AIDS VACCINE 2010, THE ONLY CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO HIV VACCINE RESEARCH, OPENS IN ATLANTA

Researchers, Funders, Policy Makers and Advocates to Assess Progress and Challenges in the Global Search for an HIV Vaccine

(Atlanta, 28 September 2010) -- Advances in the search for a safe and effective HIV vaccine will be the focus of nearly 1,100 researchers, funders, policy makers and advocates from around the world gathered in Atlanta for today’s opening of AIDS Vaccine 2010. The conference, the world’s only scientific meeting on HIV vaccine research, will run through 1 October and include more than 500 scientific presentations detailing progress and challenges in the field. Key sessions and press conferences from AIDS Vaccine 2010 will be webcast on: http://www.hivvaccineenterprise.org/conference/2010/webcasting.php.

“The search for a safe and effective HIV vaccine has entered a new era, marked by progress including the isolation of several broadly neutralizing antibodies against HIV, discoveries that shine new light on human immune responses to HIV infection and ongoing analysis of the first large-scale human trial to demonstrate that a vaccine can reduce HIV infections,” said Alan Bernstein, O.C., Ph.D, F.R.S.C., executive director of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise.

The Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise (the Enterprise) is an international partnership of leading research, funding and advocacy organizations working collaboratively to speed HIV vaccine research. The Enterprise is the host of the annual AIDS Vaccine conference.

“AIDS Vaccine 2010 takes HIV vaccine research a significant step forward through 500 presentations of the latest research in HIV infection, the interaction of the virus with the immune system, vaccine design and development and clinical research,” said conference chair Eric Hunter, Ph.D. of the Center for AIDS Research at Emory University. “As a global leader in HIV vaccine research, Emory University is pleased to welcome our colleagues from around the world for this important overview of the latest research advances and challenges in the field.”
AIDS Vaccine 2010 follows closely on the publication in *Nature Medicine* of the Scientific Strategic Plan of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, a comprehensive new framework to speed and enhance HIV vaccine research developed with the participation of hundreds of scientists, policy-makers, funders and advocates worldwide. The new strategic plan, which includes recommendations to speed the development, execution and analysis of HIV vaccine trials; better integrate pre-clinical and clinical research; capitalize on scientific advances from other fields; and bring new researchers and new funders to HIV vaccine research, will be the focus of a special session at AIDS Vaccine 2010 on 29 September.

“International collaboration, continued scientific inquiry and a shared scientific strategic plan are critical to advancing HIV vaccine research,” said Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer. “The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of the Enterprise’s conference, and we value our relationship with the Enterprise. We are pleased to help sponsor the AIDS Vaccine conference for its tenth year of promoting the latest research findings, exploring new ideas and helping to educate future leaders in HIV vaccine research. As one of the key supporters of the conference, we are particularly proud that our relationship has supported the participation in this important conference of researchers and students from developing countries.”

“With more than 50,000 people newly infected by HIV each week, an HIV vaccine remains a top global health priority,” said William Makgoba, vice-chancellor of South Africa’s University of KwaZulu-Natal and a member of the Republic of South Africa National Planning Commission. “We are in a rich period of progress in HIV vaccine research, but much work lies ahead. Innovation, collaboration and full global participation in this effort, all values embodied by the AIDS Vaccine conference, will be key to developing the public health tools we need to slow and one day end this epidemic.”

**Conference Program**


For journalists, the conference offers a fully operational media center and daily press briefings presenting research news highlights and overviews by leading HIV vaccine experts. AIDS 2010 press conferences will be held on Tuesday, 28 September at 3:15 p.m.; Wednesday, 29 September at 12:00 p.m.; and Thursday, 30 September at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time in the Magnolia room at the conference venue, the Omni Hotel at CNN Center. Press conferences will be webcast at [http://www.hivvaccineenterprise.org/conference/2010/webcasting.php](http://www.hivvaccineenterprise.org/conference/2010/webcasting.php).
About the Organizers

The Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise is a unique alliance of independent research, funding, advocacy and stakeholder organizations around the world dedicated to accelerating the development of a preventive HIV vaccine. Enterprise stakeholders set shared research agendas, create new structures for information sharing, develop new tools to harmonize global research efforts and bring new organizations, expertise and resources to the challenge of developing a safe and effective HIV vaccine. For more information, please visit www.vaccineenterprise.org.

The Center for AIDS Research at Emory University (CFAR) is one of 20 National Institutes of Health-funded centers across the United States. The CFAR at Emory facilitates clinical, prevention, vaccine, and basic science HIV/AIDS research for more than 120 investigators at Emory and its Atlanta partner institutions. The Emory Vaccine Center (EVC) and Yerkes National Primate Research Center support strong pre-clinical and clinical HIV vaccine research programs. Atlanta’s Emory University, ranked as one of the country's top national universities, encompasses nine undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools with a total enrollment of 12,755 students. Emory’s Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center is an academic health science and service center focused on missions of teaching, research, health care, and public service. Its components are Emory University School of Medicine, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, and the Rollins School of Public Health; Yerkes National Primate Research Center; Emory Winship Cancer Institute; the Emory Vaccine Center, and Emory Healthcare (the largest, most comprehensive health system in Georgia). For more information, please visit http://www.emory.edu and http://vaccines.emory.edu/.

AIDS Vaccine 2010 is sponsored by the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Emory University, the French National Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis (ANRS), Georgia Research Alliance, Geovax Inc., GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), Mabtech, Merck & Co., Inc., Morehouse School of Medicine, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the Office of AIDS Research of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the Public Health Agency of Canada, sanofi pasteur, UNAIDS: The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the U.S. Military HIV Research Program (MHRP), and the Wellcome Trust.

Conference chairs are Eric Hunter, Ph.D., Georgia Research Alliance eminent scholar and co-director, Center for AIDS Research at Emory University; James Curran, M.D., MPH, dean, Rollins School of Public Health and co-director, Center for AIDS Research, Emory University; Carlos del Rio, M.D., Hubert chair, department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health and co-director, Center for AIDS Research, Emory University; Harriet Robinson, Ph.D., senior vice president of research and development, GeoVax, former director, division of Microbiology and Immunology, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University.


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