

XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010)

Session Room 8, Reed Messe Vienna Convention Centre

Sunday 18 July 2010, 15.45 – 17.45

SCALING UP EARLY INFANT DIAGNOSIS OF HIV AS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT: SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

SESSION CO-CHAIRS: Shaffiq Essajee (World Health Organization)
and Celia Christie-Samuels (University of the West Indies and IAS-ILF Co-Chair)

The revised WHO Pediatric ART Guidelines recommend immediate antiretroviral therapy for children with confirmed HIV infection aged <24 months, but identifying HIV-infected infants and linking them to treatment programmes remains a challenge. DNA-PCR testing is generally used for early infant diagnosis (EID), but is an expensive technology requiring sophisticated, centralized laboratories and trained technicians. Although DNA-PCR has been facilitated in resource-limited settings, its long turnaround time is a contributing factor to infant loss-to-follow-up. Currently, no Point of Care (POC) HIV tests are available for infants.

This session provides an introduction to the need for improved EID and highlights the challenges in identifying infected infants and linking them to treatment. An overview of existing technologies for EID including POC EID in development is presented. A panel discusses the unanswered questions with regard to programmatic barriers to current practices of EID and potential obstacles in introducing POC EID from a country perspective.

- 15H45 – 15H50 WELCOME by Celia Christie-Samuels and Shaffiq Essajee
- 15H50 – 16H10 EARLY INFANT DIAGNOSIS OF HIV: SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS by Laura Guay (The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation)
- 16H10 – 16H30 EID – CURRENT TOOLS AND PROSPECTS OF POINT OF CARE TECHNOLOGY by Susan Fiscus (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- 16H30 – 17H30 PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATED by Celia Christie-Samuels

PANELISTS:

- Denis Tindyebwa, The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Tanzania
- Angela Mushavi, The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Zimbabwe
- François Venter, Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (TBC)
- Shabnam Zavahir, Roche Products, USA
- René Ekpini, UNICEF, USA

- 17H30 – 17H45 CONCLUSIONS by Shaffiq Essajee



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