



IAVI in Africa

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, IAVI researches and develops vaccine candidates, conducts policy analyses, and serves as an advocate for the field. IAVI also works to ensure that AIDS vaccines are a global priority and that a future vaccine will be accessible to all who need it.

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In Africa, IAVI is currently sponsoring AIDS vaccine trials in Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia, and is collaborating with local partners to collect epidemiological data and to build capacity for future large-scale trials. Increasing awareness and support for AIDS vaccine research at the national and local levels is a critical component of IAVI's programs throughout the continent. In August 2003, IAVI opened a regional office in Nairobi, Kenya to support activities throughout eastern Africa; in July 2006, IAVI opened a southern Africa office in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Vanessa Vick

IAVI-sponsored Good Clinical Practice workshop in Entebbe, Uganda

AIDS Vaccine Clinical Trials

IAVI is committed to finding an AIDS vaccine appropriate for developing countries, where most new HIV infections are occurring and where different subtypes of the virus are circulating. Since 1998, the organization has been working closely with African scientists to study promising AIDS vaccine candidates and has conducted eight trials in Africa. Currently, trials of two separate AIDS vaccine candidates are taking place at seven trial sites in five countries.

In late 2005 and early 2006, IAVI started a new clinical HIV vaccine trial in Rwanda and Kenya. The vaccine candidate, developed by the Vaccine Research Center (VRC) at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), is designed to prevent HIV infection/AIDS caused by multiple subtypes of HIV. The trial will seek to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of the two-component vaccine. These products are being tested by the following IAVI partners:

- *Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative—Nairobi, Kenya*

- *Projet San Francisco—Kigali, Rwanda*

IAVI is also testing a product known as tgAAC09, designed by Targeted Genetics Corporation and the Columbus Children's Research Institute (CCRI). The study will evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine at three dosage levels and two dosing intervals. This product is being tested by the following IAVI partners:

- *Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI)—Entebbe, Uganda*

- *Perinatal HIV Research Unit—Soweto, South Africa*

- *Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, University of Cape Town—Cape Town, South Africa*

- *University of Limpopo - Medunsa Campus—Pretoria, South Africa*

- *Zambia Emory HIV Research Program—Lusaka, Zambia*

Building Capacity for Large-Scale Trials

Conducting an efficacy trial that enrolls thousands of volunteers and lasts several years is a significant challenge. IAVI is preparing for future trials by building capacity at potential trial sites and working with partners to help identify the optimal design for a large-scale trial in the region. Researchers will obtain critical epidemiological information on prevalence, incidence, and natural history, as well as behavioral data. In addition, IAVI is working with these sites to help strengthen Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) and health care services in anticipation of large-scale trials. Current partners preparing for large-scale trials include:

- *Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI)—Nairobi, Kenya*

- *Centre for Geographic Medicine Research - Coast—Kilifi, Kenya*

- *Medical Research Council—Masaka and Entebbe, Uganda*

- *Projet San Francisco—Kigali, Rwanda*

- *Zambia Emory HIV Research Program—Lusaka, Zambia*

- *Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, University of Cape Town—Cape Town, South Africa*



Nurse Beauty Matsepe oversees simulation of a vaccination using an IAVI-candidate at the Medical University of Southern Africa in Pretoria, South Africa

Below are examples of three of IAVI's capacity building programs:

Kangemi, Kenya: KAVI is currently conducting feasibility studies for future efficacy trials in Kangemi, an informal settlement in Nairobi. The researchers initially enrolled an at-risk cohort of volunteers to review HIV prevalence in this particular community and recently began two additional studies to establish incidence rates and to examine early infections. Currently, KAVI-trained peer leaders are disseminating HIV vaccine and prevention messages throughout Nairobi and are conducting an in-depth mapping exercise to better understand residents' attitudes and knowledge regarding AIDS vaccines. With IAVI support, KAVI also is upgrading a Nairobi City Council health clinic.

Kigali, Rwanda: IAVI has worked closely with Projet San Francisco (PSF) to develop a trial site capable of conducting efficacy trials in Kigali, Rwanda. The PSF site has an established cohort of couples who are currently participating in a study on early HIV infection. In addition, PSF is conducting a Phase I vaccine trial and has collected data to establish laboratory reference ranges in east Africa. PSF is a regional resource for Couples' Voluntary Counseling and Testing (CVCT). The organization has hosted CVCT conferences and assisted in training counselors at other IAVI-affiliated sites.

Laboratory: IAVI is also working to improve laboratory capacity to support AIDS vaccine clinical trials, including financing the construction of state-of-the-art research facilities and training laboratory staff. IAVI has hosted several regional training courses on international clinical standards, including Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP), for African researchers and helped to establish rigorous quality control programs.

Mobilizing Community and Political Support for AIDS Vaccine Research

IAVI is committed to building a favorable research environment in countries where vaccine research is conducted. The organization seeks to strengthen support for HIV vaccine research by increasing awareness and understanding of the HIV vaccine development process among key constituencies. IAVI is also working with policy makers and politicians to ensure high-level support for these initiatives. Below are a few examples of IAVI's efforts in this area:

National AIDS Vaccine Plans: IAVI has been working with local partners to support the development of National AIDS Vaccine Plans that provide clear guidelines for the conduct of AIDS vaccine research and development. Working in collaboration with key stakeholders, IAVI has helped to facilitate the development of national plans in both Kenya and Uganda.

Community Outreach: To ensure civil society organizations have up-to-date information about AIDS vaccine science and the trial process, IAVI has developed extensive community outreach programs throughout east and southern Africa. In Kenya, for example, IAVI has developed a Vaccine Support Network (VSN) of interested NGOs in five priority regions trained in "AIDS Vaccine Literacy." In Uganda, IAVI has partnered with the AIDS Information Center to provide a community resource center with critical materials. In South Africa, IAVI has partnered with various organizations such as the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative and the Perinatal HIV Research Unit to promote vaccine preparedness activities, including information workshops and community outreach events.

Media: In Africa, IAVI has worked to educate journalists on the complexity of AIDS vaccine research and the importance of balanced reporting, conducting training for editors and reporters in five African countries. IAVI also sponsors African media fellowship programs at large international AIDS conferences, including the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada.

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, and 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, Merck & Co. Inc., and Pfizer Inc.; 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.



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