

STI & HIV WORLD CONGRESS AND IAS 2021

14 – 21 JULY 2021

sexual
diversity
and the city

14 – 17 JULY 2021

The 24th STI & HIV World Congress will take place from 14-17 July 2021. Under the theme “Sexual diversity and the city”, this bi-annual meeting is dedicated to STI and aims to address diversity, health and sexuality in the urban context.

WHO AT 24th STI & HIV WORLD CONGRESS

On-demand symposium: New methods to enhance surveillance

Tools to enhance global STI surveillance

Without information, you don't have a problem. Without a problem, you can't advocate for resources. Without resources to tackle the problem, it grows bigger. However, without information, who would know?

There is a vicious cycle of limited STI surveillance and limited funding and responses especially in resource limited settings. Strengthened strategic information for STIs are needed to guide programming and service delivery, to rally political commitment and build strong national investment case. National strategic information systems that incorporate STI case reporting, prevalence assessments, assessment of the aetiologies of sexually transmitted infection syndromes, and monitoring for antimicrobial resistance to gonorrhoea are required. Striking the right balance of STI surveillance activities requires resources, building reporting systems and strengthening capacity at national level to conduct and improve routine surveillance, while simultaneously investing in prevalence surveys and special studies. The session will present current global STI data and discuss challenges in STI surveillance, tools available to support STI surveillance and strategies to strengthening STI surveillance.

SATURDAY, 17 JULY 2021

**WHO satellite session:
WHO Guidelines on the
management of people
with symptoms of STIs**

🕒 13:00-15:00

The provision of effective services for people with symptoms of STIs and their partners is among the top priorities of an STI control programme. People with symptoms of STIs may be aware that they are infected and are more likely to seek care.

Syndromic management is widely utilized to manage people with symptoms of STIs. The syndromic management flowcharts are still the standard of care where laboratory diagnosis is not available or, where available, results take several days.

In 2021, WHO has finalized recommendations on the management of people with symptoms of STIs to update the 2003 recommendations. The session will launch the new WHO guidelines. These guidelines aim to raise the quality of managing people with symptoms of STIs through providing evidence-based recommendations. Etiologic and syndromic approaches are recommended based on settings. Implementation consideration and perspectives from various stakeholders will be discussed.

18 – 21 JULY 2021

The 11th IAS Virtual Conference on HIV Science will take place from 18-21 July 2021, and will present the critical advances in basic, clinical and operational research that moves science into policy and practice. WHO will participate in both virtual conferences leading key sessions, symposia and satellites.

WHO AT 11th IAS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON HIV SCIENCE

FRIDAY 16th JULY –
SATURDAY 17th JULY

**Virology
education**

🕒 14:00-21:30

International Workshop on HIV Pediatrics 2020

The HIV Pediatrics Workshop is the only meeting entirely devoted to gather and share clinical research on the prevention and treatment of HIV infections in infants, children, and adolescents, making it the critical forum for global paediatric researchers. As with previous years, the platform will give the opportunity to share WHO's updates and obtain further insights on current issues that will inform WHO policies moving forward.



SUNDAY, 18 JULY 2021

OPENING SESSION

IAS 2021 Opening session
From pandemic to pandemic
panel discussion

🕒 09:00-10:00



[Online programme](#)



Soumya Swaminathan

How do we apply lessons learnt from HIV on reducing inequalities to the COVID-19 response

Eighteen months into COVID-19, the pandemic continues to cause uncertainty and threatens progress on HIV and other global health areas. COVID-19 has exposed the inadequacy of investments and profound inequities in public health. At the same time, COVID-19 has benefitted from four decades of HIV experience as witnessed by the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines. The pandemic has also opened doors to new possibilities for HIV science and service delivery. In this panel discussion, leading experts will discuss the impact of COVID-19 disruptions on HIV and how the HIV response can seize the momentum generated by COVID-19.

