



The Daily Bulletin

News and Information from the 4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention

Edition 1, 21-22 July 2007

SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES SET STAGE FOR IAS 2007

The 4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2007) opens its doors to more than 5,000 delegates from 133 countries this weekend, beginning with the Opening Session on Sunday 22 July. As the largest international conference of its kind, IAS 2007 is an opportunity to explore how the latest advances in HIV science can strengthen the global scale-up of HIV prevention, care and treatment.

Speakers at Sunday's Opening Session will include Australia's Minister of Health and Ageing, the Hon. Tony Abbott, and New South Wales Minister for Health, the Hon. Reba Meagher. Other speakers include Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; International AIDS Society President Dr. Pedro Cahn; Professor David Cooper of Australia's National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research; and community representative Ms. Maura Elaripe from Papua New Guinea. Conference Co-Chairs Drs. Cahn and Cooper have taken the opportunity of IAS 2007 to urge all HIV donors and funders to allocate ten percent of programme funds to research (*see story, right*).

In his keynote address, Professor Kazatchkine will review advances in the global response to AIDS in the last 15 years, including the growing prominence of health on the international development agenda; the demonstrated feasibility of scaling up treatment in resource-constrained settings; new opportunities for HIV prevention; and the global mobilization of civil society. He will also outline the challenges to be overcome if the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support is to be achieved, such as the need for sustainable financing and strategies to address the health workforce crisis.

Dr. Fauci's keynote address, entitled "HIV/AIDS in 2007: Much Accomplished, Much to Do," will review recent advances in understanding the pathogenesis of HIV, including the very early events following infection, and the opportunities to build on this knowledge to develop new interventions. He will discuss recent successes in treating people living with HIV in rich and poor countries, as well as the challenges that remain with regard to improving access to existing medications and developing new ones. Dr. Fauci also will discuss progress and priorities in HIV prevention, including the importance of scaling up proven prevention strategies and the critical need to develop new prevention tools such as topical microbicides and vaccines.

The Hon. Tony Abbott will speak about Australia's role in the fight against the pandemic, confirming that preventing the spread of HIV is a priority for the Australian Government. He will also pledge commitment to offering assistance and scientific advances to inform and strengthen both the domestic and the (*continued overleaf*)

Message from the Conference Co-Chairs

By Dr. Pedro Cahn and Prof. David Cooper

After more than a year of planning, we are pleased to welcome delegates to Sydney, and look forward to a week of discussion and debate. This is an exciting time, with new treatment options on the horizon, and important developments in the basic and biomedical prevention arenas. It is also a sombre moment, as we take stock of where we are, and of how far we have to go to achieve our shared goal of universal access. It is with this goal in mind that we gather to review recent scientific advances.

Good science drives good policy: that belief is the driving force behind the Sydney Declaration, released by the International AIDS Society and the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine earlier this month. The Sydney Declaration calls for 10% of all resources devoted to HIV programming to be dedicated to research to ensure that we make the best use of our treatment and prevention investments and improve our understanding of HIV pathogenesis. We believe that without such funding we will fail to maintain a sustained and effective response to the AIDS pandemic. If you agree, please visit the IAS 2007 website this week to add your name to the growing list of supporters.

Stay in Touch with the Delegate Connector

The Delegate Connector enables delegates to communicate with each other by email or SMS (text messages) through the Conference Profile, which is accessible from the IAS 2007 website. This service will be available before, during and after the conference. The Conference Profile is the main portal for sending and receiving messages, but you may also use the service at the Delegate Connector desk in the Parkside Promenade (Ground Level).

As part of registration, delegates were invited to include their contact details for the purposes of the Delegate Connector service. To change your details, sign in to your Conference Profile. If you do not already have a profile (if you registered as part of a group) you can easily create one. To do so, sign in on the IAS 2007 homepage, or visit the Delegate Connector desk for assistance.

Online Resources Available at IAS 2007

At the Convention Centre, delegates may access online resources through the Internet Café (Hall 5 Exhibition Area) or by laptop using WiFi in the Networking Area on the Bayside Terrace.

www.ias2007.org: Through the conference website, you can access the Programme-at-a-Glance (PAG), with links to abstracts, speeches, slide presentations, rapporteur reports, webcasts and transcripts of key sessions. The website also features a searchable database of abstracts presented in Sydney, as well as supplemental abstract information through Abstract Plus (see story on front).

Rapporteur Summaries: Throughout the conference, on-site rapporteurs will prepare reports from conference sessions and some posters. Summaries will be available through the Programme-at-a-Glance each evening, and final presentations, summarizing developments in each track and from the point of view of the community, will precede the Closing Session on Wednesday 25 July.

