



Plenary Speaker Bios

MONDAY, 23 JULY

The HIV/Life Cycle: Understanding HIV Pathogenesis, Accelerating ARV Rollout and Exploring the Clinical Implications of Ageing

(9:00 – 10:30, Bayside Auditorium B)

Debrework ZEWDIE, PhD, Director, Global HIV/AIDS Program, World Bank
"Understanding the task: ARV rollout and research issues in the developing world"

As the Director of the Global HIV/AIDS Program, Dr. Debrework Zewdie is the World Bank's UNAIDS Global Coordinator and its representative on the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Prior to this position she managed the World Bank's AIDS Campaign Team for Africa, and led the team responsible for the US\$1 billion Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program for Africa.

Before joining the Bank in 1994, Dr. Zewdie was Africa's Deputy Regional Director for Family Health International's AIDS Control and Prevention Project in Kenya. Previously, she held several research, management, and teaching positions focusing on public health issues. While in Ethiopia, Dr. Zewdie was Deputy Director then Acting Director of the National Research Institute of Health. She also established and headed the Referral Laboratory for HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia, served as Program Manager of Ethiopia's AIDS/STD Prevention and Control Program, and taught immunology at Addis Ababa University.

Dr. Zewdie received her PhD in Immunology from the University of London and was a Senior MacArthur Fellow at Harvard University's School of Population and Development Studies. She has been published in over 100 journals and book chapters on a variety of subjects.

Michael M. LEDERMAN, MD, Scott R. Inkley Professor of Medicine, Professor of Pathology, Molecular Biology/Microbiology and Biomedical Ethics, Case Western Reserve University (Case)

"How HIV makes you sick: mechanisms of CD4 T-cell loss and recovery"

Dr. Michael Lederman is Director of the Center for AIDS Research at Case. He received his degree in medicine from the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and served as intern, resident, chief resident in Medicine and fellow in Infectious Diseases at Case, where he joined the faculty in 1980.

He has been engaged in AIDS research and care since 1983, when he and Oscar Ratnoff described sub-clinical immune deficiency in otherwise healthy men with haemophilia. Dr. Lederman has been director of the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at Case since its founding in 1987. His work has focused on the mechanisms of immune deficiency and immune restoration in HIV infection, and more recently, on the feasibility of CCR5 sequestration as a topical strategy to prevent HIV transmission.

Dr. Lederman is chairman of the AIDS Clinical Epidemiology Study Section at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the French National Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS), the Forum for Collaborative Research and the Wellcome Trust Tropical and Clinical Immunology and Infectious Diseases Funding Committee.

Brian GAZZARD, MD, Consultant Physician and Research Director, Department of HIV/GU Medicine, Chelsea Westminster Hospital

"Ageing and AIDS: new clinical endpoints in HIV practice"

Dr. Brian Gazzard qualified at Cambridge University in 1970 and received an MD from the same institution in 1982. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1983.

Dr. Gazzard became a consultant at St. Stephen's and Westminster Hospitals (now combined as Chelsea and Westminster Hospital) in 1978. He saw his first AIDS patient in 1979, and in 1991 he founded St. Stephen's AIDS Trust with other consultant colleagues.

Dr. Gazzard is also the founder and chairperson of the British HIV Association (BHIVA). In 1997 he became Professor of HIV Medicine, and in 2002, he was awarded a prize for clinical leadership at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Terrence Higgins Trust and the Outstanding Achiever for Health Award from the DHSS.

TUESDAY, 24 JULY

Promising Research and the Road to Practice: The Prospects for RNA Interference, Next Steps on Male Circumcision and Novel Treatments on the Horizon
(9:00 – 10:30, Bayside Auditorium B)

Robert C. BAILEY, PhD, MPH, Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago and Research Associate, Field Museum in Chicago

"Scaling up circumcision programmes: the road from evidence to practice"

Dr. Robert Bailey received his PhD in biological anthropology from Harvard University and his MPH in epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. He began his career as a paleontologist studying the behavioural ecology of squirrel monkeys in the Colombian Amazon and baboons in Kenya. From 1980 until 1994, Dr. Bailey studied the demography, growth, subsistence, and reproductive ecology of Efe Pygmies and Lese horticulturalists in the Ituri Forest, Democratic Republic of Congo, directing a team of interdisciplinary international researchers.

Since 1995, Dr. Bailey has devoted most of his research activities to the issue of male circumcision as a possible HIV prevention strategy. He has conducted circumcision-related studies in varying communities in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and the U.S. He has studied adverse events and conducted needs assessments associated with medical and traditional circumcisions in Kenya.

Dr. Bailey is the principal investigator of the randomized controlled trial of male circumcision to reduce HIV incidence in Kisumu, Kenya, and he has served as a consultant to WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, the World Bank, USAID, the CDC, and other national and international governmental and non-governmental agencies.

John J. ROSSI, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Division of Molecular Biology, Dean of the Graduate School of Biological Sciences City of Hope Beckman Research Institute

"Interference and inhibition: RNAi mechanisms and therapeutic prospects"

Dr. John Rossi received his doctoral training in genetics under Dr. Claire Berg at the University of Connecticut in Storrs and postdoctoral training in molecular genetics under Dr. Arthur Landy at Brown University.