LATE BREAKER EPOSTER B78

Clinical characteristics and prognostic factors in people living with HIV hospitalized with COVID-19: findings from the WHO Global Clinical Platform



S. Bertagnolio,
S.S. Thwin, R. Silva,
N. Ford, R. Baggaley,
M. Vitoria, W. Jassat,
M. Doherty, J. Diaz



[Online programme](#)



SATELLITES/SYMPOSIA

Informed choices for pregnant women!
New approaches and good practices for studying antiretrovirals in pregnancy

🕒 07:30-08:30



[Online programme](#)



IAS satellite with CIPHER, WHO and IMPAACT

This satellite aims to move forward the dialogue on including pregnant women in HIV clinical trials and brings together women living with HIV, academic researchers, clinical experts, regulators, industry, funders, and other key stakeholders involved in studying HIV-related drugs in pregnant women, with the goal of defining how we can achieve a shift in creating timely, high-quality data about new HIV drugs used in pregnancy.

On the path to eliminate cervical cancer:
New WHO recommendations on screening and treatment for women living with HIV

🕒 07:30-08:30



[Online programme](#)



WHO satellite

This satellite will present the new WHO recommendations on screening and treatment to prevent cervical cancer focusing on women living with HIV. It will also include a dialogue between women, advocates, scientists and providers on the implications of these recommendations for increasing access, improving care and saving lives.

COVID-19 Lessons Learned: Transitioning from Fragility to Agility in HIV Responses



11:00-12:30



[Online programme](#)



International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) - 2021 90-90-90 Targets Update

This 90-90-90 Targets Satellite will review the progress made globally and by countries towards achieving the HIV 90-90-90 targets. It is an annual platform to share best practices and benchmark country-led and community-led innovative programmes that are striving to end AIDS by 2030.



Coming into its own: self-testing in the time of COVID-19 and beyond



11:00-12:30



[Online programme](#)



WHO satellite

Following WHO's recommendations on HIV self-testing in 2016 and 2019, it is now widely available and used in country programmes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, HIV, viral hepatitis and STI testing and treatment services have been affected with substantial declines in testing and new treatment initiations. Self-testing has been highlighted as a critical tool to address growing gaps and support service continuity.

Building on HIV self-testing evidence and implementation experiences, WHO is launching the **first ever recommendation and guidance on HCV self-testing** at IAS. This satellite aims to explore the progress and opportunities on self-testing across HIV, HCV and STIs and discusses emerging approaches for COVID-19 testing and their potential role in the response.

What's new in the WHO Consolidated HIV guidelines – prevention, treatment, service delivery & monitoring



16:00-17:30



[Online programme](#)



WHO satellite

WHO introduces the 3rd edition of the WHO consolidated guidelines on HIV, which brings together HIV testing, prevention, treatment, service delivery and monitoring. These guidelines provides updates in several areas: additional options for prevention, infant diagnosis, antiretrovirals for first- and second-line treatment, revised treatment monitoring algorithm, advanced HIV disease, management of important co morbidities and HIV service delivery. The satellite also includes a lively session with panellists to explore key questions and issues currently in HIV.

What will it take to reach the SDGs: WHO updated global health sector strategies – new data and new targets



19:00-20:30



[Online programme](#)



WHO satellite

The World Health Organization is proposing that new 2022-2030 global health sector strategies for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections maintain an individual approach to each disease area while also emphasizing important synergies to be found in combatting the diseases collectively. This session will propose an approach to 2025 health sector targets for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections and explore opportunities for integrating across the programme areas including through primary health care. A wide range of speakers and partners will review progress to date and suggest ways forward.

HIV Self-Testing, What's Next?



19:00-20:30



[Online programme](#)



STAR satellite with Unitaaid and WHO

The Unitaaid-funded HIV Self-Testing Africa (STAR) Initiative and the Atlas Project implemented in West-Africa, have demonstrated a critical role for HIVST in reaching populations poorly served by traditional testing modalities, including men, adolescents and key populations.

This satellite will share how STAR and Atlas have identified new entry points for HIVST to increase access to health care, how HIVST been used to maintain HIV testing services during the COVID-19 pandemic and how digital and mhealth solutions were designed to increase HIVST access, support effective use and facilitate follow-up and linkage to care and prevention services.