Virtual Media Centre: Accessible from the conference homepage, the IAS 2007 Virtual Media Centre offers resources, including press releases, fact sheets, photos, and a press conference schedule.

Kaisernetwork.org: This free online health-policy news and information service will provide webcasts of the major sessions and press conferences; expedited transcriptions, slide presentations and podcasts of select sessions; a Daily Update email; news summaries; and interviews with newsmakers in Sydney. Link to this online coverage from the IAS 2007 homepage or through www.kaisernetwork.org/ias2007.

Clinicaloptions.com: As the official provider of online scientific coverage from IAS 2007, Clinical Care Options (CCO) will provide summaries of key data presented and analyses in 6 tracks, as well as downloadable audio highlights, in which experts provide analyses of selected oral sessions. A one-time, free registration is required at www.clinicaloptions.com/HIV.

(from page 1) global response. Mr Abbott's State counterpart, New South Wales Minister for Health, the Hon. Reba Meagher, will also welcome delegates and address the meeting.

Giving the community response will be Ms. Maura Elaripe from Papua New Guinea (PNG). Ms Elaripe works with a number of prominent HIV organizations in PNG. She is an HIV-positive woman and a nurse, diagnosed with HIV in 1997, and she was one of the first women in PNG to come out publicly about her HIV status. Ms. Elaripe has worked on a range of important advocacy programs, calling on the PNG government and NGOs to make antiretroviral therapy widely available and accessible in PNG. She also advocates for positive women's rights in her country and is an advocate on women's issues generally.

Closing remarks for the Opening Session will be given by Deputy Local Conference Co-Chair Professor Sharon Lewin of The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. The Opening Session will begin and conclude with dance performances by the Sydney-based Aboriginal ensemble, Descendance Cultural Group. There will also be a traditional Welcome to the Land by Robert Welsh, a representative of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

More than 3,100 abstracts were submitted to IAS 2007, representing an increase of more than 50% over the last IAS conference in Rio. Over 6,700 participants are expected to attend, with more than 5,000 registered delegates, as well as international media, exhibitors and conference staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evaluating IAS 2007

As a delegate, there are three ways you can be involved in the conference evaluation. First, we encourage you to complete the post-conference online survey, which will be emailed to delegates in late August (there will also be a link on the conference website). Second, if approached by an evaluation team member, please agree to take part in a short interview. Finally, delegates can drop by the Evaluation Office (Parkside Office Level 1) to give feedback or to advise if accessing the survey is a problem. Conference organizers are committed to reporting findings and the Evaluation Report will be posted on the IAS 2007 website.

Abstract Plus: A New Tool for IAS 2007

Abstract Plus enables presenters and co-authors to add information to their abstract(s). Authors can add text, supporting documents, images and links. With Abstract Plus, presenters may add data during the conference or afterwards, and this data may be continually updated. This additional information will be displayed below the abstract on the IAS 2007 Programme-at-a-Glance.

Abstract Plus has three advantages. It allows presenters to add unlimited content, such as full reports and links to the project website, graphs and photos. It is timeless, as authors can update Abstract Plus as often as necessary, including after the conference. It will also expand the audience for the abstract, because Abstract Plus will be indexed by search engines. Our hope is that Abstract Plus helps create a dynamic archive of research presented at IAS 2007.

FAST: Full Abstract Search Terminals

Located in the Poster Exhibition Hall, FAST computer terminals allow delegates to quickly search the IAS 2007 abstract CD-ROM and Abstract Plus, as well as the Programme-at-a-Glance.

Opening Session Programme

- 19:10 Descendance Cultural Group
- 19:30 Welcome to the Land: Robert Welsh, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
- 19:35 Welcome to the Conference and Announcement of the Sydney Declaration: Pedro Cahn, International Conference Co-Chair, Argentina, and David Cooper, Local Conference Co-Chair, Australia
- 19:45 Welcome to Australia: Hon. Tony Abbott, Minister for Health and Ageing
- 19:55 Welcome to Sydney and New South Wales: Hon. Reba Meagher, NSW Minister for Health
- 20:00 Access and Hope: Michel Kazatchkine, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France
- 20:20 Community Response to HIV/AIDS: Maura Elaripe, President, Women Affected by HIV and AIDS in Papua New Guinea
- 20:30 HIV/AIDS in 2007: Much Accomplished, Much to Do: Anthony Fauci, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/NIH, USA
- 20:50 Closing Remarks: Sharon Lewin, Deputy Local Conference Co-Chair, Australia
- 21:00 Descendance Cultural Group

The Opening Session is in the Bayside Auditorium A/B.