

vax

AN IAVI REPORT
BULLETIN

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JULY 2004
Vol.2 ■ Num.7

SPECIAL ISSUE

XV INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE BANGKOK 2004

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AIDS VACCINE
RESEARCH IN ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC

AIDS VACCINE PROGRAM AT BANGKOK 2004

Time	Name	Format	Venue
DATE: MONDAY, JULY 12			
10h30-12h00	SB106 AIDS Vaccines-Basic: Introduction to AIDS Vaccines	<i>Skills Building Session</i>	EC Room 6
13h00-14h00	State of the global effort to develop an AIDS vaccine	<i>Press Conference</i> <i>International AIDS Vaccine Initiative</i>	TBA - See media center for details
14h00-15h30	CD8+ T cell function and escape	<i>Oral Session</i>	Session Room F
16h00-17h30	HIV Immunology: What's new, what's the challenge	<i>Symposium</i>	Session Room F
14h00-16h30	Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training for international HIV vaccine trials	<i>Skills Building Session</i>	EC Room 1
20h15-22h15	The Day After Efficacy: Planning for Success in Assuring Access to AIDS Vaccines in the Developing World	<i>Satellite Symposium</i> <i>Co-sponsored by US Army MRCM, NIAID, Aventis Pasteur, Gates Foundation, Thai MOPH and IAVI</i>	Session Room F
MONDAY AIDS VACCINE RELATED POSTERS: MoPeA3014; MoPeB3092; MoPeB3118; MoPeE4055; MoPeE4069; MoPeE4208			
DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 13			
10h30-12h00	SB 206 AIDS Vaccines - Intermediate: Adding Vaccines to HIV Prevention Messages	<i>Skills Building Session</i>	EC Room 6
10h30-12h00	Bs06 Are intellectual property rights a barrier to increased access to ARVs? What practical solutions exist to ensure that ARVs reach all who need them whilst ensuring that more investment into new medicines and vaccines urgently happens?	<i>Bridging Session</i>	Session Room A
12h40	TuPpC2043 Risk Factors and incidence of HIV infection among injecting drug users (IDUs) participating in the AIDS VAX B/E HIV Vaccine Efficacy Trial, Bangkok	<i>Poster Presentation</i>	IMPACT Exhibition Center, Hall 3, Track C
14h00-16h00	GV26 Community Participation in Vaccine Research	<i>Global Village Workshop</i>	GV3
14h00-15h30	A07 Superinfection and HIV-1 diversity	<i>Oral Abstract Session</i>	Session Room G
20h15-22h15	Community Participation in HIV Vaccine Trials	<i>Satellite Symposium</i> <i>Co-sponsored by ICASO and the WHO African AIDS Vaccine Programme</i>	Room B
TUESDAY AIDS VACCINE RELATED POSTERS: TuPeA4320; TuPeA4329; TuPeB4487; TuPeC4950; TuPeD5105; TuPeD5131; TuPeD5154; TuPeE5325; TuPeE5380; TuPeE5506; TuPeE5526			
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 14			
11h00	WeOrC1249 The participation of children in HIV preventive vaccine trials in South Africa	<i>Oral Abstract Session</i>	Session Room J
17h00	WeOrE1341 Involving community members in HIV vaccine research programs	<i>Oral Abstract Session</i>	Session Room E
WEDNESDAY AIDS VACCINE RELATED POSTERS: WePeA5615; WePeA5654; WePeA5677; WePeA5680; WePeA5682; WePeB5686; WePeB5687; WePeC5998; WePeE6633			
DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 14			
8h30-10h00	PI04 Expanding options and access for prevention	<i>Plenary Session</i>	Session Room A
10h30-12h00	A12HIV Vaccine Development	<i>Oral Abstract Session</i>	Session Room F
10h30-12h00	LM32 AIDS Vaccines: Global Progress, global challenges	<i>Meet the Leaders Session</i>	Session Room L
12h15-13h45	PpA04 Novel Vaccine Approaches	<i>Poster Presentations</i>	IMPACT Exhibition Center, Hall 3 Track A
Posters on display from 08h00-18h00; Authors present 12h00-14h00	Track A HIV Vaccine Posters	<i>Poster Session</i>	IMPACT Exhibition Center, Hall 3 Track A
Posters on display from 08h00-18h00; Authors present 12h00-14h00	Track C New frontiers in Prevention Posters	<i>Poster Session</i>	IMPACT Exhibition Center, Hall 3 Track C
14h00-15h30	A13 HIV CTL in natural infection versus vaccination	<i>Oral Abstract Session</i>	Session Room F
14h00-15h30	C15 Vaccines: The Elusive Promise?	<i>Oral Abstract Session</i>	Session Room K
16h00	ThOrA269 Use of SHIVs for studies of HIV pathogenesis and vaccines	<i>Oral Abstract</i>	Session Room F
16h00-17h30	Sy27 HIV Vaccine Design and Preclinical Development	<i>Symposium</i>	Session Room H
14h00-17h30	SB 415 HIV Microbicides, Treatment and Vaccines (MTV): "Cross-training" for Advocates	<i>Skills Building Session</i>	EC Room 5
THURSDAY AIDS VACCINE RELATED POSTERS (other): ThPeE3598; ThPeE8198			

Posters are exhibited from 08h00-18h00 every day; authors present from 12h00-14h00. This schedule accurate at press time; venues and speakers may change and late-breaker sessions will be added. Please check your program supplement for final details or visit the AIDS vaccine booth for current information during the conference.

