Fact Sheet

Players in the Microbicides Field

An Annotated Summary

This information was compiled by the Global Campaign for Microbicides to help microbicide advocates develop familiarity with the field. It is by no means a complete listing of all entities involved in microbicide advocacy and research. Omissions have been made for the sake of brevity and carry no implication about the entities omitted. No privately owned companies involved in microbicide research and development are included. For more information, please contact: info@global-campaign.org

ADVOCACY

Please note that only microbicide-focused advocacy groups operating internationally are listed here. Numerous valuable national and regional advocacy coalitions have also emerged and can be located through the Global Campaign's website.

African Microbicides Advocacy Group (AMAG) (http://www.global-campaign.org/amag.htm)

The African Microbicides Advocacy Group (AMAG) is a coalition of advocates committed to increasing the range of and access to HIV-prevention options for African women, including microbicides and other new prevention technologies. AMAG members are individuals and organisations based and/or working in Africa. Its main objectives are to foster the creation and implementation of an African-driven agenda for microbicides and other NPT research, development, advocacy and sustainable access; to strengthen the capacity of national or community groups for advocacy work; and to facilitate information- and experience-sharing amongst advocates across Africa. The AMAG network is comprised of over 550 members—researchers, community advocates, policy-makers and journalists—from 35 countries across and beyond Africa. Through conference events, community trainings, strategy sessions, capacity-building activities with partners and through a closed moderated email discussion forum, AMAG builds partnerships and collaboration among those actively working on microbicides advocacy, research and policy in Africa.

Look here for:

- Information about how to apply to join the AMAG e-mail discussion forum.
- Breaking news on microbicide issues of immediate relevance to AMAG members.
- Reports and updates on current and future AMAG activities, and to connect to the AMAG team

AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention (www.avac.org)

Founded in 1995, AVAC is an international non-profit organization that uses education, policy analysis, advocacy, and community mobilization to accelerate the ethical development and eventual global delivery of AIDS vaccines and other new HIV prevention options as part of a comprehensive response to the pandemic. AVAC is dedicated to translating complex scientific ideas to communities & community needs and perceptions to the scientific community; building coalitions, working groups and convening think tanks; holding agencies accountable for accelerating ethical R&D; and developing and disseminate high quality, user-friendly materials about the field of biomedical HIV prevention research.

Look here for:

Comprehensive coverage of the full range of biomedical HIV-prevention interventions in an easy-to-use format that is searchable by intervention (including www.prepwatch.org and www.aidsvaccineclearinghouse.org) and by topic, like policy, ethics, and community involvement in research.

- Advocates' Network updates
- Weekly NewsDigest
- *PxWire* Quarterly update on biomedical HIV-prevention research;
- HIV Prevention Research: Timeline of expected efficacy trial results Snapshot of efficacy trials for HIV prevention with links to detailed information.
- Ongoing HIV Prevention Research Around the World Interactive map of ongoing HIV-prevention trials with country-specific HIV/AIDS statistics and information on the ongoing trials by country.
- The Microbicide Research and Development Database (MRDD) and Clinical Trials Site Capacity Catalogue: Searchable database of microbicide products in the clinical pipeline, reports, and detailed trial information.
- Funding data for HIV prevention research
- Download Materials station
- Updates on AVAC Programs, including the GPP Initiative, Prevention Research Advocacy Fellowship, Women's HIV Prevention Tracking Project (WHiPT) and the US-based Leadership Core.

*After 12 years of existence, the Alliance for Microbicide Development closed its doors in 2009. Many important resources that the Alliance generated are being integrated into an expanded collaboration with AVAC, including the Weekly NewsDigest, MRDD, and the Clinical Trials Capacity Database.

Global Campaign for Microbicides (www.global-campaign.org)

The Global Campaign for Microbicides is a unifying platform for advocacy to build momentum among policymakers, opinion leaders, and the general public for increased investment in microbicides and other user-controlled HIV and STI prevention options. Through civil society mobilisation, policy analysis, and social science research, the Campaign works to accelerate product development, facilitate widespread access and use, and protect the needs and interests of users, especially women.

