



GC News #116: November 10, 2009

GC News is a forum for exchange on new HIV prevention options, especially for women.

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Visit the GC News Archives, at <http://www.global-campaign.org/GCArchives.htm>, for this and previous editions in PDF format.

Global

Start Preparing for Microbicides 2010! (Important Date Change Announced)

The Microbicides 2010 Conference (M2010) is six months away, but it's never too early to start planning! The conference organizers are working tirelessly to get the conference website, <http://microbicides2010.org/>, up and running. GCM will send out a special announcement as soon as we get word that the website is live. **In the meantime, the conference co-chairs have informed us that the deadline for scholarship and abstract submissions will be extended to 4 January.**

As you start your planning, here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- 20 November 2009: Early registration ends (to be confirmed)
- **4 January 2010: Deadline for submission of scholarship applications and abstracts (Newly announced date change)**
- 1 February 2010: Notification of scholarship awards and abstract acceptances
- 15 April 2010: Conference registration and housing deadline

- 22-25 May 2010: M2010 Conference takes place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, US
Also, be sure to continually check the Global Campaign's M2010 webpage, <http://www.global-campaign.org/M2010.htm>, for updates on what the Global Campaign is planning for M2010, how to get involved, and where to find us during the conference!

After 22 years, White House Lifts HIV Travel Ban

While signing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 at the White House on 30 October 2009, President Obama also halted the United States' discriminatory HIV travel ban. Instituted in 1987 when the Reagan administration added HIV to the list of medical conditions of public health significance, the ban prohibited HIV-positive visitors and immigrants from entering the US. Until last Friday, the U.S. remained one of only 7 countries barring entry to people with HIV, despite prolific efforts by HIV and human rights advocates get to get the ban overturned.

This change will be published in the US Federal Register on 2 November 2009 but will take months to go into effect. We are delighted to announce that it will be in effect in early 2010, just in time for the [Microbicides 2010 Conference](#). Removal of this ban is not only essential to holding an effective and inclusive conference, but it is also the first step towards re-establishing the United States as a legitimate leader in the eyes of the world's HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research communities. Upon signing the bill, President Obama [stated](#), "If we want to be the global leader in combating HIV/AIDS, we need to act like it."

Take a look at news coverage of this pivotal event:

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2009/10/30/obama_to_announce_end_to_hiv_t.html?hpid=topnews

<http://www.amfar.org/hill/article.aspx?id=8112>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/10/30/hiv-travel-ban-lifted-by_n_340109.html

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jjO8WkZTKon6BE60rzWchJEr0Fgw>

Salim Abdool Karim Awarded the 2008 TWAS Prize in Medical Sciences

The Global Campaign for Microbicides extends warm congratulations to Dr. Salim (Slim) Abdool Karim, the 2008 recipient of the TWAS Prize in Medical Sciences. Formerly known as the Third World Academy of Sciences, TWAS is an autonomous international organization that promotes scientific excellence for sustainable development in the South. The award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions to knowledge in science, was presented to Dr. Abdool Karim in Durban, South Africa on 20 October 2009 for his "exceptional and distinguished contributions in medicine and public health, specifically for HIV prevention."



Dr. Salim (Slim) Abdool Karim

Dr. Abdool Karim is well-known to the microbicides field as the director of CAPRISA – the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa, and the protocol chair for the HPTN 035 trial. He is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa; Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University; and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

To read more about the award and Dr. Abdool Karim's contributions to the field of HIV prevention research, please visit <http://www.mtnstopshiv.org/node/1424>.

Congratulations, Slim!

Research Update

AIDS Vaccine Generated Substantial Interest Despite Modest Results

Nearly six years after the trial began screening volunteers, the office of U.S. Army Surgeon General announced their Phase 3 HIV Vaccine Study (RV144) results in two phases in October.

