



Towards
an HIV Cure
IAS

AIDS 2026 pre-conference

HIV cure without borders: Science,
community and the Latin America
and Caribbean perspective

26 July 2026
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Riocentro Convention & Event Center
Session room 204

The IAS Towards an HIV Cure programme would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support of the 2026 HIV cure pre-conference.



OBJECTIVES

The pre-conference will strengthen community and clinical understanding of HIV cure research priorities. It will engage regional and international scientific experts and discuss key areas of HIV cure science, including understanding the HIV reservoir and mechanisms of viral control, as well as advances in immunotherapy and gene therapy. Furthermore, it will discuss how to meaningfully engage key populations and underrepresented communities in HIV cure research and what the Latin America and Caribbean region can learn from other settings about HIV cure research implementation.

Leveraging the conference's location in Latin America and the Caribbean, the programme will showcase research conducted in the region, bringing together leading cure researchers and clinicians, community members, advocates and research participants. The programme will address the specific needs and priorities of HIV cure research in Latin America and the Caribbean, aiming to strengthen engagement, support the advancement of HIV cure research in the region and foster South-South collaboration.



AIDS 2026

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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- Christian Gaebler, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Gastón Devisich, Fundación Huésped, Argentina, co-chair
- Gabriela Turk, Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas en Retrovirus y SIDA, Argentina
- Ricardo Sobhie Diaz, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil
- Sandra Wagner Cardoso, Fiocruz, Brazil, co-chair
- Steven Deeks, University of California San Francisco, United States
- Sharon Lewin, Doherty Institute, Melbourne University, Australia
- Thumbi Ndung'u, Africa Health Research Institute, South Africa, co-chair

Programme

08:00 – 09:30	Session 1 – Welcome networking <i>Coffee and light refreshments provided</i>
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09:30 – 11:00	Session 2 – Opening and setting the scene	
09:30 – 09:40	Welcome and introduction	Sharon Lewin, Peter Doherty Institute, Australia Thumbi Ndung'u, Africa Health Research Institute, South Africa
09:40 – 09:55	Invited talk – HIV cure in 2026: State of the field	Christian Gaebler, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
09:55 – 10:10	Invited talk – Introduction to community aspects of HIV cure	Pisci Bruja Garcia de Oliveira, Faculty of Medicine, University of São Paulo, Brazil
10:10 – 10:40	Keynote presentation – Building capabilities in clinical trials in different settings	Lydie Trautman, Military HIV Research Program, United States
10:40 – 11:00	Q&A with the audience	

11:15 – 11:45	<i>Break</i>
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11:30 – 13:00	Session 3 – Basic science and translational clinical studies on HIV cure	
11:30 – 11:35	Introduction to the session	Catherine Koofhethile, Botswana Harvard Partnership, Botswana and Doreen Moracha, GNP+, Kenya
11:35 – 11:50	Invited talk – Measuring HIV reservoirs: The optimal or the feasible?	Lucía Baquero, CONICET- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

11:50 – 12:05	Invited talk – Gene editing and mRNA	Paula Cevaál, University of Melbourne, Australia
12:05 – 12:20	Invited talk – CARD8 and TACKs: Implications for treatment and cure	Peter Hunt, University of California San Francisco, United States
12:20 – 12:30	Flash talk – Impact of lenacapavir on HIV-1 latency reversal	Daniël Roovers, Liverpool School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
12:30 – 13:00	Q&A with the audience	

13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
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14:00 – 15:00	Session 4 – Involving key populations and underrepresented communities in HIV cure research	
14:00 – 14:05	Introduction to the session	Oguzhan Latif Nuh, OurCARE, Switzerland
14:05 – 14:15	Flash talk – Mind the gap (and destroy it): Inclusion of trans people in HIV cure research	Tomer Einav, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
14:15 – 14:50	Panel discussion – Involving key populations and underrepresented communities in HIV cure research	Adaobi Lisa Olisa, Root to Rise, Nigeria Elise Tirza A. Ohene – Kyei, Johns Hopkins University, United States Rafael Bolacha, Projeto Uma Vida Positiva, Brazil Shari Margoless, CanCURE, Canada Tomer Einav, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
14:50 – 15:00	Pre-recorded message from Esperanza Patient	

15:00 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>
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15:30 – 17:00	Session 5 – Lessons learned from other fields	
15:30 – 15:35	Introduction to the session	Diana Finzi, National Institute of Health Office of AIDS Research, United States and Elizabeth Zahabu, WeCare Initiative, Tanzania
15:35 – 15:50	Invited talk – Lessons learned from cancer immunotherapy	Andreia Melo, Instituto Nacional de Câncer, Brazil
15:50 – 16:05	Invited talk – Enabling affordable access to cellular gene therapies: Clinical progress of anti-HIV duoCAR-T cell therapy	Boro Dropulić, Caring Cross, United States
16:05 – 16:20	Invited talk – Lessons learned from HTLV1	Jorge Casseb, University of São Paulo, Brazil
16:20 – 16:35	Invited talk – Lessons learned from vaccine innovation and production	Esper Kallas, University of São Paulo, Brazil
16:35 – 17:00	Q&A with the audience	

17:00 – 17:30	<i>Break</i>
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17:30 – 18:30			Session 6 – Lessons learned from clinical trials in diverse populations
17:30 – 17:35	Introduction to the session	Krista Dong, iTEACH, South Africa and Vinicius Francisco da Silva, Casa da Pesquisa, Brazil	
17:35 – 18:10	Panel discussion – Opportunities and challenges for HIV cure research and implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean	Albert Machinda, Africa HIV Cure Consortium, South Africa Jorge Gallardo, Centro de Investigaciones Tecnológicas,	

	and what can be learned from other settings	Biomedicas y Medioambientales, Peru Carlo Sacdalan, SEARCH Research Foundation, Thailand Natalia Laufer, Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas en Retrovirus y SIDA, Argentina
18:10 – 18:20	Community closing	Luciana Kamel, FIOCRUZ, Brazil
18:20 – 18:30	Closing remarks	Gastón Devisich, Fundación Huésped, Argentina Sandra Wagner Cardoso, FIOCRUZ, Brazil

17:45 – 18:30	Networking reception <i>Drinks and refreshments provided</i>
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