From Discovery to the Clinic: Adjuvants and HIV Vaccine Development
A new Enterprise-OCTAVE Workshop for Young and Early Career Investigators

29-30 June 2011, New York, NY USA

The Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise and the OCTAVE Project (Online Collaborative Training for AIDS Vaccine Evaluation), are accepting applications for a new workshop focused on adjuvants and their critical role in enhancing vaccine immunogenicity. This two-day workshop, which blends eLearning and face-to-face training, is the fourth in a series of six capacity-building workshops aimed at providing young and early-career investigators (YECIs) with tools to further their careers in HIV vaccine research and development.

The HIV vaccine field has entered a new phase of discovery which includes several adjuvant approaches in preclinical development that are poised to be tested in clinical trials. Selecting and evaluating adjuvants to enhance innate and adaptive immune responses to protein-, DNA- and vector-based HIV-1 vaccine approaches are key challenges that require YECI engagement and input. Through this workshop, participants will:

- Review licensed vaccine adjuvants
- Explore potential mechanisms of action for several licensed adjuvants and those under study, including engagement of innate immune responses (e.g., toll-like receptor agonists)
- Understand pre-clinical and clinical development pathways for vaccine adjuvants, paying particular attention to regulatory and manufacturing considerations

Since 2004, OCTAVE has developed learning opportunities for YECIs that incorporate eLearning and interactive, face-to-face workshops. A customized web-portal will allow YECIs to access up-to-date learning resources in advance of the workshop on 29 – 30 June 2011 in New York, NY USA.

We encourage highly qualified early-career investigators (within 10 years of completing their terminal degree/training program) interested in adjuvants and their role in HIV vaccine development to submit an online application to: http://www.certain.com/system/profile/form/1077529.

To apply, you will need to submit a CV, a statement of interest and a letter of recommendation from an institutional or organizational official, supervisor, or colleague verifying your eligibility and merit to participate in this workshop. The deadline for applications is 27 April 2011. In your statement of interest, please describe your research interests and how this workshop will support your future work in the HIV vaccine field. Notifications on the application status will be sent out by Friday, 13 May 2011.

Up to 20 scholars will be selected. All costs of travel and accommodation will be covered through the workshop.

This workshop is supported by the NIH Office of AIDS Research. The Capacity-Building Series is a program of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, a unique alliance of independent organizations around the world dedicated to accelerating the development of a preventive HIV vaccine.