

The IAVI mission

Mission

IAVI's mission is to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive AIDS vaccines for use throughout the world.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) was formed in 1996. Its origins were a series of discussions initiated at the Rockefeller Foundation's Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, with leading AIDS researchers, vaccinologists, public health officials and representatives from philanthropic organizations. This group came to the consensus that it was unlikely that a vaccine appropriate for use throughout the world would be developed within an acceptable time frame without a concerted effort involving both the public and private sectors. Participants cited three major challenges: a significant shortfall in investments by both these players, an almost exclusive focus on vaccine products targeting the needs of the developed world and scientific activities that did not respond efficiently enough to match the urgency of the pandemic. Participants recommended the formation of a new global initiative with a single mandate to accelerate the development of preventive AIDS vaccines appropriate for worldwide use. IAVI was born.

'Ten years ago the AIDS vaccine effort was languishing. Today, new players, vigour and commitment have enabled IAVI and the field to effectively overcome huge barriers. We still have a distance to travel, but I am confident that we will get there, if our best scientific minds work together on this enormous problem, and world leaders and their communities back our important efforts.'

Seth Berkley, President and CEO of IAVI, World AIDS Vaccine Day, 18

May 2007.