

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women in Science – Inspiring Tomorrow’s Leaders

Wednesday 9th April (Melbourne, Australia) — In an event hosted by the Office of the Lead Scientist of the State Government of Victoria in the lead-up to Melbourne hosting the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014), the IAS President and International Chair of AIDS 2014, Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Local Co-Chair of AIDS 2014 Professor Sharon Lewin will be part of a panel convened to discuss the issue of low numbers of women in leadership roles in the research community, barriers faced by women progressing their science careers and how to inspire and support the next generation of leaders.

The panel also includes Professor Douglas Hilton, the Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, and Professor Tanya Monro, the Director of the Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing and the Centre of Excellence in Nanoscale BioPhotonics.

The panel is intentionally multidisciplinary to encourage creative and novel discussion of this important topic.

Recent studies in Australia show that while overt sexism is no longer tolerated in the work place, this has not necessarily resulted in gender equity. While 50% of PhD students and post-doctorates in most scientific fields are women, there are fewer than 10% of women represented in the most senior (professorial) categories of science and engineering.

In relation to this topic, Professor Lewin commented “We need to better understand the barriers which stop women being equally represented at the highest levels of science, and encourage policies and practices within our workplaces which enable the fullest participation of all genders”.

Professor Barré-Sinoussi added “AIDS 2014 provides an opportunity to highlight the important role women have played in progressing scientific discovery. It is an honour to Co-Chair the conference with Professor Lewin, and for the programme to be filled with many amazing women, not just in Science, but also across all pillars of the conference. It is my hope that this will inspire the next generation of women leaders.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

All media are encouraged to register as early as possible. Registering will automatically place media representatives on a database enabling them to receive important press announcements in the lead up to the International AIDS Conference.

For more information on media registration process and requirements please visit:

<http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pageld=668>

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa before boarding their plane regardless the length of stay.

For more information about visit requirements please visit:

<http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pageld=611>

About AIDS 2014

The 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, including scientists, medical practitioners, activists, policymakers, people living with HIV and others committed to ending the epidemic. It will be a tremendous opportunity for researchers from

around the world to share the latest scientific advances in the field, learn from one another's expertise, and develop strategies for advancing all facets of our collective efforts to treat and prevent HIV. AIDS 2014 is expected to convene over 14,000 participants from nearly 200 countries, including between 800-1,000 journalists. The conference will be held from 20–25 July 2014 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

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

Twitter: @AIDS_conference #AIDS2014

YouTube: 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 | www.aids2014.org | www.ias2015.org

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