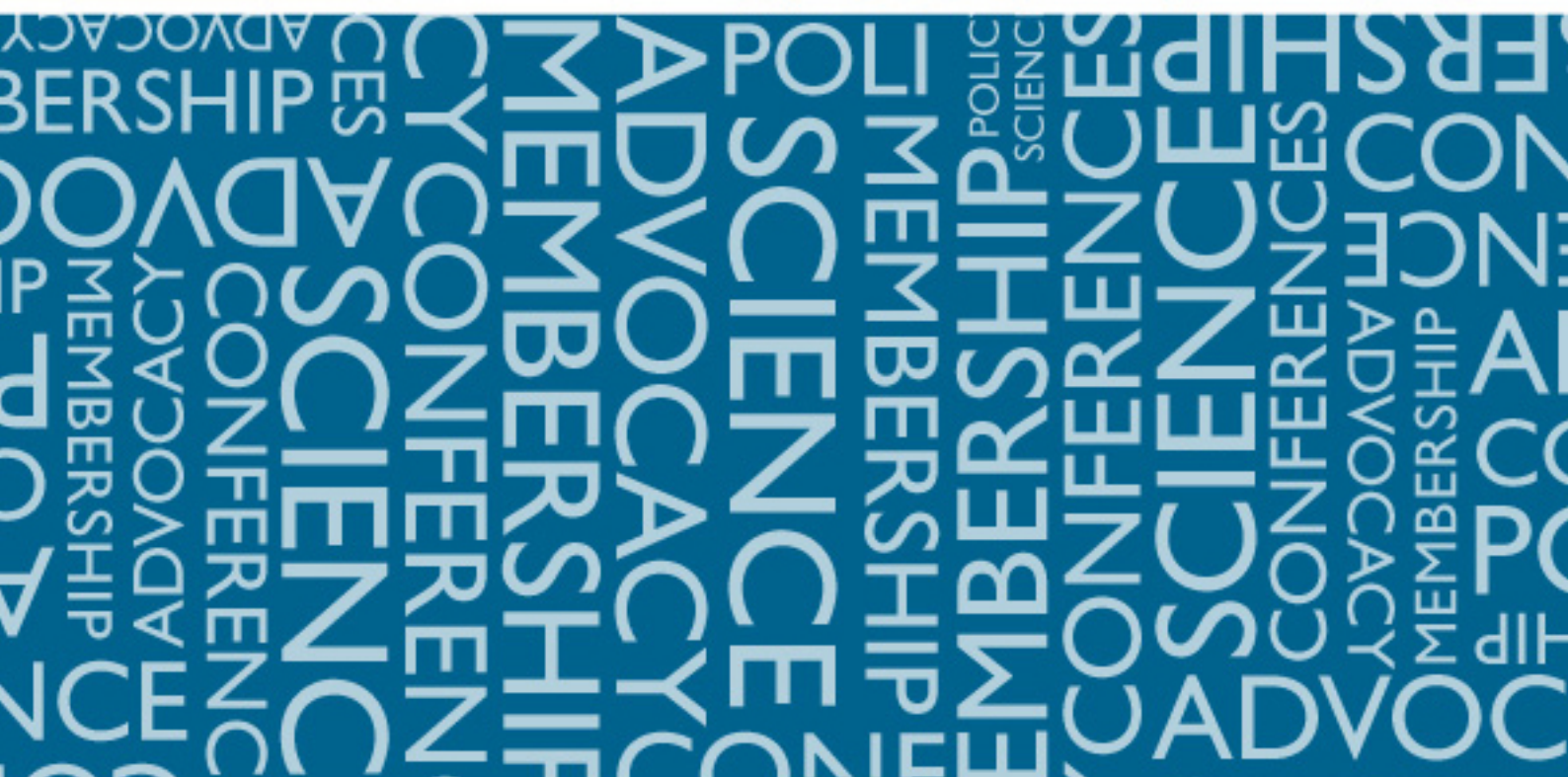


IAS-ILF Annual Report

2013



Introduction

The year 2013 saw the International AIDS Society–Industry Liaison Forum (IAS-ILF) continue its work on children and women as outlined in its [Strategic Plan 2012-2014](#) and the landmark Consensus Statement, [Asking the Right Questions: Advancing an HIV Research Agenda for Women and Children](#). The year also saw the IAS-ILF rethink itself and work towards deepened collaboration with industry as an equal and very important partner. This report highlights the various activities of the IAS-ILF in 2013.

IAS-ILF Advisory Group Activities

Members of the IAS-ILF Advisory Group had the opportunity to attend two face-to-face meetings during 2013. These short meetings were opportunities to discuss strategic activities and operations of the IAS-ILF.

In conjunction with the 2013 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2013, 3-6 March 2013, Atlanta, USA), the advisory group welcomed four new members: Linda-Gail Bekker, Joel Gallant, Boris Renjifo and Cheryl Smith. In addition, the new IAS-ILF Research Officer, Sébastien Morin, was welcomed. Participants discussed the activities planned for the 7th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2013, 30 June to 3 July 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) (further details follow).

The IAS-ILF Advisory Group's second meeting of 2013 was held during IAS 2013 in Kuala Lumpur. It was the occasion to update the Terms of Reference, to re-appoint Sandra Lehrman as the IAS-ILF Industry Co-Chair, and to discuss potential involvement of the IAS-ILF in the field of viral load monitoring.

Following the advisory group meeting at IAS 2013, the Working Group on Viral Load Monitoring in Resource-Limited Settings was formed. This group, which includes five members of the IAS-ILF Advisory Group (Linda-Gail Bekker, Bryan Cobb, Catherine Hankins, Nicholas Hellmann and Boris Renjifo), conducted several interviews during the gap assessment phase. The list of interviewees included staff from the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The working group will continue its efforts in 2014.

