

AVAC's Take

Every two years, the world gathers for the International AIDS Conference. The upcoming IAC will take place in Melbourne in late July. With its combination of substance and circus-like atmosphere, the meeting defies simple summaries and often generates competing narratives about what the next steps in the global response need to be. Two years ago, the conference in Washington, DC, brought a strong call to begin to end the AIDS epidemic. This was greeted with an equally strong level of skepticism. Was such a goal possible? What exactly did it mean?

Last month, in advance of the Melbourne conference, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board called for the world to commit to an end to the epidemic by 2030. UNAIDS said that this goal would be “provisionally” defined as a 90 percent reduction in new HIV infections, stigma and AIDS-related deaths compared to 2010. This is a promising development. A clear definition for the end of AIDS is needed if we're going to make it a reality. But these targets—16 years in the future—are just the beginning.

What the world needs to do in Melbourne, and more importantly at the country level, is get practical, specific and strategic about what it will take in the immediate future to get on track to achieve these goals. There also needs to be a stronger emphasis on combination prevention. Antiretroviral treatment needs to be part of this—but so do many other prevention strategies that are often mentioned as an afterthought to antiretroviral therapy.

Today, what we need more than anything is a set of bold targets for prevention *and* treatment, side by side, with clear, simple messages about the power of combination prevention—including but not limited to ART—to begin to end the epidemic.

Targets are one side of the coin; data are the other. Without timely high-quality data that are comparable across programs, countries and donors, it is impossible to gauge progress and make course corrections. That's why AVAC, in collaboration with amfAR, is launching a new data accountability project that will take stock of the quality of data coming from UNAIDS, PEPFAR, the Global Fund to

Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other sources, and make recommendations for what could be done better. We'll be using this project to help ensure that the world gets—and stays—on track for substantial progress long after the biennial clamor of the conference has died down. Visit www.endingaids.org for more information. – AVAC

Data Dispatch

Research Update: Hormonal contraception and HIV

A proposed trial known as ECHO, which seeks to measure the impact of different family planning methods on women's risk of HIV, has undergone a protocol revision and moved closer to launching. The trial was originally conceived as a four-arm study with two injectables (Depo-Provera and NET-EN), an implant (Jadelle) and the copper IUD. As discussed in *AVAC Report 2013*, this design had a price tag of approximately US\$80 million. That amount wasn't forthcoming from donors—and so, as the trial team explained on a recent call with civil society, the design was scaled back to a more affordable three-arm design.

Deciding which arm to drop and which to move forward was no simple matter, according to Helen Rees of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute and one of the leaders of the ECHO trial. She explained on the call that the team ultimately decided to drop NET-EN, an injectable that is delivered every two months and has a different dosage of hormones than Depo-Provera, a progestogen-only method that is widely used in sub-Saharan Africa. There are some data suggesting that Depo increases women's risk of acquiring HIV, but not all studies have found this association, and none of the data come from a trial designed specifically to measure the method's impact on HIV. Under the current timelines, ECHO is scheduled to start enrollment in early 2015.

AVAC is continuing to partner with ATHENA, the International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICW EA) and other groups and individuals interested in informing action on this issue. Email us at avac@avac.org for more information.

Visit the new avac.org

AVAC is delighted to announce the launch of our redesigned website, www.avac.org. The site contains AVAC's comprehensive coverage of the range of biomedical HIV prevention interventions—including user-friendly resources, information about AVAC programs, details on work with our partners and more.

> Infographics Gallery

Find visuals that clarify complex processes and chart advocacy in clear, concise formats.

The Tipping Point
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013 | Combination Prevention, General

THE TIPPING POINT
Understanding a crucial milestone in the AIDS response

One way to measure progress in fighting AIDS is to compare the number of new HIV infections with the increase in HIV positive people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) over a given time period. An AIDS epidemic reaches its "tipping point" when the number of annual new HIV infections falls below the annual increase in patients starting ART. Coverage matters. A first milestone is treating approximately two thirds of people in need in a given country. Once that level is reached, countries and advocates can track progress to the tipping point.

This site is designed to be a central hub of information for the array of challenging and exciting issues facing HIV prevention research and implementation stakeholders today. We have kept all the high-quality materials and updates you may already be familiar with and worked hard to make this extensive library of online resources more accessible via new search features.

> Resource Database

Search for materials by prevention intervention, thematic topic, population, format and more.