The study used a two-part strategy called "Prime Boost". Over 16,000 men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 participated in the study. Over the course of six months, half of the volunteers were given six injections comprised of two AIDS vaccines, ALVAC® HIV vaccine (the prime), and AIDSVAX®B/E vaccine (the boost). Neither of these had been proven to be individually effective. The other half of the study group received placebo. Volunteers were followed for an additional three years after receiving the six injections, receiving HIV tests every six months, as well as counseling on how to prevent becoming infected with HIV. The trial was [designed to detect](#):

- the two-vaccine regimen's ability to prevent HIV infection; and,
- its ability to reduce the amount of HIV in the blood of those who became infected with HIV after enrolling in the RV144 trial.

When the trial results were originally presented on 24 September 2009, the U.S. Army reported the preplanned primary analysis, which showed that this two-vaccine approach reduced the rate of infection by 31.2 percent, a level that met the trial's criteria for statistical significance.

Additional analyses of the trial data were presented on 20 October at the [AIDS Vaccine 2009](#) conference in Paris, and although these analyses showed similar trends, the results of these analyses were not statistically significant. Some have criticized the original announcement for not including all the analyses available, and expressed concern that the positive results may have been due to chance.

The initial results announced on 24 September 2009 were based on an analysis that included everyone who entered the study, except for 7 individuals who became HIV positive between the time they enrolled in the study and the first day of vaccination. "Given that you cannot protect someone from HIV infection who has already been infected, these participants were omitted from the analysis," said Colonel. Michael, director of U.S. Military HIV Research Program. "Our analysis included the most clinically relevant population for this proof-of-concept study", he added. "and we are hopeful that the findings will accelerate research efforts towards a more effective vaccine."

Colonel Jerome Kim, Deputy Director and HIV vaccines product manager for the U.S. Army remarked that, "Experts are interpreting the results and planning additional studies to maximize the knowledge gained from this study. Our first step is to see if we are able to determine how this vaccine protected some volunteers. Observations will inform future vaccine research to build on these results," he concluded.

While this vaccine trial did not provide the public health breakthrough we are all waiting for, the data provide points of information to be examined, pursued and debated. They have the potential to redirect the vaccine field's efforts with regard to the kinds of vaccines and kinds of immune responses may be most important to [pursue](#). The level of international and interagency collaboration and cooperation that

was required to complete this study also signals hope for the process required to successfully pursue creation of a safe and effective preventative AIDS vaccine in the future.

GCM and Partners in Action

First HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellows Selected

GCM and AVAC are pleased to announce the selection of the inaugural round of HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellows!

An amazing 117 applicants from 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America applied to be among the first HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellows. As joint sponsors of the Fellowship Program, GCM and AVAC are delighted to announce the following individuals as having been selected for the 2009-2010 Fellowship program! We also send out sincere thanks to all of the applicants for the time and effort put into the process.

Alliance Nikuze at Institute of Human Virology of the University of Maryland School Of Medicine, Rwanda
Cynthia Mungofa at Zimbabwe Women Against HIV/AIDS, Poverty & Violence, Zimbabwe
Gift Trapence at Centre for the Development of People, Malawi
Jauhara Nanyondo at Makerere University Walter Reed Project, Uganda
Nono Eland at Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa
Patrick Muchai Mwai at Kenya AIDS NGO's Consortium, Kenya
Richard Hasunira at HEPS, Uganda
Victor Lakay at Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa

These individuals were selected by an independent review committee of advocates, activists and other HIV prevention research stakeholders. Additional fellows may be confirmed by the end of 2009.

Each Fellow will receive financial support from either AVAC or GCM for their 12-month project. In the 2009-2010 Fellows cadre, there are 6 AVAC fellows and 2 GCM fellows confirmed, and one more GCM fellow to be confirmed. AVAC and GCM will provide joint technical support and coordination for the entire program. The host organizations, to which the Fellows are closely tied, will provide additional support and structure for their work. Areas of interest include male circumcision for HIV prevention; involvement of gay men and other men who have sex with men in sub-Saharan African HIV prevention research; journalist and media engagement; trial results dissemination; and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

Another round of Fellowships will be awarded in 2010. You can read more about these Fellows, keep track of their progress, and find out about upcoming rounds of Fellowships at: www.global-campaign.org/fellows.htm.



