



## NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 July 2016

### WELCOME TO THE EHVA NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter of the European HIV Vaccine Alliance (EHVA). EHVA is a new 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. Such vaccines are urgently needed. Last year, the number of new HIV infections increased for the first time in 15 years to 2.1 million globally. An estimated 37 million people are living with HIV. However, more than half still do not have access to life-saving treatment. Vaccines will be essential if we are to achieve and sustain an end to the AIDS epidemic, and the eradication of HIV.

The work of EHVA is funded through a 5-year grant from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme and the Swiss Government. EHVA brings together a broad range of expertise, including molecular biology, structural biology, vector design,

adjuvants delivery, immunology, clinical research, biostatistics and community members. By forming a multidisciplinary platform, EHVA can facilitate 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.

We will be sharing with you news and progress on our work through this newsletter, and we invite to explore [our website www.ehv-a.eu](http://www.ehv-a.eu) to learn more about EHVA.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Yves Lévy, CEO of the French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM); EHVA Coordinator

Prof. Giuseppe Pantaleo, Executive Director of Swiss Vaccine Research Institute from Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV); EHVA Scientific Co-Coordinator



## EHVA (IN THE) NEWS

26 January 2016 was the date when EHVA was officially launched. [Read our press release here.](#)

EHVA is pleased to be partnering with the [Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise](#), and to have been given the opportunity to present the work of EHVA at their annual Funders Meeting in Geneva on June 30, attended by funders of AIDS vaccine R&D from the US, Africa and Europe.



## DID YOU KNOW

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, The [United Nations](#) adopted a [Declaration on Ending AIDS](#), which, among others, includes a statement to “*strongly urge increased investments in comprehensive research and development .... including preventive and therapeutic vaccines.*”

Once available, a 70-percent-efficacious AIDS vaccine with strong uptake could reduce new annual HIV infections in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) by 44 percent in its first 10 years and by 65 percent in 25 years, ultimately averting tens of millions of infections and saving millions of lives. [Details published in PLoS ONE.](#)

There are dedicated resources that share the latest news in AIDS vaccine research, from progress in research, the partners that are engaged, the funding that is available, and much more. Some recommendations: [www.vaccineenterprise.org](http://www.vaccineenterprise.org), [www.avac.org](http://www.avac.org), [www.eatg.org](http://www.eatg.org), [www.iavireport.org](http://www.iavireport.org).



## SPOTLIGHT ON

**The European AIDS Treatment Group ([EATG](#))** is a member of the European HIV Vaccine Alliance. The [EATG](#) will be informing the conduct of a therapeutic vaccine trial, notably through consultation with key populations in Europe affected by HIV to ensure a better understanding of community beliefs, concerns or challenges regarding AIDS vaccine research. Furthermore, EATG is a member of the EHVA communications team, facilitating interactions between the alliance and the European civil society network.

“Vaccine research is an incredibly exciting field, where important steps forward and disappointing backlashes have been seen in the last decades. Any research project in this field should have community input as a central element for decision-making. That’s why EATG is so happy to be part of the EHVA network and look forward to the results of this research”. Luís Mendão, chair of EATG.

EATG is a European network of nationally-based volunteer activists comprising of more than 150 members from 40 countries in Europe. Since its foundation, the EATG has been at the forefront of the development of the civil society response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Europe. It represents and defends the treatment-related



interests of people living with HIV/AIDS. Its activities focus on treatment literacy and treatment advocacy. For more information see the [EATG website](#).



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

[International AIDS Conference](#), Durban, South Africa, July 18-22

[HIV Research for Prevention](#) (HIVR4P), Chicago, US, October 17-26

[8<sup>th</sup> EDCTP Forum](#), Lusaka, Zambia, November 6-9

## EHVA CONTACT INFORMATION

All enquiries [contact@ehv-a.eu](mailto:contact@ehv-a.eu)

Management Team: [pmo@ehv-a.eu](mailto:pmo@ehv-a.eu)

Media enquiries: [communication@ehv-a.eu](mailto:communication@ehv-a.eu)



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