Search RESULTS

Keyword: []

Intervention: Clinical Trials Process AIDS Vaccines Combination Prevention Condoms, Male and Female Care General Hormonal Contraceptives and HIV HPV Vaccines Lubricant Microbicides Multipurpose Prevention Technologies PrEP Therapeutic Vaccines Treatment as Prevention Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

Topics: Clinical Trials and Product Development Funding Introductory Information Policy Product Introduction and Implementation Research Ethics Research Results and Updates Stakeholder Engagement Trial-specific Materials

Results

Ongoing and Planned PrEP Evaluation Studies
This is a summary table from June 2014 includes ongoing and planned global PrEP evaluation studies.
JUNE, 2014 | AVAC | PrEP | Fact Sheet

Jeff McConnell Memorial Webinar - Audio
This webinar memorializes pioneering sociologist Jeff McConnell and his impact on HIV prevention science. Updates were presented on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) research and the implications of Dr. McConnell's research on sexual networks for how PrEP will be implemented.
MAY, 2014 | AVAC | HIV Prevention Justice Alliance | International Rectal Microbicide Advocate | PrEP | Webinar

2015 AVAC Advocacy Fellowship Application Resources
This list of resources provides background reading to help candidates for the 2015 AVAC Advocacy Fellowship prepare their applications. It includes links to introductory materials on HIV prevention strategies, key trials and the research process, as well as reports laying out AVAC's perspective on the field.
MAY, 2014 | AVAC | General

The GLAM Toolkit: Advocacy to improve access to safe, condom-compatible lubricant in Africa
The GLAM Toolkit: Advocacy to improve access to safe, condom-

> Our Focus

Read the latest news and download key resources on interventions to end the epidemic.

Our Focus
Advocacy for prevention innovation is the heart of AVAC's work

Today there are more biomedical HIV prevention strategies available than ever before. Success in turning the tide of the epidemic depends on delivering these tools at scale for immediate impact. At the same time, we need to be sure that emerging strategies are piloted, integrated and scaled up as part of continued prevention innovation. And over the long-term, we need to continue the search for an AIDS vaccine and a cure. AVAC's focus is on an advocacy agenda that spans, unites and clarifies these three areas.

Deliver proven tools for immediate impact
• Align program, research and funding to scale to end AIDS
• Conduct evidence-based research
• Develop and evaluate new prevention strategies
• Engage stakeholders in research and implementation

Demonstrate and roll out new HIV prevention tools
• Make an impact and get the most out of the research
• Make an impact and get the most out of the research
• Make an impact and get the most out of the research

Develop long-term solutions to end the epidemic
• Engage in research
• Engage in research
• Engage in research

> P-Values Blog

Check out this new feature where advocates have their say about the latest findings, biggest challenges and most exciting successes in our collective work.

Improving Ethics in HIV Prevention Trials, Lessons from Thailand
FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014

Published June 20 in *PLoS ONE*, "Improving Ethical and Participatory Practice for Marginalized Populations in Biomedical HIV Prevention Trials: Lessons from Thailand" includes findings from a qualitative study on the conduct of HIV prevention research and the involvement of marginalized populations in Thailand. The *Good Participatory Practice (GPP) Guidelines for Biomedical HIV Prevention Trials*—which provide trial funders, sponsors and implementers with guidance on how to engage with all stakeholders in the design and conduct of biomedical HIV prevention trials—guided the research.

In the early 2000s, the well-documented stoppage of PrEP research in Cameroon and Cambodia helped catalyze action around documenting best practices for stakeholder engagement. And in 2007, the first draft of the *Good Participatory Practice Guidelines* for biomedical HIV prevention trials were published. In 2011 a revised edition, informed by community consultation and use, was released.

The research reported in *PLoS ONE* was undertaken to help inform how to prevent similar trial closures in the future. The article, authored by

Our Blog
Welcome to AVAC's blog, *P-Values*, where biomedical HIV prevention advocacy has its say about the latest findings, biggest challenges and most exciting successes in our collective work. At *P-Values*, you'll find updates by and about staff and partners working at the frontlines of research, advocacy and implementation. Get an opinion you'd like to share? Feel free to send your thoughts to pvalues@avac.org.

RECENT BLOG POSTS
FROM THE BODY'S POINT OF VIEW: USING PERCEPTIBILITY DATA TO INFORM RECTAL MICROBICIDE DEVELOPMENT
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014
ANNOUNCING THE CALL FOR 2015

AVAC
Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention

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About Us Our Story, Our Team & Support Information What We Do Advocacy to Achieve the End of AIDS Our Focus Interventions to End the Epidemic Resources Publications, Infographics, Events & More Media Information & Resources for the Press Our Blog Prevention News & Perspective

Achieving the End of AIDS

The world is talking about ending AIDS. AVAC's advocacy is dedicated to realizing that vision. To get there we must:

- **Deliver** proven tools for immediate impacts.
- **Demonstrate** and roll out new HIV prevention tools.
- **Develop** long-term solutions to end the epidemic.

