

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

May 2006

Fact sheet:

About the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)

IAVI is a global not-for-profit, public private partnership working to accelerate the development of a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS. Founded in 1996, IAVI researches and develops vaccine candidates, conducts policy analyses and serves as an advocate for the field. IAVI supports a comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS that balances the expansion and strengthening of existing HIV prevention and treatment programs with targeted investments in new AIDS preventive technologies. It also works to ensure a future vaccine will be accessible throughout the world to all who need it.

As the world's only organization focused solely on the development of an AIDS vaccine, IAVI is committed to promoting AIDS vaccine education worldwide, engaging communities in the trial process and improving medical infrastructure in areas hardest hit by the epidemic. With five offices worldwide (New York, Amsterdam, New Delhi, Nairobi, and Johannesburg), IAVI collaborates with the public and private sectors in both industrialized and developing countries.

Research and Development (R&D)

IAVI's scientific team, drawn largely from the vaccine industry, researches and develops AIDS vaccine candidates and conducts HIV clinical trials and clinical research through partnerships with more than 40 academic, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and government institutions. The organization, using "industrial-like" project management systems, 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. IAVI's Human Core Immunology Laboratory, housed at Imperial College London, links HIV/AIDS vaccine immunology laboratories worldwide and provides comprehensive training and support to field laboratory and clinical staff involved in IAVI-sponsored trials.

To address major obstacles in AIDS vaccine development, IAVI has brought together leading international HIV researchers spanning the US, Japan and Europe to form two scientific consortia. The organization's Neutralizing Antibody Consortium (NAC) is designing immunogens to elicit broadly neutralizing antibodies against HIV, which may be a critical part of an effective vaccine. In the Live Attenuated Consortium (LAC) scientists are studying a novel vaccination strategy against Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV), a virus that causes an AIDS-like disease in some non-human primates. IAVI recently established the AIDS Vaccine Development Laboratory in New York which, in partnership with the State University of New York (SUNY), will examine new HIV candidate platforms, standardize preclinical testing and generate clinical products.

Partnering with Developing Countries

IAVI implements a major part of its research, policy, and advocacy programs in developing countries, home to 95% of people living with HIV/AIDS. Partnering with and convening diverse stakeholders — including researchers, policy makers, and community and women’s health organizations — IAVI conducts educational initiatives, volunteer counseling and testing, consultations, and capacity building to ensure an effective and transparent clinical trial process. 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 for the development of national AIDS vaccine plans to provide vaccine research and development guidelines.

IAVI’s AIDS vaccine trials, conducted in collaboration with local scientists, are located primarily in Africa and India, where most new HIV infections are occurring and where different subtypes of the virus are circulating. Local partner institutions include the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI), Rwanda’s Projet San Francisco, the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and the Zambia Emory HIV Research Project (ZEHRP). In other areas of the world where IAVI is not currently sponsoring AIDS vaccine trials — Brazil and China, for example — the organization works with on-the-ground partners to back national efforts in AIDS vaccine research and mobilization.

Public Policy and Advocacy

In partnership with other organizations IAVI analyzes how improved public policies could help to accelerate vaccine research and development (R&D), and ensure rapid global access to a future vaccine. IAVI’s *Policy Briefs*, *Policy Working Papers* and *Policy Discussion Papers* document a wide range of policy 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.

IAVI’s advocacy program builds on this policy analysis to promote awareness among political, community, financial, and scientific leaders about the urgent need for an AIDS vaccine. In recent years advocacy has focused on the G8 process, the UN General Assembly meetings on AIDS, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and regional and global AIDS conferences. As part of the organization’s advocacy in developing countries, IAVI is supporting the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) trilateral agreement as a vehicle for spurring cooperation in vaccine development among countries with growing biomedical research and manufacturing capabilities.

IAVI’s biannual *Scientific Blueprint* provides comprehensive updates on progress and challenges in the AIDS vaccine field. The bimonthly *IAVI Report* and *VAX* publications, www.iavireport.org, track the latest news in vaccine development and related topics and include a database of all AIDS vaccine trials, as does IAVI’s website: www.iavi.org

IAVI’s Donors

IAVI’s financial and in-kind supporters include the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The New York Community Trust, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Starr Foundation; the Governments of the Basque Country, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States; multilateral organizations such as The World Bank; corporate donors including BD (Becton, Dickinson & Co.), Continental Airlines, DHL and Pfizer; leading AIDS charities such as Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Crusaid, Deutsche AIDS-Stiftung, and Until There’s A Cure Foundation; other private donors such as the Haas Charitable Trusts; and many generous individuals from around the world.