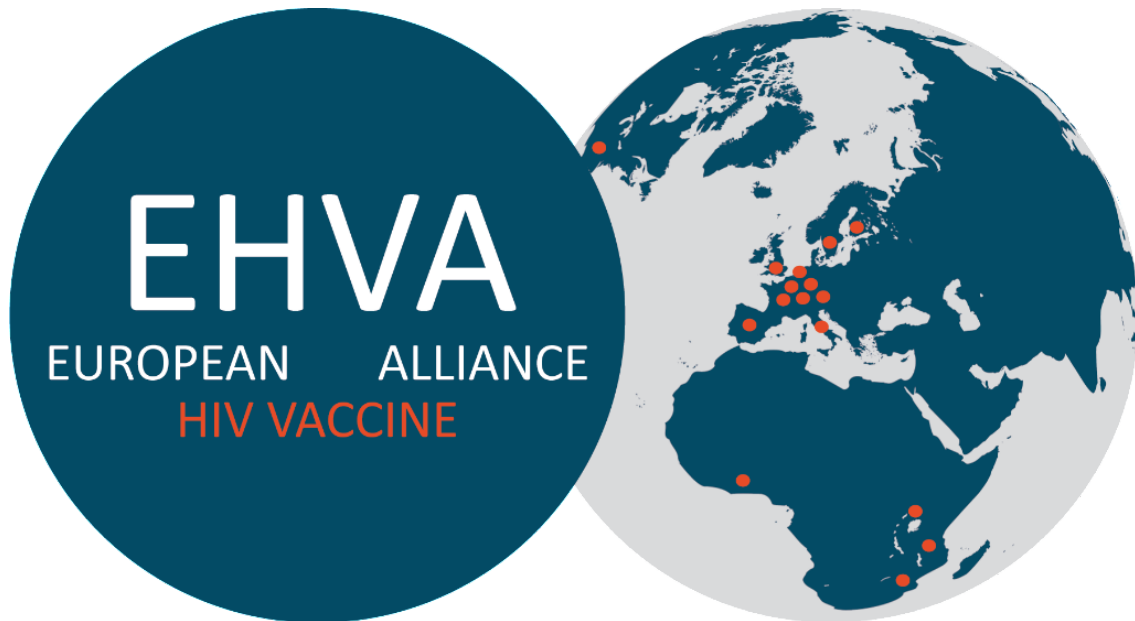


[Multidisciplinary approach to HIV vaccine development](http://www.ehv-a.eu)
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NEWSLETTER

Issue 3-6 December 2017

WELCOME TO THE EHVA NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third edition of the newsletter of the European HIV Vaccine Alliance (EHVA). EHVA is an alliance of 39 partners in Europe, Africa and the US. We work collaboratively to contribute to the development of safe and effective vaccines aimed at stopping HIV infections and AIDS. Through a multidisciplinary platform, EHVA facilitates the development and evaluation of novel prophylactic and therapeutic HIV vaccines, with the aim to select at least two of the most promising vaccine candidates for clinical development. We work closely with research partners across several Sub-Saharan African countries, and with the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) to ensure that the vaccine candidates are relevant for and can be evaluated in countries where vaccines are most needed. The work of EHVA is funded through a 5-year grant from the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme and the Swiss Government.

Learn more about EHVA visit our website: <http://www.ehv-a.eu/>



World AIDS Day

2017 Theme: My health, my right

#myrighttohealth

This year's World AIDS Day focused on the [right to health](#) and the challenges that people living with and affected by HIV face in fulfilling that right.

Access to treatment is a fundamental right, and we have made significant progress - almost 20 million people with HIV receive treatment and in some parts of the world AIDS-related deaths are declining. But with almost 37 million people living with HIV and 1.8 million people becoming newly infected with the virus, we still have a long way to go in reaching the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment targets and ending AIDS by 2030.

Western and central Africa, where two out of three people have no access to treatment, still carry the highest burden of HIV/AIDS. Especially the most vulnerable and marginalized people face challenges in accessing adequate and urgently needed health and social services. Of particular concern is the rise in new HIV infections by 60% since 2010 and in AIDS-related deaths by 27% in eastern Europe and central Asia.

