Request for Proposal

Design and Conduct of a Communication and Media Training Workshop for Scientists

Closing date and time 24 March 2021, 11PM 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 Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise

The search for a safe and effective HIV vaccine has been a priority since the start of the epidemic. With multiple efficacy-stage programmes underway and new vaccine concepts in the clinical pipeline, stakeholders working in the field are now confronted with new questions and challenges. Funding for HIV vaccine development has grown stagnant and potential HIV vaccines face a complex and uncertain path to market. Solutions to the challenges of late-stage product development and new approaches to vaccine design require increased collaboration.

In this context, the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise (the Enterprise) unites stakeholders to promote collaboration, build knowledge and increase support for the accelerated development of and future access to – an HIV vaccine.

3. Purpose of the Consultancy

A successful HIV response requires increased contribution to the research efforts by those countries and regions that are hardest hit by the epidemic. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most severely affected, with 25 million adults and children living with HIV and AIDS. The contribution of multiple sectors in different countries in Africa to the HIV response cannot be understated.

There is an undisputable benefit to supporting African researchers in their ongoing efforts to mobilize, advocate and coordinate action towards an increased role in shaping the HIV response agenda. However, it is an ongoing challenge for early-mid career African researchers to communicate the importance of their research, of conducting research in Africa and to advocate
for international and regional investment in HIV prevention, especially HIV vaccine research and development (R&D).

The IAS, working in partnership with IAVI (www.iavi.org), invites proposals from individual consultants or consulting firms to design and conduct a 4-day, 4 hours a day, online participatory workshop co-created with participants, research partners and experts in the field. The focus will be on written and oral communication to a lay audience, and communication with the mainstream media. The workshop may include pre-reads, lectures, group work, and assignments. Outputs will include blogs, podcasts and video blogs (Vlogs) for public release. The workshop will bring together up to 30 participants (mostly based in Sub-Saharan Africa) and will take place virtually in the third or fourth week of June 2021.

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 objectives will be met. The proposal should include the following:

- A plan outlining the participatory approach, suggested format for the workshop, types of activities, preparation timeline and costs.
- A description of how the workshop will be delivered and associated needs that may or may not covered by the consultant (to be specified).
- A cover letter summarizing relevant and comparable experience with this type of work and the approach to the project
- 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.

6. Deliverables and Timeline

A full draft programme and methodology should be delivered within 4 weeks from the start of the consultancy for internal review and a final programme should be completed within 6 weeks from the start of the consultancy (End of May 2021). The proposed start date for the workshop is mid-June 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 Noura El Rassi, noura.elrassi@iasociety.org by 23:00 (CET) on 24 March 2021. Late proposals will not be considered. For further information, please contact Roger Tatoud, roger.tatoud@iasociety.org.