



**AVAC/IAS-ILF Satellite Meeting
Sunday, 19 July 2009, 14h45–18h00pm
Mini Room 2 at the International Convention Centre
Cape Town, South Africa**

**The Promise and Perils of ARV-Based Prevention:
A dialogue of informed optimism & scepticism**

ARV-based prevention, such as oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and ARV-based topical microbicides, is widely viewed as one of the more promising biomedical HIV prevention strategies under study today.

However, even if current PrEP clinical trials demonstrate efficacy among some populations, formidable challenges remain to demonstrating its effectiveness and feasibility. PrEP implementation raises questions for virtually every aspect of existing AIDS responses, from how to integrate it within existing HIV testing and counselling, prevention and treatment interventions, to how individual and community risk is conceptualized and addressed. It will also raise challenges to policymakers and programme managers regarding how to allocate limited health care resources in order to optimize their impact on health outcomes.

What could and should be done to weigh these challenges against the potential benefits and develop appropriate scientific, operational and practical strategies?

Several IAS 2009 conference programme sessions will provide updates on current ARV-based prevention research. This satellite will complement those sessions by providing an opportunity for various stakeholders to discuss what needs to happen beyond the current research, including additional research priorities (such as other potential PrEP candidates and intermittent dosing strategies) and the operational, financial and ethical issues that will need to be addressed in order to translate positive safety and efficacy findings into delivery programmes that will have a public health impact at the country level.

Through provocative panel discussions, leaders from the scientific community, civil society, industry and the public sector will debate the promise and challenges of ARV-based prevention and discuss what is possible, what additional research is needed and how it might fit into the broader landscape of HIV and other health services.

Chairpersons

Alex Coutinho, Infectious Disease Institute, Makerere University

Michael Rabbow, IAS/ILF

Mitchell Warren, AVAC

Panel One: Future directions in ARV-based prevention – New modalities and agents

Facilitated by Shirin Heidari, IAS/ILF, with

- Carl Dieffenbach, NIAID Division of AIDS, National Institutes of Health
- Yasmin Halima, Global Campaign for Microbicides
- Sharon Hillier, Microbicide Trials Network
- Patrick Ndase, International Clinical Research Center, University of Washington
- Ben Plumley, Tibotec
- Zeda Rosenberg, International Partnership for Microbicides
- Francois Venter, Southern African HIV Clinicians Association

Key points for discussion

- What questions will not be answered by the current trials?
- Different dosing strategies and modalities: what do we need, what will work and how might we test them?
- What animal data and pre-clinical modelling are required to best address questions on both topical and oral ARV-based prevention?
- Where is the pipeline for testing new ARV-based prevention agents?
- What is the feasibility of future phase III trials to compare new to existing PrEP trial compounds?

Panel Two: What if it works? Addressing implementation issues

Facilitated by Emily Bass, AVAC with

- Stephen Becker, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Samukeliso Dube, Global Campaign for Microbicides
- Yogan Pillay, South African Department of Health
- Cate Hankins, UNAIDS
- Victor Lakay, Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)
- Helen Rees, Reproductive Health & HIV Research Unit
- Jim Rooney, Gilead Sciences

Key points for discussion

- How can PrEP demonstrate effectiveness outside the unique context of clinical trials?
- What is the timeline for PrEP? What will the results from the current trials mean and how will they impact other prevention research?
- Are governments and communities planning for ARV-based prevention?
- What are the financial and operational challenges (e.g. incorporation of PrEP programmes into national AIDS plans and guidelines for delivery) that need to be addressed to ensure PrEP is available to relevant populations in low and middle-income countries?
- How might PrEP financing and delivery impact other HIV/public health priorities?
- What are the potential regulatory issues that will need to be addressed?

Programme

14h45	Welcome and introductions
15h05	Panel One discussion
16h10	Coffee break
16h40	Panel Two hour discussion
17h45	Summary and concluding remarks
18h00	Close