



Stefano Vella

Italy

Stefano Vella was born in Rome on 12 June, 1952. He received his degree in Medicine from the University of Rome in 1977. He subsequently achieved specialty degrees in both Infectious Diseases (1982) and Internal Medicine (1987).

After a postdoctoral experience at the University of Pennsylvania (1981-1982), he joined the medical staff at the Institute of Internal Medicine, University La Sapienza, Rome, where he developed extensive experience in the clinical management of patients with infectious diseases and with HIV/AIDS. He then started his research career, mainly devoted to the study of the pathogenesis and the therapy of viral infections. Since 2003, he has served as the Head of the Department of Therapeutic Research and Medicines Evaluation at the ISS (The Italian National Institute of Health).

His research interest is mainly directed towards the study of HIV resistance to antiretroviral drugs, the mechanisms of immune reconstitution, and the perfecting of antiretroviral therapy. Dr. Vella has been involved in the building of consensus international documents on the clinical management of HIV infection. He has also been an invited speaker in over 100 International Conferences, is an article reviewer for numerous journals including Science, Lancet, Journal of Infectious Diseases, AIDS, and Journal of AIDS, and has published more than 200 articles in international journals, including The New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, JAMA, British Medical Journal, and Annals of Internal Medicine. Over the last twenty years, his research group has published extensively on various aspects of HIV pathogenesis, treatment and prevention in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

He became a member of the Governing Council of the International AIDS Society (IAS) in 1996 and served as IAS President from 2000 to 2002. He was instrumental in the organization of the conferences in Durban, South Africa (2000) and in Bangkok, Thailand (2004). He served as a member of Conference Organizing Committees of many IAS and IAC conferences. During Dr. Vella's term of Presidency, the IAS became a major player in the battle to foster access to HIV/AIDS care and treatment in the South. Dr. Vella serves as scientific advisor for the Italian Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in different African countries, and is involved in the setting of specific programs in Uganda, South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia. He is the Scientific Coordinator of the Italian pillar of the ESTHER European Alliance. He has been a member of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), and he is currently a member of the Italian Constituency. He also participated, since the beginning, in the building of the EDCTP, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (HIV, TB and Malaria) and is currently the Italian member of the EDCTP General Assembly.

Dr. Vella is Vice President of the Scientific Council of the ANRS (Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le Sida et les hépatites virales), Paris, France, and is currently the coordinator of the European Commission funded HIV Clinical Trials Network (NEAT) which includes 16 European countries. He was also the Co-Chair of the 6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (Rome, 2011) and chaired the panel which updated the 2013 WHO ART guidelines.