Request for Proposal
Development of third IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure (2021)
Closing date and time: 21 October 2020, 23:00 CET

1. About the International AIDS Society (IAS)

The International AIDS Society (IAS) leads collective action on every front of the global HIV response through its membership base, scientific authority and convening power. Founded in 1988, the IAS is the world’s largest association of HIV professionals, with members in more than 170 countries. Working with its members, the IAS advocates and drives urgent action to reduce the impact of HIV. The IAS is also the steward of the world’s most prestigious HIV conferences: the International AIDS Conference, the IAS Conference on HIV Science, and the HIV Research for Prevention Conference.

The IAS promotes and invests in HIV advocacy and research on key issue areas through our strategic programmes, initiatives, and campaigns that advocate for urgent action to reduce the global impact of HIV, including increased investment in HIV cure research; optimizing treatment and care for infants, children and adolescents with HIV in resource-limited settings; preventing and treating HIV-related co-infections; and expanding access to prevention, treatment and care for key populations vulnerable to HIV acquisition – such as men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers and transgender people – including protecting their human rights by combatting punitive laws and discriminatory policies.

More information on the IAS can be found at www.iasociety.org.

2. About the Towards an HIV Cure initiative

Towards an HIV Cure, an initiative of the IAS drives concerted efforts to accelerate global scientific research and engagement towards a cure for HIV. In line with the recommendations of the IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure 2016, a comprehensive blueprint for cure and remission research, the initiative focuses its efforts on advancing the HIV cure field in resource-limited settings and facilitating interaction with HIV and other biomedical research areas.

3. Purpose of the Consultancy

The ground-breaking first IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure, published in 2012, presented the first global overview of, and strategic plan for, HIV cure research. That initial strategy galvanized the interest and enthusiasm of researchers, funders and advocates in a challenge to which few had given serious consideration before – the development of a safe and effective cure for HIV.

The second Global Scientific Strategy published in 2016 updated the basic, translational and clinical research priorities previously identified in light of novel findings and understanding of HIV reservoirs and latency, and emphasised the importance of social and behavioural sciences, the ethical aspects of HIV cure research, and HIV cure research in resource-limited settings.

As challenges and opportunities in HIV cure research continue to evolve rapidly, the IAS would like to develop the third IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure in collaboration with

1 https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.4108
2 https://www.nature.com/articles/nri3262
a multi-disciplinary International Scientific Working Group, to be launched at the 11th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2021), 18-21 July 2021. The third IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure will look critically at the HIV cure strategies pursued over the last four years, identifying those that have not been successful and those that have made promising progress, and will make concrete recommendations on approaches that should be pursued to advance the HIV cure research field.

The IAS invites proposals from individual consultants or consulting firms to manage the International Scientific Working Group, write the IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure (2021 edition), and manage the publication of the strategy in a scientific journal and serve as a key contact for related media and launch activities.

4. Proposal requirements

The proposal should be no longer than five (5) pages in length including a budget (as fixed fees). It should clearly outline how the project deliverables will be met. The proposal should include the following:

- A cover letter summarizing relevant and comparable experience with this type of work and the approach to the project
- A detailed plan outlining the approach, methodology, timeline and costs
- A sample of recent work (of a similar nature)
- A declaration of any conflicts of interest with private sector entities from the biomedical industry
- Three references from previous clients
- For individual consultants: recent evidence that the consultant is a registered freelancer in their country of residence.

5. Deliverables

- IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure 2021
- Publication in a scientific journal
- Press conference and launch at IAS 2021, in liaison with IAS Communications team

6. Timeline

The consultant(s) should be available to start as soon as possible.

Key deliverables in 2020 include
- a finalised methodology (proposed, reviewed and agreed with the IAS by 30 November 2020),
- form an International Scientific Working Group to provide expertise in the development of the IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure 2021 by 31 December 2020
- convene bi-weekly meetings with the International Scientific Working Group co-chairs
- a finalised outline for the IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure 2021, by 31 December 2020
- a dissemination plan including targeted scientific journal and related launch events, by 31 December 2020

Key deliverables in 2021 include
- summary of the key informant interviews conducted and stakeholders engaged in the process (by 31 March 2021)
- draft IAS Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure 2021 submitted, reviewed, revised and agreed with the IAS (by 30 April 2021)
7. Budget

Proposed budgets will be reviewed with respect to the activities for delivering in a cost-effective and timely manner.

9. Submission Details

Proposals must be sent by email to Rosanne Lamplough, rosanne.lamplough@iasociety.org by 23:00 (CET) on 21 October 2020. Late proposals will not be considered. For further information, please contact Rosanne Lamplough, rosanne.lamplough@iasociety.org.