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of the world has the ability to achieve a healthy life, and remove any barriers that prevent people from accessing prevention, treatment and care services. This World AIDS Day, EHVA stands in solidarity with people who demand the right to health.

For more information on the World AIDS Day see:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/aidsday/index.shtml>



EHVA at the STEPS HIV Cure Workshop

A cure for HIV would almost inevitably have to involve a vaccine to improve the body's natural ability to control HIV, a seminar on European HIV cure research heard last October. The STEPS seminar, held by the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) ahead of the 16th European AIDS Conference in Milan, also presented about the [European HIV Vaccine Alliance](#). Dr Felipe Garcia of the University of Barcelona Hospital, one of the collaborating researchers in the [EHVA](#) project, told the seminar: "The problem with HIV vaccines is that what protects is not able to control and what controls is not able to protect."

[Read the full report of the event by Dr. Garcia on the EHVA website.](#)



Dr. Felipe Garcia from Hospital Clinic Villarroel, Spain, talking at the STEPS Cure Workshop explained the aims, processes and achievements of the EHVA project so far.



9th IAS CONFERENCE ON HIV SCIENCE

This summer, more than 6,000 scientists, advocates, public health experts, policy makers, funders and community leaders came together at the 9th IAS Conference on HIV Science to present, discuss and debate the latest developments in HIV science. [#IAS2017](#)

The European HIV Vaccine Alliance (EHVA) Satellite Symposium on **Non-ARV Based Interventions to Combat HIV/AIDS: New Insights and Initiatives** was held on Sunday 23rd July. The symposium was opened by Yves Levy who reviewed the state of the epidemic and highlighted that the development of an effective HIV vaccine remains essential to ending AIDS but also challenging. The symposium reviewed the broader HIV prevention research field as well as the different ongoing approaches to achieving safe and effective therapeutic and preventive vaccines. A

The individual presentations can be found here

<http://programme.ias2017.org/Programme/Session/40>

Harnessing the immune system to prevent and control HIV infection

Yves Levy gave a plenary talk at the Paris conference on how to better harness the immune system to prevent HIV infection and control HIV replication. The talk highlighted the role of inflammation in shaping vaccine-induced immune responses, novel vaccine approaches such as those targeting dendritic cells to strengthen T-cell responses, and biological interventions for a functional cure. The full plenary session from Monday, 24 July can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ry3idwrm9c>



UNAIDS latest numbers

NEW HIV INFECTIONS ARE DECLINING, BUT ARE FAR OFF THE PACE NEEDED TO REACH THE 2020 TARGET

The pace of decline in new HIV infections, however, is far too slow to reach the Fast-Track Target agreed upon by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016: fewer than 500 000 new infections per year by 2020

POPULATIONS AT HIGHER RISK OF INFECTION

In high-prevalence settings, young women remain at unacceptably high risk of HIV infection. In eastern and southern Africa, for example, young women (aged 15–24 years) accounted for 26% of new HIV infections in 2016 despite making up just 10% of the population.

There are still about 5000 new HIV infections a day ...

- about 64% are in Sub-Saharan Africa
- about 400 are among children under 15
- about 4500 are among adults aged 15 and older, of whom ... almost 43% are among women, ... about 37% are among young people (15 – 24) ... about 22% are among young women (15- 24)

Progress towards 90 – 90 – 90

http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2017/july/20170725_IAC_909090_workshop

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Tony Fauci presented his case for an HIV vaccine in a recent article in The Journal of the American Medical Association, highlighting that it is unlikely that HIV/AIDS can be ended without a preventive vaccine. [LINK JAMA Viewpoint, October 9, 2017 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2656461>]

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Make sure that you also meet the EHVA Team at these events to learn more about HIV vaccine research.



CROI
Conference on Retroviruses
and Opportunistic Infections

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

March 4 – 7, 2018

<http://www.croiconference.org>



AIDS 2018

**22nd International AIDS
Conference, Amsterdam,
Netherlands**

23 – 27 July 2018

<http://www.aids2018.org>



**HIV Research for Prevention
(HIVR4P), Madrid, Spain**

21 – 25 October 2018

<http://www.hivr4p.org/>



**PrEP in Europe Summit
Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

9 – 10 February 2018

<http://www.prepineurope.org/en/summit/>

EHVA CONTACT INFORMATION

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