

NEWSLETTER

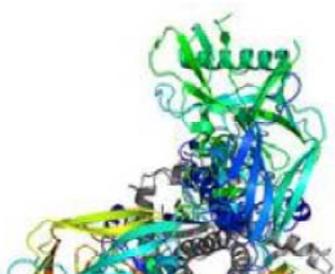
ISSUE 6 - August 2019

Welcome to the sixth edition of the **European HIV Vaccine Alliance (EHVA)** newsletter. EHVA is an alliance of 39 partners in Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and North America. 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.ehva.eu/>

EHVA Website

EHVA NEWS & UPDATES

EHVA's WORK PACKAGE 2 - UPDATE



EHVA aims to develop at least two novel HIV vaccine candidates and prepare them for clinical testing. In particular, EHVA is seeking to generate vaccine candidates able to induce potent broadly



neutralizing and non-neutralizing antibodies to block HIV from establishing in infection. The antigens will be based on HIV's envelope trimer protein (see picture), which is the target for protective antibody responses. Besides their use as a protein-in-adjuvant formulation, the trimers

will be also evaluated in different vaccine platforms designed in other EHVA workstreams, including novel DNA, and pox and VSV vectors. Professor Ralf Wagner of the University of Regensburg, who is leading the work stream on immunogen design, confirmed that the team has finalized the down-selection of the best combination of trimer and vaccine platforms, utilizing EHVA's immune profiling platform. The consortium intends to advance the best in class vaccine candidate to clinical testing. According to professor Wagner "developing vaccines able to generate antibodies that can block infection or clear virus is a key priority in HIV prevention research. There are today too few candidates in the pipeline that have been specifically designed to elicit such antibodies – a gap that EHVA is helping to fill."

EHVA's FIRST CLINICAL TRIAL - UPDATE

EHVA regrets that it had to halt the phase I EHVA-T01 trial, scheduled to evaluate a novel therapeutic vaccine candidate in people living with HIV. Following FIT Biotech's filing for bankruptcy, the GTU-Multi-HIV B-clade DNA vaccine, developed and manufactured by FIT Biotech, was no longer available for inclusion in the vaccine regimen. The EHVA team anticipates being able to initiate a new trial with an amended protocol in due course.



LATEST GLOBAL HIV/AIDS NEWS



The IAS Conference on HIV Science took place in Mexico City, Mexico from 21 – 24 July 2019. <http://www.ias2019.org/>. Highlights from the conference include:

Promising HIV vaccine to be tested with gay men and trans people

A new phase III HIV vaccine trial will soon be underway for men who have sex with men and transgender people. The study, called **Mosaico**, will evaluate a four-shot regimen of a vaccine designed to provide protection against the many different strains of HIV around the world.

Mosaico, also known as **HVTN 706**, is a joint public-private effort involving the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the HIV Vaccine Trials Network headquartered at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the US Army Medical Research and Development Command and Janssen (part of Johnson & Johnson). For more information on the study please check: [here](#) and [here](#).

New HIV prevention tools address the realities of people's

lives <http://www.ias2019.org/Media-Centre/Press-releases/ArticleID/244/New-HIV-prevention-tools-address-realities-of-people-s-lives>

Could a better understanding of inflammation help research towards an HIV

cure? <http://www.aidsmap.com/news/jul-2019/could-better-understanding-inflammation-help-research-towards-hiv-cure>

First trial results of new immune-modulating drugs presented in Mexico

City <http://www.aidsmap.com/news/jul-2019/first-trial-results-new-immune-modulating-drugs-presented-mexico-city>

New drugs and more effective treatment regimens featured at IAS

2019 <http://www.ias2019.org/Media-Centre/Press-releases/ArticleID/245/New-drugs-and-more-effective-treatment-regimens-featured-at-ias-2019>

The future of the HIV response <http://www.ias2019.org/Media-Centre/Press-releases/ArticleID/242/The-future-of-the-HIV-response>



The biennial AIDS Impact international conference on behavioral and psychosocial sciences related to HIV/AIDS took place in London from 29 to 31 of July 2019. Among various thematic areas, HIV cure research was covered from the perspective of willingness -or absence of- to participate in clinical trials that involve treatment interruptions:

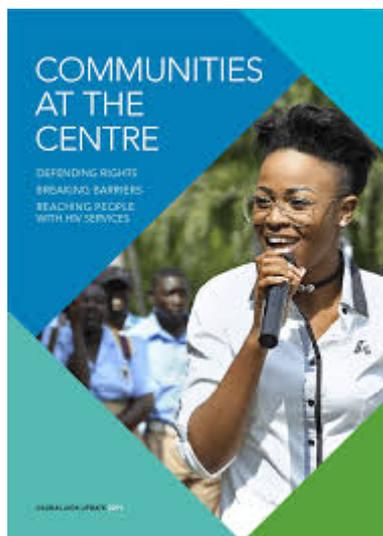
- **Patients who feel that they belong to the HIV community and those who are less concerned by the risk of HIV transmission are the most motivated to participate in HIV cure clinical trials.**

[Who are the PLWH that might refuse to participate in HIV cure clinical trials with treatment interruption? Results from the ANRS-APSEC study](#)

- **Primary care providers having an active role in recruiting as well as the promise to receive their laboratory results are factors that increase the willingness of PLHIV to participate in HIV cure research**

[Perspectives of People Living with HIV Regarding Participation in HIV Cure Research](#)

<http://www.aidsimpact.com>



UNAIDS calls for greater urgency as countries show mixed results towards 2020 HIV targets and global gains slow

The available resources for the fight against HIV fell by almost US\$ 1 billion, the progress in reducing new HIV infections as well access to treatment and ending AIDS-related deaths are slowing down. The latest report by UNAIDS shows a mixed picture, with some countries making impressive gains and others showing troubling failures by experiencing rises in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. In 2018, around 1.7 million people became newly infected with HIV globally, representing only a modest a drop over the last 5 years (10%) and

significantly off the 2020 target of 0.5 million new infections. More information on the latest figures can be found in the UNAIDS' Global AIDS Update, launched on the 16 July 2019.

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2019/2019-global-AIDS-update>

UPCOMING EVENTS

EHVA CONSORTIUM MEETING

October 7 – 8, 2019

Madrid, Spain



17 European AIDS conference

November 6-9, 2019

Basel, Switzerland

<https://eacs-conference2019.com>

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

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