

The HIV/AIDS *pandemic* continues

The need for a safe and effective AIDS vaccine remains as urgent as ever. Every day 5,750 people are newly infected with HIV, and the daily death toll from AIDS-related causes stands at more than 4,100.



A *comprehensive* response to HIV and AIDS

A comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS requires increasing access to prevention, treatment, care and support while investing in developing new and better weapons against the virus.

This includes increasing access to HIV-prevention methods and antiretroviral therapy as part of a package of sexual and reproductive health services for women and men, particularly for young people; increasing access to and availability of male and female condoms; promoting partner reduction and abstinence, where feasible; increasing access to voluntary HIV counseling and testing with referrals to appropriate treatment, care and support; expanding safe male circumcision services; and preventing mother-to-child transmission.

Developing new prevention tools such as a preventive AIDS vaccine could significantly reduce the spread of HIV and make universal access to prevention, treatment and care affordable and sustainable.

Why a *preventive* AIDS vaccine?

A vaccine is the world's best hope for ending the AIDS pandemic.

Vaccines are one of the great success stories in the history of individual and public health. They have helped rid the planet of the scourge of smallpox, are poised to eliminate polio, and each year prevent millions of deaths, reducing the suffering and costs caused by infectious diseases.

Vaccines are powerful equity tools. Women would be able to obtain and use a vaccine with or without a partner's knowledge.

Any future vaccine will need to be part of a comprehensive prevention strategy, used in conjunction with other prevention and treatment interventions, and must be made available in developing countries—home to more than 95% of all new HIV infections.

What is a *preventive* AIDS vaccine?

A preventive AIDS vaccine would protect people who are not infected with HIV from infection or disease in case of future exposure to the virus.

The vaccine would teach the body to recognize HIV and provoke an immune response against the virus if it enters the body. The information on how to defend against the virus would become part of the immune system's memory, enabling the body to fight back quickly every time it encounters the virus.



An AIDS vaccine is *possible*

AIDS vaccine development is challenging, but possible. The scientific evidence is mounting:

- In a clinical trial in Thailand that ended in 2009, an HIV vaccine candidate provided modest protection against the virus in humans.
- Some people control the virus for many years before developing AIDS. In rare cases, people have been able to resist infection despite repeated exposure to HIV.
- Scientists have discovered in some HIV-infected individuals special antibodies that in lab experiments neutralize a broad range of HIV variants. From these antibodies, researchers are gaining important new clues on how to attack the virus.
- Vaccine studies in animals show that infection can be controlled over time, with viral loads suppressed to virtually undetectable levels.

Sustaining a *long-term* and *global* effort

Developing any vaccine takes a long time. The polio vaccine, for example, took almost 50 years to develop. AIDS vaccine research is a relatively young science. Although HIV was discovered more than 30 years ago, a robust effort to develop a vaccine against the virus started only in the mid-1990s. Over the past few years, important progress has been made. We now know more about HIV than any other virus.

Scientists are working hard to solve the remaining questions, and different vaccine concepts and candidates are being researched across the world.

The effort is more than a scientific pursuit. It requires the active involvement and sustained commitment of diverse stakeholders worldwide: communities, governments, policymakers, civil society, industry and academia, especially in countries where an AIDS vaccine is needed most.



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As of July 2014

IAVI'S MISSION

is to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV vaccines for use throughout the world.



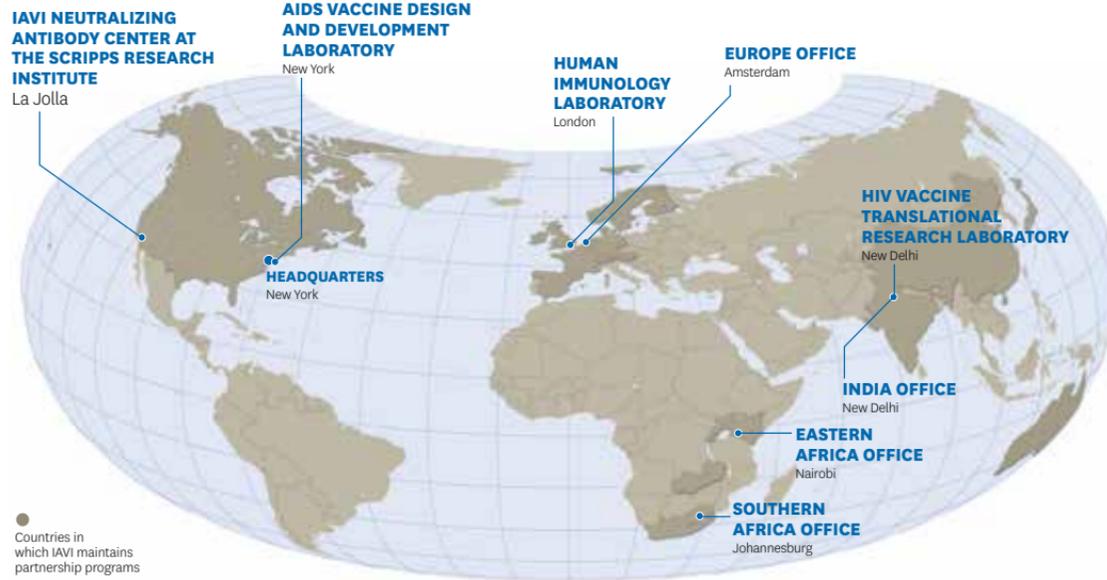
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IAVI's world



Founded in 1996, IAVI works with partners in more than 20 countries to research, design and develop AIDS vaccine candidates. In addition, IAVI conducts policy analyses and serves as an advocate for the AIDS vaccine field.

You can support the development of an AIDS vaccine

Educate

Find out more about AIDS vaccine development. Teach your friends.

Advocate

Spread the message and call on your government to support this effort.

Engage

Connect with IAVI on social media networks.

Volunteer

Find out about options to participate in clinical research in your area.

Donate

Support organizations like IAVI conducting AIDS vaccine research.

What you should know about

AIDS VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