In collaboration with over 350 endorsing groups worldwide, the Global Campaign amplifies advocates' voices by providing a growing body of free resources and materials; support through sub-grants; and guidance on effective awareness-raising, media cultivation, and lobbying strategies.

Look here for:

- Comprehensive information (in every-day language and searchable by topic) on HIV-prevention technologies, how they are being developed, and their potential utility to various populations.
- "Download centre" offering fact sheets, standardised presentations (slides and script), 10- and 26-minute films, sample articles adaptable for newsletters and opinion column submissions, organising strategies, advocacy tools for community use, and other materials—most available in multiple languages and free of charge.
- Listings of regional events and trainings.
- Notes on the Global Campaign's ongoing work to engage civil society in addressing such difficult issues as clinical trial ethics, community involvement in scientific agenda-

setting, assuring global access to emerging prevention options, and the intersection of HIV risk and violence against women.

International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (www.rectalmicrobicides.org)

Created in 2005, the International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA) comprises more than 850 advocates, policymakers, and leading scientists from 6 continents working together to advance a robust rectal microbicide research and development agenda, with the goal of creating safe, effective, acceptable, and accessible rectal microbicides for the women and men around the world who engage in anal intercourse.

IRMA unites AIDS advocates, scientists, and policymakers around the globe in efforts to confront the institutional, socio-cultural and political stigma and denial around the public health need for rectal microbicide research and to increase funding and commitment within this field of inquiry. IRMA hosts a moderated listserv and sponsors regular international conference calls featuring expert updates on the status of rectal microbicide research as well as other relevant developments in HIV prevention technology. It also engages in transnational projects such as a lubricant use survey that was designed to gather important data for future research on the safety of over-the-counter sexual lubricants and insights into acceptability issues for future rectal microbicides.

Look here for:

- Slides and minutes from tele-conference presentations, including the latest research and science.
- Information about applying to join IRMA moderated listserv.
- The lubricant use survey.
- Published research and presentations.
- *Rectal Microbicides: Investments and Advocacy*, a groundbreaking report, April 2006
- *Less Silence, More Science: Advocacy to Make Rectal Microbicides a Reality*, February 2008
- *Menos Silencio, Mas Ciencia*, (Spanish version of *Less Silence, More Science),* August 2008
- *From Product to Promise: Advancing Rectal Microbicide Research and Advocacy*, May 2010
- IRMA blog - http://irma-rectalmicrobicides.blogspot.com/

New HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Society (NHVMAS) (www.nhvmas-ng.org/index.php)

NHVMAS, a nonprofit organization, was established in 2003 as a broad movement of vaccine and microbicides advocates to help halt the spread of HIV and AIDS in Nigeria. NHVMAS was formed to ensure the proactive participation of Nigeria and Nigerians in global efforts to develop and make available new safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable HIV prevention technologies and tools. Driven by members, supporters, and partners, the organization recognises that there is an ethical imperative to urgently support new HIV prevention methods to complement other existing prevention strategies.

Look here for:

- Notices of events held in Nigeria and internationally
- Publications, reports, and factsheets
- FAQ on HIV vaccines

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Please note that no privately owned companies involved in microbicide research and development are included here.

Combined Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Microbicides (CHAARM) (www.chaarm.eu)

CHAARM is a collaboration among 31 partners from eight EU countries and from Switzerland, Ukraine, South Africa, and the United States and is co-funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development. The aim of this project is to develop combinations of highly active specifically targeted microbicides for vaginal and rectal application to inhibit HIV transmission at mucosal sites. The consortium is multidisciplinary with scientists engaged in basic discovery, identification of new targets, and development of novel chemistry in order to produce therapeutically viable compounds.

CONRAD (www.conrad.org)

CONRAD (Contraceptive Research and Development), established by the Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia, USA and the USAID, exists to facilitate the rapid development of safe, acceptable, affordable products and methods that provide contraception and/or prevent the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infections. Currently, CONRAD has three candidate microbicides in clinical trials: UC-781 and ACIDFORM in Phase I and Tenofovir gel in Phase 2b.