Also as a result of the advisory group meeting at IAS 2013, the IAS-ILF embarked on a process of rethinking itself. The entire IAS-ILF Advisory Group was involved and the work was expanded to rethinking the various ways in which the IAS had interacted with industry in the past and how it could do so in the future. A concept note was presented at the annual IAS Governing Council Retreat in Paris, France, at the beginning of December. The document listed novel ideas for further collaboration with industry while ensuring a clear firewall against conflicts of interest. Looking forward to 2014, some of these ideas will be implemented and the IAS-ILF will evolve into playing a more central role within the IAS.

Several people left the IAS-ILF Advisory Group in 2013: Luc Denys, Michael Rabbow and Anita Silva (who was replaced by Bryan Cobb). Their dedication to the collaborative efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS is acknowledged.

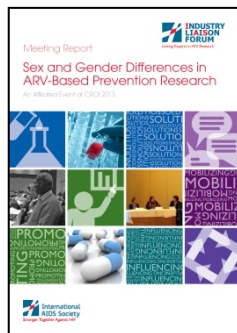
Social Media

By the end of 2013, the IAS-ILF Facebook and LinkedIn accounts had been merged in the IAS account ([Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) while the IAS-ILF Twitter account ([@IAS_ILF](#)) continued its activities and had 279 followers compared with 172 at the end of 2012.

IAS-ILF Events

During the year, the IAS-ILF organized four meetings, which included a closed affiliated event at CROI 2013, two public satellite sessions at IAS 2013 and an independent event in Geneva, Switzerland, on 27 November. Meeting reports, as well as results of the evaluation surveys, are available on the [IAS-ILF website](#).

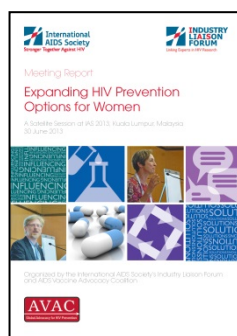
CROI 2013



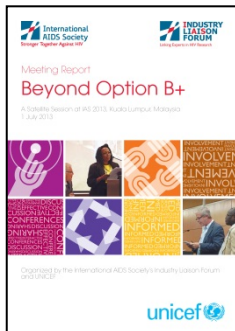
An affiliated event, entitled “Sex and Gender Differences in ARV-Based Prevention Research”, was organized on 3 March 2013 ([meeting](#) and [evaluation](#) reports available online). The closed meeting, attended by about 35 people, was chaired by Sandra Lehrman, who introduced the speakers highlighting the sex and gender differences in treatment as prevention (TasP) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), from *in vitro* data to social science aspects. The meeting included a debate on whether PrEP is necessary or if scaling up TasP alone is sufficient to meet the ARV-based prevention intervention needs of women.

Follow up on discussion of the CROI-affiliated event took place in the context of the TasP Workshop (22-25 April 2013, Vancouver, Canada), where a poster, entitled “Sex and gender differences in ARV-based HIV prevention research”, was presented. The poster was co-authored by Catherine Hankins, Shirin Heidari, Sandra Lehrman and Joep Lange. It is available [online](#).

IAS 2013

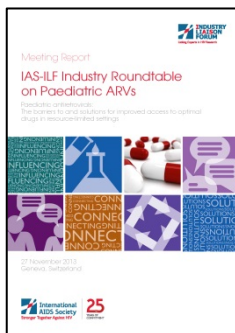


A satellite session, entitled “Expanding HIV Prevention Options for Women”, was co-organized with AVAC on 30 June 2013 ([meeting](#) and [evaluation](#) reports available online). The meeting was co-chaired by Linda-Gail Bekker representing the IAS-ILF and Mitchell Warren representing AVAC. The session attracted an audience of about 160 people. Linda-Gail Bekker presented an overview of available data regarding tenofovir-based PrEP in women. It led to an interesting discussion by the diverse panel, which included participants from WHO, academia, community and industry, thanks to its talented moderator, Catherine Hankins.



A satellite session, entitled “Beyond Option B+”, was co-organized with UNICEF on 1 July 2013 ([meeting](#) and [evaluation](#) reports available online). The meeting was co-chaired by Elly Katabira representing the IAS-ILF and Craig McLure representing UNICEF. Despite the very early schedule, the session attracted about 90 people. The session started with Elaine Abrams presenting the latest facts around prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Two panel discussions followed, moderated by Chewe Luo and RJ Simonds, respectively. The first panel discussed the hidden challenges regarding Option B+ while the second panel highlighted some of the key challenges in paediatric care and treatment.

Industry Roundtable on Paediatric ARVs



An independent event was organized towards the end of the year (27 November 2013) to discuss issues relating to paediatric antiretrovirals (ARVs). It was entitled “Paediatric antiretrovirals: The barriers to and solutions for improved access to optimal drugs in resource-limited settings” ([meeting report](#) available online). This closed meeting was the first of a new series of IAS-ILF Thematic Roundtables. The IAS-ILF Industry Roundtable on Paediatric ARVs was attended by 13 ARV manufacturers and 12 international organizations. It allowed for rich interactions, which participants appreciated. The meeting highlighted industry’s interest in paediatric ARV development and production and its willingness to work together in this challenging area.

Closing Word

Another year has passed and the IAS-ILF, while pursuing its different activities, made further steps towards building and strengthening synergy with industry in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemics. The year 2014 will see a new IAS-ILF emerge, promising to increase its impact further.

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