Clockwise from Top Left: Patrick Mwai, Jauhara Nanyondo, Gift Trapence, Alliance Nikuze, Victor Lakay, Nono Eland, Cynthia Mungofa, Richard Hasunira

Nominations to Open for 2010 Omololu Falobi Prevention Research Community Advocacy Award



Omololu Falobi

On 5 October 2006, we lost one of Africa's brightest stars and a passionate advocate for justice, truth and research in new HIV prevention technologies - Omololu Falobi. He was a long-time HIV advocate and journalist. He founded the Journalists Against AIDS in Nigeria (JAAIDS), was an instrumental pioneer member of the Nigerian Treatment Access Movement (TAM), and co-founded the New HIV Vaccine & Microbicide Advocacy Society (NHMAS). He was tragically killed in 2006 in Lagos, Nigeria.

To honour his memory and commitment to the field, The Omololu Falobi Award for Excellence in HIV Prevention Research Community Advocacy was created in 2008, and its first two recipients—Lori Heise and Srikrishnan Aylur Kailasam—were presented with the award at the Microbicides 2008 Conference in New Delhi, India.

Continuing this tradition, we proudly announce the call for nominations of The Omololu Falobi Award for Excellence in HIV Prevention Research Community Advocacy, 2010 to be awarded to a community advocate in recognition of his or her contribution to the HIV prevention research field through community advocacy.

In partnership with the Omololu Falobi Foundation, the award is sponsored collaboratively by the African Microbicides Advocacy Group, the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, the Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), JAAIDS, NHMAS and TAM.

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of stakeholders in the HIV prevention research. The award will be presented at the closing ceremony of the Microbicides 2010 Conference in Pittsburgh, May 2010.

The "Call for Nominations" form and additional information on the selection process will be circulated later this month. For more information on the award, please write to amag_info@yahoo.com.

What is GCM Doing this Month?

Webinar training for North American advocates

Learn to present on microbicides, PrEP and ARV-based prevention like a pro!

GCM is pleased to provide an exciting opportunity for a series of web & teleconference-based trainings on some of today's hottest HIV-prevention research topics. As announced in our last issue of GC News, GCM has just developed a range of new materials on microbicides, PrEP and ARV-based prevention. These are available for FREE on our [Download Centre](#).

Many of you may be familiar with our standard microbicide presentation, which includes a full script that you can adapt to your needs. We have completely updated this presentation, and developed new presentations on PrEP and ARV-based prevention. In November, we started offering hands-on training to help you:



Marc-André LeBlanc,
GCM's Global North
Program Coordinator,
will conduct the webinar
trainings

- Become familiar with the latest information on microbicides, PrEP and ARV-based prevention;
- Feel comfortable presenting on these issues to your communities using new GCM materials, by practicing among friends;
- Answer difficult questions you may encounter;
- Learn about additional sources of information and how you can become involved; and,
- Reconnect with your peers from across the US and Canada who are interested in the same issues.

You MUST pre-register to join these training sessions, which are open to North American advocates only at the moment. If this proves successful, we will offer a similar series of webinars for other regions in the New Year.

For more information on how to register, please contact Marc-André LeBlanc at mleblanc@global-campaign.org. Space is limited!

Youth Conference in Capetown **8-10 November 2009, Capetown, South Africa**

The Global Campaign for Microbicides will be attending the Youth Conference in Cape Town along with over 200 youth participants. The conference theme is "Harnessing young creative minds, talking SRHR, HIV prevention & gender based violence on young girls" and GCM staffer Noma Barnabas will facilitate a session on new HIV prevention technology.