What's new in DSD for HIV treatment: From WHO recommendations to reality

🕒 16:00-17:30



Online programme

👤 IAS and WHO satellite

In April 2021, the World Health Organization released new clinical and service delivery recommendations for HIV prevention, treatment and care. The updated recommendations include actions that countries can take to improve the delivery of HIV treatment and care services, including integrated approaches to testing, by providing greater options for differentiated approaches. The aim of this satellite is to inform ministries of health, HIV programme managers, members of civil society and other stakeholders about key changes to the guidelines and share data from early adopters of these policies along with experiences on how to operationalize implementation of the new guidelines. These recommendations include earlier eligibility for differentiated service delivery (DSD) for HIV treatment after six months on antiretroviral therapy (ART); updated recommendations for pregnant and breastfeeding women on ART; frequency and alignment of clinical visits and ART refills, as well as new aspects for integrating HIV treatment with family planning and the management of non-communicable diseases.



MONDAY, 19 JULY 2021

Paving the road for new PrEP products: The promise of differentiated, simplified, and decentralized delivery to maximize the potential of new PrEP products

🕒 08.30-09.30



Online programme

👤 IAS satellite with AVAC, PATH and WHO

The world missed the 2020 UNAIDS target of 3 million people accessing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Despite missing this target, PrEP uptake has increased 113% since 2019, largely due to efforts to differentiate, simplify, and demedicalize PrEP delivery. PrEP delivery has shifted from clinic-only models to mobile, pharmacy, and virtual ones that have led to increased uptake and effective use of PrEP. As new PrEP products come to market, including long-acting injectables, antiretroviral-containing vaginal rings, and the dual prevention pill, the world is poised for continued PrEP scale-up. However, there is a critical need to simplify delivery of these products in order to optimize their availability and acceptability to benefit all populations.

This session will convene implementers, advocates, and researchers to share viewpoints on what can be done to differentiate access points and models to define a pathway for inclusive, client-responsive delivery of these new PrEP tools.

Response to HIV epidemic in the WHO European Region: demystifying the integration of services

🕒 8.30-9.30



Online programme

👤 WHO EURO Satellite

This satellite is organized by the HIV/Hepatitis/STIs unit of the WHO Regional Office for Europe highlights service integration as a part of regional and national efforts towards reaching the 2030 targets and achieving SDG3.3. The event will showcase integrated and people-centred models of HIV services provisions and discuss alignment with WHO recommended approaches along with solutions to address implementation challenges in countries.

7th Workshop on Children and Adolescents HIV-exposed and uninfected

🕒 11:00-12:30



Online programme

👤 Joint workshop with CIPHER, WHO, PHACS, PATA, UNICEF and Massachusetts General Hospital

The 7th Workshop on Children and Adolescents HIV-exposed and Uninfected brings together clinicians, scientists, advocates, implementers and policy experts. It aims to better understand the short- and long-term health and developmental disparities of these 15 million children and adolescents, as well as facilitate collaborations to translate evidence into action.

Men and HIV in sub-Saharan Africa: Men as patients, peers in service delivery and healthcare providers

🕒 17:00-18:00



Online programme

👤 IAS satellite with WHO

In recent years, considerable progress has been made towards reaching the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets in sub-Saharan Africa. Data from the 21 countries in eastern and southern Africa highlights this progress. From 2015 to 2019, women went from 83-71-87 to 91-86-91 while figures for men increased from 74-64-86 to 84-77-90 over the same time period. Trends are similar in West and Central Africa (WCA) with even greater efforts needed to improve men's access to HIV services. In order to reach the men left behind, challenges must be addressed and successful programmes taken to scale. This session focusses on progress and possibilities and discusses men from different perspectives: men as partners, men as patients, men as peers in service delivery, men as providers of health care. It concludes with a path to person-centred care for men in sub-Saharan Africa.



Credit: Pan American Health Organization PAHO

TUESDAY, 20 JULY 2021

PrEP implementation in Latin America - Results of the ImPrEP Project

🕒 08.30-09.30



Online programme

👤 Unitaid satellite with ImPrEP and WHO

Presenters from Brazil, Mexico and Peru will provide an overview of the ImPrEP project and highlight studies results of the oral PrEP demonstration study, surveys, and qualitative studies to assess knowledge, attitudes, practices, and preferences among MSM and transgender populations, physicians and other stakeholders, transmission impact of PrEP uptake among MSM and transgender populations in urban centers and a discreet choice experiment on new PrEP technologies.

