

## **IAVI worldwide**

### **Research and Development (R&D)**

IAVI's scientific team, drawn largely from the vaccine industry, researches and develops AIDS vaccine candidates and conducts clinical trials and clinical research through partnerships with more than 40 academic, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and government institutions. The organization directs a portfolio of R&D projects, prioritizing the most promising products and moving them swiftly through the vaccine development pipeline. In the last six years, IAVI and its network of partners have translated innovative technologies into six vaccine candidates that have entered human trials in 11 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

To address key scientific challenges in AIDS vaccine design, IAVI has brought together leading international HIV researchers to form the AIDS Vaccine Consortium, with three research tracks: neutralizing antibodies, live-attenuated vaccines and novel replicating vectors; these tracks aim to address major obstacles in AIDS vaccine development.

For further reading on IAVI's R&D priorities, look at IAVI's AIDS Vaccine Blueprint 2006 (<http://www.iavi.org/blueprint>). This biennial report reviews achievements and challenges facing AIDS vaccine science and policy, and provides a series of recommendations and related goals to move the field closer to developing a vaccine. The Blueprint also includes an assessment of vaccine candidates in the pipeline; a discussion of key scientific obstacles challenging the discovery and development of a vaccine; an analysis of critical financial, policy and developing country capacity building issues that need to be addressed; as well as recommendations to speed up progress on a vaccine.

### **Partnering with developing countries**

IAVI implements a major part of its research, policy and advocacy programmes in developing countries, where 95% of new HIV infections are occurring. In these settings IAVI builds or upgrades clinics and laboratories and works to address such issues as informed consent, gender equity and access to treatment and care. It also supports local partners advocating the development of national AIDS vaccine plans to provide vaccine research and development guidelines.

IAVI's HIV vaccine trials, conducted in collaboration with local scientists, are located primarily in Africa and India, where different subtypes of the virus are circulating. Local partner institutions include the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI), Rwanda's Project San Francisco, the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Zambia Emory HIV Research Project (ZEHRP).

*Links to IAVI offices and partners:*

- India > <http://www.iavi.org.in/>
- Uganda > <http://www.iavi.or.ug/>
- Kenya > <http://www.kaviuon.org/>

'In Africa, we have started to invest in research to find an AIDS vaccine and other new prevention methods, but we need to redouble our efforts. Working with international partners, including Project San Francisco and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), my country recently completed its first AIDS vaccine trial. Although this was an early-stage study, we Rwandans, and especially the national scientists and the ordinary women and men who volunteered for the trial, are proud to be contributing to the search for a solution to the AIDS crisis.'

Madame Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda, *Le Figaro* (Fr), 8

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### **Public policy and advocacy**

IAVI partners with other organizations to analyze how improved public policies could help to accelerate vaccine R&D and ensure rapid global access to a future vaccine. IAVI's policy publications include policy briefs, working papers and discussion papers that document a wide range of topics, including vaccine R&D expenditures and future spending needs, vaccine demand forecasting and health and economic impacts, and incentives to increase industry participation in vaccine discovery. These efforts have been critical in creating favourable conditions for advances in R&D.

Advocacy has focused on shaping vaccine messaging in key forums including the 2006 G8 summit, the UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS and the European Union through the 2007 Bremen Declaration. Our work is supported by national champions for AIDS vaccines such as Rwanda's President Kagame, whose country began its first AIDS vaccine trial last year.

For further reading look at the policy publications:

Estimating the impact of an AIDS vaccine in developing countries: [www.iavi.org/impactbrief2006](http://www.iavi.org/impactbrief2006)

Assessing the demand for an AIDS vaccine: <http://www.iavi.org/viewfile.cfm?fid=10823>

These studies have boosted confidence that a vaccine, even if partially-effective, can still make a significant dent in the epidemic.