be an inspiration for early stage investigators and a demonstration of cutting-edge research in the HIV field.

**IAS-ILF Advisory Group Meeting**  
Monday 21 July, 12:30 – 14:30, Red Room, IAS office (MCEC)  
*By invitation only*

The IAS-Industry Liaison Forum (IAS-ILF) is a mechanism to inform and support collaboration and partnership between industry and the IAS. Guided by a strong, multi-stakeholder advisory group, it performs this broad task by regularly providing opportunities for industry to understand the IAS’s interests and priorities, and vice versa, seeking common ground to enhance the impact of our response to HIV and related co-morbidities. The IAS-ILF Advisory Group Meeting is the occasion to review past and future activities of the IAS-ILF while reflecting on its overall strategy.

**IAS-Industry Consultation**  
Tuesday 22 July, 18:30 – 20:30, Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens  
*By invitation only*

The IAS held its first IAS-Industry Consultation on 4 March 2014. The meeting was an occasion for the IAS to present its strategic priorities while getting insights from industry partners regarding their interests to foster further collaboration. The meeting included a roundtable discussion on industry partners’ interests and how the IAS can support industry and benefit from this interaction. The broad, high-level industry representation (from 22 companies) included ARV manufacturers, diagnostics companies, condom manufacturers and circumcision device manufacturers, as well as firms involved in HIV cure, vaccine research and programme implementation. Following this successful event recently held in Boston, a second IAS-Industry Consultation is planned at AIDS 2014. This closed event will be the occasion to deepen the discussion started in March and get feedback from a diversity of additional companies.

**Satellite Session: Towards an HIV Cure: Community Engagement Workshop**  
Event partners: National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) and Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
Tuesday 22 July, 18:30 – 20:30, Room 103

Beyond the mission to accelerate and facilitate international research for a potential HIV cure, the IAS Towards an HIV Cure initiative is strongly determined to ensure that the broader HIV community is involved and engaged throughout this process. Co-organized with our partners, NAPWHA and TAG, the Community Engagement Satellite aims to provide the key elements to understand the challenges and obstacles for an HIV cure, to present the most recent results and the current research directions, as well as engaging a cross-community dialogue. This satellite will be open to all, including community representatives, members of patient associations, advocates, and HIV cure researchers, from both the public and private sector and media representatives.
Satellite Session:
Overcoming HIV in Conservative Social Settings

Event partners: The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)

Wednesday 23 July, 18:30 – 20:30, Room 104

In many conservative settings, the HIV epidemic is concentrated, disproportionately affecting specific vulnerable population groups. In contexts where sexuality often remains taboo, and where laws targeting sexual minorities, drug users and sex workers are increasing in both their number and vigor, we must come together to discuss possible culturally-sensitive strategies and interventions to overcome HIV in these challenging settings. A previously elaborated Call to Action will be shared and discussed during this interactive session.

IAS Prizes and Awards

Every year, the International AIDS Society and its partners sponsor a number of scientific prizes and awards to reward promising young and established researchers for outstanding HIV research and to highlight exceptional efforts and achievements in the response to HIV. The following awards will be announced in conjunction with a pertinent session, either plenary or special.

Elizabeth Taylor Human Rights Award

Sunday 20 July, Opening Session

The Elizabeth Taylor Human Rights Award recognizes the efforts of individuals who have achieved major breakthroughs or shown exceptional courage in their efforts to advocate for human rights in the field of HIV. The award is supported by the IAS and the Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) to pay a lasting tribute to Dame Elizabeth Taylor, who served as a highly visible, vocal and relentless champion of human rights in the HIV field.

Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV Research (CNIHR) Grant Programme

Monday 21 July, Plenary Session

In collaboration with the U.S. Centers for AIDS Research and the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the IAS awards the grant programme, “Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV Research” (CNIHR). The focus of the programme is developmental research by scientists from outside the field of HIV research which addresses important questions related to prevention, treatment and care. The initiative aims to foster cross-disciplinary research, promote novel ideas and aid in the success of investigators at an early-career stage. Following a robust and competitive application process, new grantees were selected and will each be awarded up to USD 150,000 per year for up to two years.

Prize for Excellence in HIV Research Related to Children

Tuesday 22 July, Plenary Session

The USD 2,000 prize is jointly offered by the IAS and the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS. One prize is awarded to an investigator whose abstract demonstrates excellence in research that is likely to lead to improved services for children affected by HIV and AIDS. The research site must include low- or middle-income countries.