Delivering person-centered quality HIV and STI services

🕒 08.30-09.30



Online programme

👤 IAS and ISSDTR satellite with WHO

This session highlights the health needs and realities of different key populations, men who have sex with men and sex workers. It shows ways in which person-centred and quality health services can respond to the specific STI and HIV -related needs, based on client preferences. A report back of the highlights from the STI and HIV World Congress 2021, organised by the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTDTR) will be done.

Meet the COVID-19 Expert: WHO COVID-19 response and other global emergencies

🕒 16:00-17:00



WHO and IAS

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and it has set back the gains in the HIV response potentially by a decade. In this session, you can ask Dr Mike Ryan, the WHO leader for the COVID-19 response about the epidemiology, science, vaccines, country level response, impact on health care workers and expectations as we look forward towards a post-COVID world. How can the global health architecture address the inequities in COVID-19 vaccine coverage? What is the vision for future pandemic preparedness and resilient health systems?

An HIV vaccine: who needs it?

🕒 19:00-20:30



Online programme

👤 IAS and WHO satellite

The HIV epidemic, now in its fourth decade, has affected 75.7 million people, led to 32.7 million deaths, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and costing an estimated US \$41.2 billion. Tremendous progress has been made in developing effective treatments and prevention options but the challenge of developing a safe and effective HIV vaccine persists, raising important questions about where an HIV vaccine should feature in our global efforts to end the epidemic. Co-sponsored by the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise at IAS and UNAIDS, this satellite will start by reaffirming the case for an HIV vaccine against a background of effective but not yet broadly accessible or acceptable prevention. Through a panel discussion and audience participation, we will look to a future in which we have discovered an HIV vaccine – and ask critical questions such as who we should immunize, what would the regimen look like, what would be the costs and the benefits and who should pay for it.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY 2021

PrEP enrolment and continuation works better for adolescents and youth when integrated with the provision of other services: lessons learned and challenges post-COVID-19 from Brazil and South Africa

 08.00-09.00



[Online programme](#)

Unitaid satellite with PrEP1519, Project PrEP and WHO

PrEP is an integral prevention tool to reduce HIV acquisition risk among different populations. Giving the complexities in providing optimal PrEP services for adolescents and youth girls, and adolescent's key population of MSM and transgender populations, this satellite aims to present lessons learned in PrEP programming for adolescents in Brazil and South Africa, and challenges post-COVID-19. The session sponsored by UNITAID will highlight PrEP service aspects on youth friendly environments; multi-disciplinary and innovative PrEP care pathways; barriers to uptake; point of care protocol for STI; knowledge and acceptability of new modalities of PrEP among adolescents such as ED-PrEP and LA-CAB; the role of peer navigators and educators to reach, link and retention of adolescents in HIV prevention services.

Why are so many people still dying from AIDS: turning the tide on advanced HIV

 8:00-9:30



[Online programme](#)

DNDi, WHO & SGUL

In 2019, around 690,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses, mostly in Africa. The most common causes of death are tuberculosis, cryptococcal meningitis and severe bacterial infections. This session will focus on the state of advanced HIV disease in resource limited settings. It will showcase progress and gaps in R&D as well as in implementation of WHO guidance for ending preventable and unacceptably high AIDS-related deaths. The session will end with a high-level panel to brainstorm what's needed to end a four decade-old pandemic.

7th Workshop on Children and Adolescents HIV-exposed and uninfected

 11:00-12:30




[Online programme](#)

Joint workshop with CIPHER, WHO, PHACS, PATA, UNICEF and Massachusetts General Hospital

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Prevention science Symposium - Intravaginal options: Today and in the future

 14:00-15:00



[Online programme](#)

WHO, EMA and other regulatory approvals (where we are) – Meg Doherty

Proof in the pudding: PrEP outcomes in diverse settings - Global adoption of guidelines on and use of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP): current situation and future projections

 **AS On-demand (any time) session**



[Online programme](#)

IAS and WHO Satellite

With the 2020 global target of three million oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) users set during the UN General Assembly in 2016 at an end, we assessed global trends in the adoption of WHO oral PrEP recommendations into national guidelines and numbers of oral PrEP users, and estimated future trajectories of PrEP users.