

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - JULY 2018

WELCOME

to our 4th EHVA NEWSLETTER edition

EHVA (European HIV Vaccine Alliance) is an 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. 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

EHVA Website



EHVA NEWS & UPDATES

EHVA´s third annual meeting

The full EHVA group and independent members from its scientific advisory board as well as trial oversight committee met at the University Hospital Clinic in Barcelona, Spain for its third annual meeting. The two-day meeting started with a review of the preparations for the initiation of the first EHVA clinical trial, which will evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a novel therapeutic vaccine. In advance of the meeting, clinics participating in the trial joined a training session facilitated by the UK MRC and the IAVI / Imperial College London Human Immunology Laboratory. Day 2 was dedicated to reviewing progress in the preclinical development of novel immunogens, from innovative vector platforms (DREP and VSV) to new envelop protein-based vaccines (glycan shielded gp120 and improved stabilized trimers) coupled with delivery technology and adjuvants. It was a highly productive event, with 35 presentations and 24 posters, and time to spare for plenary discussions and bilateral interactions. With much gratitude to Professor Felipe Garcia, and his team for hosting us at the University of Barcelona Hospital Clinic.



CLINICAL TRIAL

EHVA clinical trial authorization granted in Switzerland and the UK for a novel therapeutic vaccine candidate

Swiss and UK medical authorities have granted the European HIV Vaccine Alliance (EHVA) the permission to start a phase I/II clinical trial (EHVA T01/ANRS VRI05). The trial will evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a therapeutic prime-boost vaccine regimen in combination with a monoclonal antibody. The trial is scheduled to run in six European countries, sponsored by INSERM-ANRS (French National Institute of Health and Medical Research) and is expected to start in September this year.

EHVA in the EU NEWS

Healthy competition and hope in the quest for an HIV vaccine

EHVA featured in an article published in the EU magazine on the efforts in the region to develop safe, effective and accessible HIV vaccines. EHVA lead investigators Professor Yves Levy, chief executive officer of Inserm and Professor Guiseppe Pantaleo of the University of Lausanne outlined the goals of EHVA to apply learnings from previous HIV vaccine studies. As noted by Professor Levy, “there is no doubt that EHVA will contribute to the HIV vaccine field with the development of two novel vaccine candidates that will be moved into clinical development.” [Read the full article](#)



23-27 July 2018 in Amsterdam, Netherlands

Prevention, young people and human rights were some of the key themes at this year's conference. The urgency to step up prevention efforts, notably access to primary prevention and the continued development of a vaccine and a cure, were acknowledged in the wake of the UNAIDS global epidemic report and the Lancet Commission report on Prevention (covered below in this newsletter). As emphasized by Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in his plenary presentation on Thursday July 26, we won't be able to end AIDS unless we get a vaccine. A renewed focus in the conference on preventive vaccines and related immune-based approaches was fueled by presentations on the four ongoing efficacy studies (two evaluating preventive vaccines and two evaluating antibody-mediated prevention) as well as by progress in research on broadly neutralizing antibodies, including the first vaccine candidates designed to generate these antibodies moving into clinical trials. A session dedicated to cure research, and a plenary talk by Tony Fauci on Wednesday, July 25, reviewed data on the role of the antibody Vedoluzimab targeting $\alpha_4\beta_7$ integrin to achieve viral control/remission without antiretroviral therapy. Dr. Fauci highlighted the need for a randomized controlled clinical trial to further evaluate this approach.

Presentations can be reviewed on the [AIDS2018 website](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

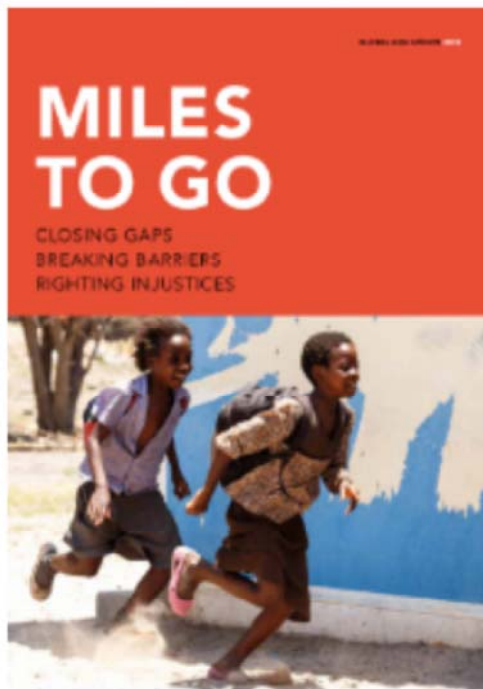
Latest UNAIDS Data

Progress is slowing as the 2020 HIV/AIDS targets are nearing

The latest **UNAIDS report** "*Miles to go – closing gaps, breaking barriers, righting injustices*" launched in Paris, France has a sobering message for the world: new HIV infections are rising in 50 countries, AIDS-related deaths are not falling fast enough and flat resources are threatening success. The progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS has slowed down in recent years, there are more people living with HIV than ever before and stigma and discrimination persist. At this very moment global commitment to build on the gains achieved is waning - if we continue at this rate we are unlikely to reach the ambitious 2020 milestones.

[UNAIDS report](#)

**GLOBAL
HIV STATISTICS at a GLANCE**



In 2017 an estimated ...

36.9 million (31.1 million – 43.9 million) people globally were **living with HIV**

21.7 million (19.1 million – 22.6 million) people were **accessing antiretroviral therapy**

1.8 million (1.4 million – 2.4 million) people became **newly infected with HIV**

940 000 (670 000 – 1.3 million) people **died from AIDS-related illnesses**

THE CALL FOR PREVENTION

Publications in *The Lancet* called for a greater focus on prevention, including the development of a vaccine and a cure

In the wake of the UNAIDS report and ahead of the AIDS2018 conference in Amsterdam, researchers call for an increased focus on HIV prevention, as little progress is being made in reducing new HIV infections. According to the authors, the UNAIDS 90-90-90 approach must be accompanied by a similarly robust commitment to scaled-up primary HIV prevention and to the development of a preventive vaccine and a functional cure for HIV. Read more from [The Lancet Commission to Strengthening the HIV response](#), and [The Lancet Editorial on Prevention](#).

Upcoming events



9th EDCTP Forum
17 – 21 September 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal
<http://www.edctpforum2018.org>



HIVR4P 2018
21 – 25 October 2018 in Madrid, Spain
<http://www.hivr4p.org>



HIV Glasgow
Glasgow, UK, October 28-31, 2018
<http://www.hivglasgow.org/>

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

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 681032.

This project has received funding from the Swiss government (through the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, SERI) under



grant agreement No. 15.0337. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Swiss Government.

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