European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) (www.edctp.org)

The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership was created in 2003 as a European response to the global health crisis caused by the three main poverty-related diseases of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Currently, EDCTP is a partnership between 14 European Union members plus Switzerland and Norway, with 47 sub-Saharan African countries. It aims to link relevant European national research programmes to African counterparts and work closely with like-minded organisations and the private sector for the purpose of accelerating the development of new or improved clinical tools against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Although no microbicide trials have yet been funded by EDCTP, three capacity building grants were signed in 2007 and an integrated project grant to support the conduct of a biomarker study was signed in 2009. Financing for EDCTP is scheduled to come from three sources: the European Commission, European Member States and the private sector.

European Microbicides Project (www.empro.org.uk)

EMPRO is the European Microbicides Project. We are an international research network of 25 partners spread throughout Europe and Africa. Our partners are Universities, research institutes and small companies and the project is coordinated and led by Kings College London, UK. Using a range of novel technologies and approaches, EMPRO is developing a pipeline of candidate microbicides with defined molecular targets that block the entry of HIV at mucosal sites, specifically the vagina. Another smaller EC project called Selection and Development of Microbicides for Mucosal Use to Prevent Sexual HIV Transmission/Acquisition (SHIVA) is focused on the pre-clinical development of a compound currently known as MC 1220.

European Vaccines and Microbicides Enterprise (EUROPRISE)

(http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/poverty-diseases/projects/132_en.htm)

Funded by the European Commission, EUROPRISE is a European collaboration of over 130 institutions in 22 countries to pursue promising candidate microbicides and vaccines. The principal aim of this project is to bring together EU scientists from both fields to embrace a coordinated approach to HIV infection prevention research. EUROPRISE conducts a wide portfolio of

activities encompassing the whole research and development pipeline from early discovery through to clinical trials.

Family Health International (www.fhi.org)

Family Health International (FHI) is a public health and development organization working to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. FHI conducts research and implements programs that advance public health and build local capacity to address development problems in 55 countries. FHI serves as the Coordinating and Operations Centre for the both the HIV Prevention Trials Network and (with the University of Pittsburgh and the Magee Women's Research Institute) the Microbicide Trials Network, and has conducted trials of various candidate microbicides, as well as social science research on potential microbicide use and acceptability.

International Partnership for Microbicides (www. ipmglobal.org)

IPM is a nonprofit product development partnership (PDP) working to prevent HIV transmission by accelerating the development and availability of a safe and effective microbicide for use by women in developing countries. IPM combines private sector technologies and public sector resources to fulfill its mission of developing microbicides for women in urgent need of HIV-prevention options.

Microbicide Development Programme (MDP) (www.mdp.mrc.ac.uk)

The Microbicides Development Programme is a not-for-profit, public-private partnership established in 2000 to develop vaginal microbicides to reduce the risk of HIV infection. The MDP is coordinated by the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) Clinical Trials Unit and Imperial College London in collaboration with institutions in South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, and Zambia. It is funded by the UK Department of International Development with support from the MRC and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). The MDP conducted the Phase III trial of PRO 2000 between 2005 and 2009 and is continuously assessing the suitability of new products to enter safety studies in the UK and Africa.

Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) (www.mtnstopaids.org)

The Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) is an HIV/AIDS clinical trials network established in 2006 by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases with co-funding from the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Mental Health, all components of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Based at Magee-Women's Research Institute and the University of Pittsburgh, the MTN brings together international investigators and community and industry partners who are devoted to preventing or reducing the sexual transmission of HIV through the development and evaluation of products applied topically to mucosal surfaces or administered orally.

Population Council (www.popcouncil.org)

The Population Council conducts biomedical, social science, and public health research on reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, and poverty, gender, and youth. The Population Council has been at the forefront of microbicide development since the late 1980's. The Council's phase III trial of Carraguard showed that the product was safe and acceptable to women, but did not reduce their risk of acquiring HIV. Council staff is continuing basic research on HIV transmission and developing new microbicide gels and rings containing antiretrovirals and broad spectrum antivirals, as well as contraceptive formulations. Staff members also are conducting several experimental studies aimed at improving methodologies for future clinical trials.