LEARN MORE >

> What We Do

See our top priorities, positions and programs, and get linked to key resources, updates and ways to get involved. Learn about our coalition work with civil society, researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders in HIV prevention research and implementation.

AVAC What We Do

AVAC uses education, policy analysis, advocacy, community mobilization and a network of global collaborations to accelerate ethical development and global delivery of biomedical HIV prevention options. [READ MORE](#)

- AIDS Vaccines
- Combination Prevention
- Cure
- Hormonal Contraceptives and HIV
- Microbicides
- PrEP
- Treatment as Prevention
- Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

> R&D Database

Get information and download tables on planned, ongoing and completed biomedical HIV prevention clinical trials, products and sites.

HIV Prevention Research & Development Database

PxRD was developed to be a comprehensive source of information on biomedical HIV prevention clinical trials that are planned, ongoing or completed. The database users to view the clinical trials around the world, gaining an understanding of the many developments currently being made in the field of HIV prevention research. The database:

- Provides **Summary Tables** of HIV prevention clinical trials
- Enables investigators, funders and advocates to view a **Global Map of Ongoing HIV Prevention Trials**
- Allows users to **Search** for prevention trials through various criteria

Search

Prevention Option: Clinical Trials Process AIDS Vaccines Combination Prevention

Products: 1% tenofovir gel Ad26 Ad26

Resources
Resource Database
AVAC Publications
Infographics Gallery
Research & Development Database
Calendar of Events
Webinar & Meeting Reports

Global Trial Map
Click to view our map of HIV prevention trials.

> Continued from front

Two Years and Counting: Tracking PrEP progress

This issue of *Px Wire* went to press just days before the two-year anniversary of the US Food and Drug Administration approval of TDF/FTC for PrEP and the issuance of WHO guidelines for PrEP demonstration projects in low-income countries.¹ Each of these events had the potential to trigger a range of follow-up activities. Twenty-four months later, it's clear that momentum is growing in the US but that rollout remains slow and even muddled just about everywhere else in the world.

On May 14, the US Public Health Service released the first comprehensive clinical practice guidelines for PrEP. The guidelines were developed by a US federal inter-agency working group led by the US Centers for Disease Control and reflect input from providers, HIV patients, partners and affected communities. A providers' supplement with materials and tools for use when prescribing was also released.

Shortly after the guidelines were released, over 150 leading HIV/AIDS organizations from across the US lent their support to a statement endorsing the new guidance. Visit www.avac.org/prep for the statement and list of signatories. A growing number of local agencies and organizations in the US have initiated programs to provide access to PrEP. Information on these programs is now available on a new page on *PrEP Watch*: www.prepwatch.org/local-programs.

Outside of the United States, there has been some activity but, sadly, far less momentum. In recent months, Gilead Sciences, Inc.—the manufacturer of Truvada—has applied for a prevention indication with the regulatory authorities in South Africa and Thailand. Regulatory approval can help in getting Truvada as PrEP, or any new strategy, added to local HIV prevention programs.

On July 11th, the WHO issued new guidelines for the AIDS response to key populations that, for the first time, strongly recommended PrEP for gay men and other men who have sex with men.² This is a positive development. Unfortunately, there are still just two PrEP demonstration projects currently running in Africa—though others are slated to begin soon. These projects do not comprise a systematic approach to evaluating PrEP in MSM or other key populations. This is urgently needed. Data from the

¹ http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidance_prep/en/

² <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/keypopulations/en/>

iPrEx open-label extension (OLE) will be presented as a late-breaker abstract at the International AIDS Conference in July. But far more information and action is needed to fill in the blanks about how best to use PrEP in low- and middle-income countries. Two years out, there is an urgent need to step up the pace. (To follow research and rollout visit www.avac.org/prepdata.)

Links to relevant abstracts, publications and other updates from the International AIDS Conference and beyond will be available at www.prepwatch.org.

Recently Released

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for the Prevention of HIV Infection in the United States - 2014: A clinical practice guideline – The US Public Health Service released new clinical guidelines on using daily oral TDF/FTC (also known as Truvada) as PrEP for HIV prevention. www.cdc.gov/hiv/prep

PrEP @ 2 years—and still counting women in... – Slides and audio are available from this recent webinar focused on PrEP rollout for women in the US. www.avac.org/event/prep-still-counting-women

Consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations – Released by the World Health Organization. www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/keypopulations/en/



The world's first and only scientific meeting dedicated exclusively to biomedical HIV prevention research takes place October 27-31 in Cape Town. www.hivr4p.org

About AVAC



AVAC is a non-profit organization that uses education, policy analysis, advocacy and a network of global collaborations to accelerate the ethical development and global delivery of HIV biomedical prevention options as part of a comprehensive response to the pandemic.

To receive regular updates via email sign up at www.avac.org/subscribe.

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