

Fact sheet: About IAVI, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

March 2005

IAVI is a global not-for-profit organization working to accelerate the development of a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS. Founded in 1996 and operational in 23 countries, IAVI and its network of partners research and develop vaccine candidates. IAVI also works to assure that a future vaccine will be accessible to all who need it.

IAVI is the world's largest organization focused solely on the development of an AIDS vaccine. IAVI's unique approach is to integrate research and development with public policy and advocacy, working with the public and private sectors in both industrialized and developing countries.

Research and development

IAVI's scientific program researches and develops AIDS vaccine candidates through partnerships with more than 30 private companies and academic and government agencies worldwide. IAVI manages a portfolio of R&D projects, prioritizing vaccine concepts and candidates given the latest science.

To date, IAVI partnerships have developed six vaccine candidates from the concept stage to human clinical trials, and are developing other candidates for trials. IAVI has partnerships in 11 countries to conduct or prepare for trials, and a core laboratory oversees each site's testing procedures so that results on different candidates can be compared.

IAVI is applying the latest insights into HIV toward new concepts for the design of a vaccine. An IAVI consortium is working to design candidates that elicit broadly neutralizing

antibodies, which may be a critical part of an effective vaccine, and is one of the most difficult challenges faced by researchers today.

In financial terms, IAVI operates the second largest AIDS vaccine research and development program. To date, IAVI has invested more than US\$100 million in vaccine R&D.

Partnering with developing countries

IAVI works with scientists in Africa and Asia to study how an AIDS vaccine can be safe and effective in populations where most new HIV infections are occurring, and where different subtypes of the virus are circulating. IAVI is also studying how a vaccine can be designed so that it is inexpensive to manufacture.

In Africa and India, IAVI has helped establish capacity for small-scale vaccine trials by building clinics and laboratories and training staff. IAVI is beginning to prepare for possible large-scale trials in these regions.

IAVI's scientific partners agree that if an effective AIDS vaccine is developed with IAVI support, it will be made affordable for developing countries.

Public policy, advocacy and education

IAVI's global advocacy program promotes awareness among political, financial and scientific leaders about the urgent need for an AIDS vaccine. A new initiative is bringing together high-level leaders from developing countries to advocate for a vaccine.

In partnership with other organizations, IAVI analyzes how public policy could help accelerate

vaccine research and development, as well as speed the approval, manufacture and use of a future vaccine. IAVI's *Policy Brief*, *Policy Working Paper* and *Policy Discussion Paper* series outline policy issues and options.

In areas where vaccine trials are taking place, IAVI works to educate community members about the research process, and Community Advisory Boards provide input into the setup and conduct of IAVI-sponsored research. IAVI also works to assure that trials enroll adequate numbers of men and women, and that barriers to women's involvement are addressed.

The *IAVI Report* and *Vax* newsletters track the latest news in the vaccine field, as does IAVI's website, www.iavi.org, which includes a database of all AIDS vaccine trials and estimates of global expenditures on vaccine R&D. IAVI's *Scientific Blueprint* series provides comprehensive updates on progress and challenges in the vaccine field.

IAVI's donors

IAVI's financial and in-kind supporters include the Bill & Melinda Gates, Rockefeller, Alfred P. Sloan and Starr foundations; the governments of Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States; multilateral organizations such as the World Bank; corporate donors including BD (Becton, Dickinson & Co.), Continental Airlines and DHL; leading AIDS charities such as Crusaid, Deutsche AIDS Stiftung and the Until There's A Cure Foundation; and other private donors such as the Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust B.