

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAS CIPHER Grants More than US\$ 1 Million to Support Paediatric HIV Research

Wednesday, 26 June, 2013 (Geneva, Switzerland)-- In 2012, the International AIDS Society (IAS) launched the Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER), a major two-year initiative aimed at addressing outstanding research gaps related to clinical management and delivery of services to infants, children and adolescents affected by HIV. CIPHER is supported through an unrestricted grant from ViiV Healthcare's Paediatric Innovation Seed Fund and guided by a high-level Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee convened by the IAS. As part of this initiative, the CIPHER Grant Programme will award more than US\$ 1 million to seven early stage researchers, for projects that address priority research gaps in paediatric HIV in resource-limited settings.

"The IAS thanks ViiV Healthcare for its support of CIPHER, as it strengthens the resources devoted to paediatric HIV research", said IAS President Françoise Barré-Sinoussi. "At the same time it is indeed encouraging to see a substantial focus on paediatric research being presented at the IAS 2013 conference in Kuala Lumpur."

The purpose of the CIPHER Grant Programme is to fund research projects that have the potential to contribute to the optimization of diagnosis, prevention, treatment and care of infants, children and adolescents affected by HIV. The intention is to attract early-stage investigators – from inside and outside the field of HIV research – to address critical questions related to growing up with an HIV infection, as well as to examine the impact of HIV or antiretroviral perinatal exposure in uninfected children. Supporting and attracting investigators to the field of paediatric HIV research can help encourage innovative ideas and fundamental research that provide better understanding of key unresolved questions.

A [needs assessment](#), including a rigorous review of scientific literature and key informant interviews with technical experts, was conducted to identify the most urgent research questions in paediatric HIV research. The identified research priorities provide the scope of the CIPHER Grant Programme.

The CIPHER grants are awarded to:

- **Paul Bangirana** from Uganda, with Makerere University, for the project entitled *Does HIV subtype moderate ART effect neurocognitive functioning in children?*
- **Degu Dare** from Ethiopia, with Addis Ababa University, for the project entitled *Antiretroviral treatment outcomes among adolescents living with HIV in Ethiopia.*
- **Rebecca Hodes** from South Africa, with the University of Cape Town, for the project entitled *Promoting adolescent antiretroviral adherence and sexual and reproductive health uptake in South Africa: How can health and social protection services collaborate programmatically with HIV-positive adolescents?*

- **Steven Innes** from South Africa, with Stellenbosch University, for the project entitled *Novel methods for detecting and minimizing chronic cardiovascular, metabolic, respiratory, renal and bone disease in HIV-infected children treated with antiretroviral therapy in Southern Africa.*
- **Atupele Kapito-Tembo** from Malawi, with the University of Malawi College of Medicine, for the project entitled *Pharmacovigilance of infants exposed to antiretroviral drugs given to HIV-infected mothers during breastfeeding.*
- **Matthew Kelly** from the United States, with The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, for the project entitled *The Effect of in utero exposure to HIV and antiretroviral therapy on the microbiology and outcomes of severe pneumonia.*
- **Nelleke Langerak** from the Netherlands, with the University of Cape Town, for the project entitled, *HIV encephalopathy: definition of the natural history, physical characteristics and imaging findings in a group of children with gait abnormalities.*

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About CIPHER:

The main objectives of the Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric Education and Research (CIPHER) are to promote and invest in research that addresses knowledge gaps in service delivery and clinical management of infants and children in resource-limited settings, as well as to strengthen collaboration, knowledge transfer and exchange among paediatric HIV cohorts. The initiative is designed to complement existing global initiatives and create partnerships with other organizations to maximize investment in paediatric research and improve paediatric health outcomes.

CIPHER is guided by a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of technical experts from key stakeholder organizations, including the US National Institutes of Health, Elisabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation, American Foundation for AIDS Research, Clinton Health Access Initiative, World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, and paediatric clinicians and scientists.

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 196 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 lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 30 June – 3 July 2013 and custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014.

www.iasociety.org | www.ias2013.org | www.aids2014.org
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