



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Leading researchers, community leaders and policy makers will come together in Melbourne to discuss the HIV epidemic and steps forward at the 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014)**

**3 December 2013, (Geneva, Switzerland)**--Organizers of the 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) – to be held in Melbourne, Australia from 20- 25 July 2014 – today announced 19 major plenary presentations, focusing on the primary issues facing the global response to HIV and AIDS. Plenary sessions will open each day of the conference, which is expected to bring together more than 14,000 participants from over 200 countries.

“We are excited to have such a strong roster of eminent speakers as part of our conference programme,” said Professor Sharon Lewin, Local Co-Chair of AIDS 2014, Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital and Monash University and Co-Head of the Centre for Biomedical Research at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne.

“The selected plenary topics and speakers will set the tone for a wide range of other sessions. AIDS 2014 will put focus on the most pressing issues related to HIV, including paediatric HIV, Key Affected Populations (including men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, and people who use drugs), new developments in HIV cure and vaccine, and social and legal barriers to prevention and treatment.”

“The global response to the HIV epidemic has registered many great successes in recent years,” said Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, AIDS 2014 International Chair, President of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and Director of the Regulation of Retroviral Infections Unit at the Institut Pasteur in Paris.

“Recent data from UNAIDS show significant reductions in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, but we cannot let our guard down, we need to build on the present momentum to make sure that scientific advances are effectively implemented. By bringing together all stakeholders in the field of HIV, including scientists, people living with HIV, activists, policy makers, political leaders and young people, AIDS 2014 will provide an unique opportunity to discuss collective challenges and successes and, most importantly, new strategies on how to address the epidemic”.

**Plenary Speakers will speak within a theme for each day** (presentation titles are subject to change).

**Monday, 21 July: Where are we now?**

- *State of the art epidemiology & access*  
Salim Abdool Karim, South Africa
- *PLHIV at the centre of the HIV response*  
Lydia Mungherera, Uganda
- *State of the ART: HIV Cure – where are we now and where are we going?*  
Jintanat Ananworanich, Thailand

### **Tuesday, 22 July: What's holding us back and how we do move faster?**

- *HIV and the law*  
Michael Kirby, Australia
- *Strengthening health systems and community*  
Olive Shisana, South Africa
- *Gender inequality and HIV*  
Jennifer Gatsi-Mallet, Namibia
- *Better and smarter investments in the HIV response*  
Mark Dybul, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

### **Wednesday, 23 July: No one left behind**

- *No one left behind: effective drug policy and harm reduction*  
Khuat T.H. Oanh, Vietnam
- *No one left behind: HIV and tuberculosis co-infection*  
Diane Havlir, United States
- *No one left behind: HIV and Sex workers*  
Daisy Nakato, Uganda
- *No one left behind: HIV and Indigenous populations*  
James Ward, Australia

### **Thursday, 24 July: Stepping up the pace: making the long term short term**

- *Stepping up the pace on an HIV Vaccine: what needs to be done?*  
Antonio Lanzavecchia, Switzerland
- *Stepping up the pace on new prevention technologies*  
Kenneth Mayer, United States
- *Stepping up the pace for MSM and transgender – understanding the science*  
Beatriz Grinsztejn, Brazil
- *Stepping up the pace for MSM and transgender – the community response*  
Laurindo Garcia, Philippines

### **Friday, 25 July: Where are we headed?**

- *Where are we headed with ART – beyond an undetectable viral load*  
David Cooper, Australia
- *Where are we headed with HIV and Adolescents*  
L'Orangelis Thomas Negron, Puerto Rico (community perspective)  
Susan Kasedde, UNICEF
- *Where are we headed on Ending AIDS in children*  
Shaffiq Essajee, United States

### **Other Sessions to Highlight Key Topics**

The full programme is now under development, including the selection of scientific abstracts and workshops and other programme activities. Programme details will be available on the conference website, [www.aids2014.org](http://www.aids2014.org) in the coming months, with the full programme, including all confirmed speakers, available in June.

### **Activities for Delegates and the General Public**

Open with free admission to general public and conference delegates, the AIDS 2014 **Global Village** will be a space for community to meet, share lesson learned and build coalitions. It is also a space that invites conference participants to see how science translates into community action and intervention.

AIDS 2014 will also feature a variety of activities, including many planned by and for young people as part of the official Youth Programme.

**END**

**About AIDS 2014:** More than 14,000 participants and 1,200 journalists from approximately 200 countries are expected to convene in Melbourne for AIDS 2014, which represents a tremendous opportunity to highlight the diverse nature of the epidemic worldwide and in the Asia Pacific region specifically and the unique responses to it. More information on registration process and registration fees: <http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pageld=627>

#### **AIDS 2014 Conference Organization**

AIDS 2014 is convened by the IAS and permanent partners the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+); the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO); the International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS (ICW), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Non-permanent partners are the Positive Women's Network and Sidaction.

The Australian based partners are: AusAID; the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM); and the National Association of people with HIV Australia (NAPWHA).

The Asia Pacific Partners are: The Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW); the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific (ASAP); and the National AIDS Research of India (NARI).

#### **AIDS 2014 on Social Media**

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/InternationalAIDSConference](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalAIDSConference)

**Twitter:** [@AIDS\\_conference](https://twitter.com/AIDS_conference) #AIDS2014

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/iasaidsconference](http://www.youtube.com/iasaidsconference)

#### **About the IAS**

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 16,000 members from more than 177 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. The IAS members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and programme planners.

The IAS is custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014 and lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, 19-22 July 2015. [www.iasociety.org](http://www.iasociety.org) | [www.aids2014.org](http://www.aids2014.org) | [www.ias2015.org](http://www.ias2015.org)

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