Women, Girls and HIV Investigator’s Prize

Tuesday 22 July, Plenary Session

The purpose of the Women, Girls and HIV Investigator’s Prize is to encourage research in low- or middle-income countries that can benefit women and girls affected by HIV and AIDS. The USD 2,000 prize is offered by the IAS-Industry Liaison Forum (IAS-ILF) and UNAIDS, and supported by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW). The prize is awarded to an investigator from a low- or middle-income country whose abstract demonstrates excellence in research and/or practice that addresses women, girls and gender issues related to HIV and AIDS. This prize serves to highlight the challenges faced by women and girls in the epidemic and to encourage investigators from low- and middle-income countries to pursue research in this area.

HIV and Drug Use Research Fellowship

Wednesday 23 July, Plenary Session

In partnership with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le Sida et les Hépatites Virales (ANRS), IAS has established a research fellowship programme with the goal of contributing to advances in the scientific understanding of drug use and HIV while fostering multinational research on HIV and drug use. The fellowship programme consists of two types of awards: USD 75,000 to be awarded to a junior scientist for 18 months of post-doctoral training and USD 75,000 to be awarded to a well-established HIV researcher for eight months of professional development training. Both takeplace at leading institutes excelling in research in the HIV related drug use field.

IAS TB/HIV Research Prize

Wednesday 23 July, Plenary Session

The USD 2,000 IAS TB/HIV Research Prize is an incentive for young and established researchers to investigate pertinent research questions that affect TB/HIV co-infection and operational effectiveness of implementing core TB/HIV collaborative services. The prize is awarded to contribute to generating interest and stimulating research on basic, clinical and operational research in TB/HIV prevention, care and treatment.
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The USD 2,000 IAS/ANRS Young Investigator Award is jointly funded by the IAS and the Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le Sida et les Hépatites Virales (ANRS) to support young researchers who demonstrate innovation, originality, rationale and quality in the field of HIV research. The award is given to the author of the top-scoring abstract in each of the conference tracks; award winners must be younger than 35 years of age. In addition, one IAS/ANRS Young Investigator Award – Special HIV Cure Prize will be awarded at the pre-conference symposium, “Towards an HIV Cure.”

IAS Presidential Award

Friday 25 July, Closing Session

The IAS Presidential Awards aim to recognize the achievements of individuals who demonstrate a long history of leadership and excellence as pioneers or advocates at the forefront of the response to HIV and AIDS. The awards highlight an individual’s contribution that results in increased knowledge, skills, creative solutions or evidence-based policies and programmes to enhance the global response to AIDS. The IAS Presidential Awards are recognition awards with no monetary value.

The Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER) Grant Programme Award Ceremony

Friday 25 July, Plenary Session

The CIPHER Grant Programme funds research projects that have the potential to contribute to the optimization of diagnosis, prevention, treatment and care of infants, children and adolescents affected by HIV in resource-limited settings. The intention is to attract early-stage investigators – from inside and outside the field of HIV research – to address targeted research gaps to support evidence-based policy making decisions. The grant provides up to USD 75,000 for up to two years; two grants will be awarded this year. CIPHER is made possible thanks to an unrestricted grant from ViiV Healthcare. The content of its programmes is guided by experts convened by the IAS.

AIDS 2014 Media Training and Briefing

Monday 21 July, 11:00 – 12:30, Room 101 – 102

Speakers will include scientists, journalists and community representatives. The training is specifically addressed to AIDS 2014 media scholarship recipients and media attending the conference for the first time. At 12:45-13:30 the official AIDS 2014 Media Briefing will take place. All media delegates are strongly encouraged to attend the event to hear the latest update on the key newsworthy sessions (general and scientific) in the conference programme. Key spokespeople from NGOs and research organizations representing key presenters will be in attendance for further networking immediately afterwards.
FOLLOW AIDS 2014 ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
Get the latest conference updates and share your thoughts and ideas through the AIDS 2014 social media channels

www.youtube.com/user/iasaidsconference  @AIDS_conference  #AIDS2014

For more information: visit the IAS Exhibition Booth (#410).

The IAS invites you to visit our website at www.iasociety.org or get in touch with us at: International AIDS Society HQ, Avenue de France 23, CH-1202, Geneva, Switzerland. Phone: +41-(0)22-7100 800  Fax: +41-(0)22-7100 899  Our email address is info@iasociety.org  We are looking forward to hearing from you.

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