



PUBLIC STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Chris Beyrer (USA) of Johns Hopkins University becomes new President of the International AIDS Society as the 20th International AIDS Conference closes in Melbourne. Dr. Linda-Gail Bekker (South Africa) is new President-Elect and Dr. Anton Pozniak (UK) is re-elected Treasurer

25 July 2014 (Melbourne, Australia) – The International AIDS Society (IAS), convener of the [20th International AIDS Conference \(AIDS 2014\)](#) in Melbourne, Australia, today announced Dr. Chris Beyrer as its new President for the next two years. Chris Beyrer, MD, MPH, is Professor of Epidemiology, International Health and Health, Behavior and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland, and takes over from outgoing President Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi.

The new President-Elect is Dr. Linda-Gail Bekker, MBChB, DTMH, DCH, FCP (SA), PhD. Linda-Gail Bekker is Deputy Director and Professor of Medicine at the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, University of Cape Town, and Chief Operating Officer of the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. Dr. Anton Pozniak, MD, FRCP, re-elected Treasurer, is Consultant Physician and Honorary Senior lecturer and Director of the HIV service at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Imperial College London. He is an executive member of the European AIDS Clinical Society, President of the European AIDS Treatment network (NEAT) and a trustee of the HIV charity St Stephens AIDS Trust.

Dr. Beyrer serves as Director of Johns Hopkins Training Program in HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Science, and as Founding Director of the Center for Public Health and Human Rights. He is the Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and of the University's Center for Global Health. He currently serves as a member of the men who have sex with men (MSM) Working Group of the HIV Prevention Trials Network. He has extensive experience in conducting international collaborative research and training programmes in HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease epidemiology, in infectious disease prevention research, HIV among Key Populations, and in health and human rights.

As Director of the Johns Hopkins Fogarty AITRP Program, Dr. Beyrer provided fellowships for over 1,400 international scholars in HIV/AIDS prevention, research, and treatment. He served as Field Director of the Thai PAVE and HIVNET studies from 1992-1996, based in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, and has done extensive research in the epidemiology of HIV in Thailand, Burma, China, India and across Southeast Asia, in Russia and Kazakhstan, in Malawi, South Africa, and the United States. He is the author of the 1998 book "War in the Blood: Sex Politics and AIDS in Southeast Asia" and Co-Editor of Public Health and Human Rights: Evidence-Based Approaches. Dr. Beyrer has served as advisor to the US President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program, the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, The Office of AIDS Research of the US National Institutes of Health, the US Military HIV Research Program, the

World Bank, the Royal Thai Army Medical Corps and the Thai Red Cross, as well as numerous other organizations.

Beyrer serves as Co-Chair of the IAS Advisory Group on key Affected Populations and, as IAS President, he also serves as the International Chair of the [8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention \(IAS 2015\)](#) and the 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016).

Linda-Gail Bekker is a physician scientist with a keen interest in HIV, tuberculosis and related diseases. Her doctoral work focused on the host response to tuberculosis both with and in the absence of HIV co-infection. Subsequently her research interests have expanded to include programmatic and Health service research around antiretroviral roll-out and TB integration, prevention of HIV in women, youth and men who have sex with men. She has contributed to a number of publications emanating from the HIV Centre on topics relevant to the South African HIV and TB epidemics. In her role in the Foundation, she is passionate about community development and engagement and actively explores new and innovative ways to tackle the challenge that is HIV. Her most recent community projects have included community based HIV treatment, peer led community education, mobile health services (Tutu testers) to the most needy populations, a comprehensive youth centre providing recreation, education and SRH services to youth from periurban settings and dedicated adolescent HIV care services. Dr. Bekker has served as advisor to the US President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program. Her interest in prevention sciences, the testing of biomedical technologies including HIV vaccines, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and microbicides has given her international renown in these fields. More recently, the Centre, under her leadership has developed expertise in a number of key populations including pregnant women, adolescents, men who have sex with men and other more difficult to reach and engage populations.

IAS Governing Council (GC) 2014–2016

Chris Beyrer, United States – *President*

Linda-Gail Bekker, South Africa – *President-Elect*

Anton Pozniak, United Kingdom – *Treasurer*

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, France – *Immediate Past President*

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Judith Auerbach, United States
Marina Klein, Canada
Kenneth Mayer, United States

ENDS**About the IAS**

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 13,000 members from more than 180 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. The IAS members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and programme planners.

The IAS is custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014 and lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 19-22 July 2015

www.iasociety.org | www.aids2014.org | www.ias2015.org

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