The 9th Edition of the EHVA NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the ninth edition of the EHVA Newsletter (December 2020). EHVA is an alliance of 12 partners in Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and North America that work collaboratively to contribute to the development of safe and affordable vaccines aimed at stopping the HIV-1 epidemic. The 9th edition of the newsletter provides an overview of the latest developments in our field, with a focus on the following areas:

1. HIV Prevention
2. Inter-Laboratory Reproducibility of Inducible HIV-1 Reservoir Quantification by TILDA – A New Method
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4. COVID-19 Update
5. EHVA News
6. Future Plans

Read the full article here:
https://mailchi.mp/4b8c70245f0e/ehva-newsletter-9th-edition-december-5111701
Elsewhere, the PrEPVacc trial is about to enrol its first participants and will take place in four African nations. PrEPVacc will test two vaccine regimens and two options for oral PrEP.

UNAIDS WORLD AIDS DAY REPORT

World AIDS Day 2020 on 1 December was a historic one as we confront the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its profound impact on existing efforts to control and eradicate HIV/AIDS. The UNAIDS AIDS Day report, *Prevailing against pandemics by putting people at the centre*, released at the end of November, calls on countries to make far greater investments in global pandemic responses and adopt a new set of bold, ambitious but achievable HIV targets for 2025. The people-centred targets focus on high coverage of HIV and reproductive and sexual health services and significant anti-discrimination and anti-stigma targets, particularly for those most at risk and marginalized. If those targets are met, the world will be back on track to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. With nearly 700,000 deaths from AIDS-related causes and 1.7 million new HIV infections in 2019, the report also highlights the importance of investing in affordable and accessible HIV prevention interventions to address major gaps in achieving the 2020 HIV prevention coverage targets. Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS, further assured the global HIV community at the ministerial meeting of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition earlier in November that HIV prevention will be prominent in the next Global AIDS Strategy, slated for release in March 2021. However, any HIV prevention toolkit is incomplete without HIV vaccine research and development (R&D) at the forefront – the only way to end the HIV epidemic is with a vaccine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Three major conferences are scheduled in 2021. Each conference will take place virtually, with IAS Science anticipating hosting in-person sessions in Berlin.

**HIVR4P** will take place virtually on 27-28 January and 3-4 February 2021. HIVR4P // Virtual will bring together the world’s leading prevention researchers, advocates, implementers, funders, and policy makers to explore the many aspects of the biomedical research paradigm. Owing to the multiple overlaps between HIV prevention and COVID-19 research, HIVR4P will add a new abstract category, “COVID research: Applying lessons from HIV prevention to SARS CoV-2”. Standard registration continues to 11 January 2021, followed by late registration from 12 January.

**CROI 2021** is slated to take place in March 2021 and has already been confirmed to include a virtual option to allow participation and networking for those who attend remotely. Confirmation on the final format is expected in the coming months. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID abstracts may also be submitted in the areas of basic science, clinical research, and epidemiology and prevention, among others. General abstract submission is open until 15 January 2021 with early registration available until 27 January.

Berlin is set to host the 11th IAS Conference on HIV Science on 18-21 July 2021, pioneering a hybrid format with an online component. It is expected to convene 6,000 scientists, clinicians, public health experts, and community leaders from over 140 countries. This will be the first time that Berlin has hosted the IAS Conference on HIV Science, having previously hosted the 9th International AIDS Conference in 1993.

If you have any feedback, questions or suggestions, please contact us! We look forward to hearing from you!

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