In the 1980s and 1990s his research focused on the mechanism of action and clinical applications of catalytic RNAs, or ribozymes. His group was the first to demonstrate that hammerhead ribozymes could be used for inhibition of HIV replication. This research programme led to two clinical trials in which ribozyme genes have been transduced into hematopoietic stem cells for autologous transplant in HIV infected individuals.

Dr. Rossi is the recipient of an NIH Merit Award for his work on ribozymes and HIV. His work in the laboratory continues to focus on RNA based therapeutics, with recent emphasis on function and applications of expressed short hairpin RNAs for therapeutic treatment of HIV and cancers. This research has led to a planned clinical trial for RNAi-based therapy of HIV infection in a gene therapy setting. Dr. Rossi has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles and numerous reviews and commentaries on RNAi-based therapeutics.

Joseph J. ERON Jr., MD, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine
"New kids on the block: novel agents and treatment strategies"

Dr. Joseph Eron graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. He has been involved in clinical and translational HIV research and in HIV and infectious diseases clinical care at UNC-Chapel Hill for 14 years.

Dr. Eron is Principal Investigator of the UNC AIDS Clinical Research Group, which includes the activities of international clinical trials research with the ACTG and the HPTN and support of R01, CIPRA and CDC-based research in Malawi. He is also Director for the UNC Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Clinical Core, responsible for support of NIH-sponsored or investigator-initiated HIV/AIDS translational research.

Dr. Eron and his research group, in collaboration with the makers of SAS software, have created a clinical and research database of 1,500 HIV-infected clinic patients. This group is also helping to establish a similar database in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Dr. Eron has actively participated in training international investigators in the conduct of HIV clinical research trials from Malawi, South Africa, Cameroon and China. As Associate Director of the UNC General Clinical Research Center, he also has been involved in planning multiple conferences and has presented at national and international meetings.

WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY

Getting Ahead of the Curve: Current Issues in Paediatric Treatment, Virology and Biomedical Prevention Science

(9:00 – 10:30, Bayside Auditorium B)

Annette SOHN, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, University of California, San Francisco
"Keeping up with the kids: paediatric treatment issues"

Dr. Annette Sohn is based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where she directs a paediatric HIV research programme in collaboration with local partners, and acts as the Vietnam Country Representative for the University of California, San Francisco's Institute for Global Health. Her projects there have included studies of diagnostic and monitoring testing in HIV-exposed infants, stigma and discrimination experienced when accessing prevention of mother-to-child transmission services, and contraception and reproductive health outcomes of HIV-positive women.

Dr. Sohn is a member of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR) TREAT Asia Steering Committee Pediatric Network, and their Pediatric HIV Observational Database working group. She is also a technical advisor to the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief branch in Vietnam, assisting in-country programmes on coordination, protocols and capacity-building for scale-up of their comprehensive paediatric antiretroviral treatment programmes.

Ben BERKHOUT, PhD, Head of the Laboratory of Experimental Virology, University of Amsterdam

"Outpacing HIV: viral fitness, escape routes and resistance patterns"

Dr. Ben Berkhout studied molecular biology at Leiden University, and obtained his PhD in 1986 on research concerning the regulation of translation by means of RNA structure in RNA bacteriophages. He performed postdoctoral research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute of the Harvard Medical School in the field of molecular immunology, and initiated HIV-1 research at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Berkhout initiated a molecular virology research line in 1991 at the University of Amsterdam. He became Head of the Laboratory of Experimental Virology there and was appointed as full professor in 2002. He is editor for the Journal of Biomedical Science, Retrovirology, and Journal of General Virology, and associate editor for several other journals.

Dr. Berkhout has published over 250 peer-reviewed manuscripts on diverse topics concerning HIV-1 replication, virus evolution, virus discovery, new antiviral therapeutic strategies and HIV-1 vaccine design.

Nancy PADIAN, PhD, MPH, Executive Director of the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Women's Global Health Imperative

"Synthesizing our options: biomedical prevention technologies in the context of behavioural interventions"

Dr. Nancy Padian is Director of International Programs at the UCSF AIDS Research Institute, co-director of the UCSF Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy, and a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. Dr. Padian, an internationally recognized expert in heterosexual transmission of HIV, has spent the last 17 years developing and directing a range of domestic and international research and intervention projects on sexually transmitted infections, HIV and contraception in high-risk populations.

In 1994, she co-founded the UZ-UCSF Collaborative Research Programme in Women's Health in Zimbabwe. Her current research focuses largely on developing and evaluating the efficacy of female-controlled physical and barrier contraceptive methods that might decrease susceptibility to HIV and other STIs and alternative strategies for fostering young women's economic independence, thus reducing their susceptibility to HIV, STIs, and unwanted pregnancies.

Dr. Padian has projects in North Carolina and Zimbabwe evaluating the acceptability and effectiveness of existing over-the-counter barrier methods. In Zimbabwe, she recently completed a study on the risks associated with use of intravaginal preparations and will also test new microbicides as part of the HIVNET international prevention network.