A PUBLICATION OF THE IAVI REPORT

[The Newsletter of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative]

AIDS VACCINE RESEARCH IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Learning from the past, preparing for the future

Every two years, the International AIDS Conference provides an opportunity to assess developments in the global response to HIV and set new goals for the future. From the perspective of AIDS vaccine research, it is particularly fitting that this year's 15th International AIDS Conference is being held in Bangkok. Thailand has been extensively involved in AIDS vaccine research and therefore is an ideal setting for reflecting on regional accomplishments and priorities for AIDS vaccine and prevention research.

Thailand has been closely involved in AIDS vaccine research since the early 1990s, and 2003 brought further major developments. Last year included the announcement of the results from Thailand's first Phase III efficacy trial of an AIDS vaccine candidate called AIDSVAX, which did not show any efficacy in preventing HIV infections. Also in 2003, Thailand launched its second Phase III trial, the "Prime Boost" study that is currently enrolling 16,000 HIV uninfected individuals in Chon Buri and Rayong provinces. This trial will test a vaccine strategy that administers AIDSVAX and another candidate called ALVAC at different times. AIDSVAX and ALVAC have been designed to stimulate different types of immune defenses and it is hoped that they will provide some protection when used in combination, even though AIDSVAX did not protect on its own.

Lessons learned

There are valuable lessons to be learned from both of these Phase III trials. Perhaps the most important lesson is that it is possible to plan and conduct large-scale AIDS vaccine trials in a developing country. The preparations for both trials involved extensive outreach and education at every level of society, starting with strong support from Thailand's leaders. "What really triggered the process was that our political leaders understood the importance of AIDS vaccine trials," says Thai AIDS vaccine researcher Dr. Punnee Pittisuttitham.

Another key lesson is that it is possible to recruit and retain large numbers of intravenous drug users (IDUs) in prevention trials. Stigma, discrimination and persecution from police and medical authorities prevent many IDUs from receiving or seeking HIV education or treatment. Thailand's first Phase III trial enrolled 2500 IDUS, showing that it is possi-

ble to engage drug users as volunteers in long-term, ethical research projects. At the end of the three-year AIDSVAX trial more than 90% of the original 2500 participants remained in the study.

The Thai approach also emphasizes the importance of integrating research efforts into existing public health systems. The Prime Boost research sites are located within established hospitals and health centers. "Our aim is to strengthen the health care systems that directly serve the community," says Prime Boost trial principal investigator Dr. Supachai Rerks Ngarm. These linkages ensure that the research effort provides broad benefits to the wider community and that volunteers who acquire HIV can receive antiretrovirals (ARVs) through Thailand's emerging national treatment program.

Next steps

There is an urgent need to apply these lessons more widely in order to accelerate AIDS vaccine and prevention research throughout the vast, diverse region of Asia and the Pacific, which is home to potentially-explosive epidemics. Throughout the region there are serious epidemics in IDUs and commercial sex workers, but HIV is also spreading among heterosexual couples (including married partners) and men who have sex with men.

As the Thai experience suggests, the most effective way to slow these epidemics is by implementing proven strategies such as condoms and ARVs, while continuing the search for new ones, such as vaccines and microbicides (topical creams or gels that could be used vaginally or rectally to possibly protect against sexual transmission.) In Asia, as in the rest of the world, women are at particular risk of HIV infection and vaccines and microbicides could be powerful tools for women-controlled prevention.

There is promising activity on this front. In 2003, Australia launched its second preventive AIDS vaccine trial. Small "Phase I" safety studies of preventive AIDS vaccines are planned in China and India, where political leaders are providing much-needed support. Related research including microbicide trials and "incidence" studies of rates of new infections are also taking place in India, China and elsewhere.

These are hopeful steps but much more work is needed to build awareness of and

interest in AIDS vaccine research throughout the region and in other parts of the world. The Bangkok 2004 program (see overleaf) provides many opportunities to learn more about progress and challenges in the AIDS vaccine field. Please also visit the AIDS Vaccine Booth 156 to find out more about supporting AIDS vaccine research in your region.

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This issue of VAX was created in collaboration with the Thai Ministry of Public Health. For further information about HIV vaccine research and development in Thailand:

[www.aids thai.org/aidsenglish/
main_hivaids_vaccine.html](http://www.aids thai.org/aidsenglish/main_hivaids_vaccine.html)



International AIDS
Vaccine Initiative

IAVI is a global organization working to speed the development and distribution of preventive AIDS vaccines—the world's best hope for ending the AIDS epidemic. IAVI focuses on four areas: mobilizing support through advocacy and education, accelerating scientific progress, encouraging industrial participation in AIDS vaccine development and assuring global access.

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