

# Antibodies for HIV prevention



Translating science  
into global health impact

IAVI and partners are applying their expertise gained from HIV vaccine research to produce what could be a breakthrough in the fight against HIV/AIDS: an injection of broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) to prevent HIV infection.

## We need new options for HIV prevention

Worldwide, 39 million people were living with HIV, and HIV/AIDS killed 630,000 people in 2022. Despite advances in treatment and prevention, notably through the broad availability of antiretroviral drugs, about 1.3 million people contracted HIV in 2022. We need additional tools that can work for people unable to benefit from today's interventions. That's why IAVI is committed to developing vaccines and antibodies as options for HIV prevention.

## HIV prevention isn't reaching the most vulnerable

Although some highly effective HIV prevention tools are available, the epidemic continues. This is partly due to the challenges people face when trying to consistently adhere to effective prevention options. But it's also because certain populations — men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers, and adolescent girls and young women, who account for a large proportion of all new infections — are less likely to access existing treatment and prevention services as a result of stigma and discrimination. We need new ways to stop the spread of HIV, ones that are likely to be embraced by the people most at risk of HIV infection.

## The basics of HIV bnAbs

- bnAbs are broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies. They develop naturally in some people after many years of HIV infection.
- bnAbs have been shown to neutralize a wide range of HIV variants in the lab.
- Antibodies have revolutionized treatment for certain cancers and immune disorders, and are beginning to be applied more broadly to fighting infectious diseases.
- Scientists are making HIV bnAbs in the lab and engineering them to extend how long they last and make them more potent.

## The potential of bnAbs to prevent HIV

- They would block multiple strains of HIV.
- They are likely to be safe and well tolerated.
- They could be given in a simple, discreet injection.
- They could prevent infection for up to four months.

### HIV/AIDS and bnAbs by the numbers

**39 million**

people are living with HIV/AIDS

**200+**

broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies discovered

**1.3 million**

people contracted HIV in 2022

**4 months**

of protection likely with 1 dose of bnAbs

**\$29 billion**

is needed for global HIV/AIDS response by 2025

**2 clinical trials**

of HIV bnAbs sponsored by IAVI are ongoing

## Ensuring bnAbs are globally accessible and affordable

IAVI and partners are working across the continuum of product development to ensure that bnAbs, once shown to be efficacious, will be promptly, globally, and affordably accessible to the people who need them. The partners are accomplishing this by:

- Building user preferences and local community needs into product development plans from the very beginning of the process.
- Working with low-cost manufacturers and supporting innovations in production and delivery.
- Collaborating with regulatory bodies and policy makers across the world to make sure pathways exist for rapid registration, adoption, and distribution of bnAbs.
- Expanding public-private partnerships to develop and commercialize affordable antibodies for global and sustainable access.

## Partnerships drive discovery and development

IAVI scientists have identified more than 80 bnAbs from our HIV epidemiology studies and have developed a powerful set of tools for antibody optimization. Our scientific collaborators, Scripps Research and the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Vaccine Research Center (VRC) and Division of AIDS (DAIDS) at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

(NIAID), are global leaders in antibody discovery and development. IAVI scientists and scientists at University of Oslo and Translational Health Science and Technology institute, with support from the Research Council of Norway's Globvac program, are collaborating to engineer HIV antibodies to extend their duration of effect. Together, and enabled by IAVI's support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), these scientific partners will identify whether Oslo's proprietary mutation will improve the half-life of antibodies further in comparison to currently known technologies.

Wellcome and Merck have supported IAVI authorship of two comprehensive reports to stimulate global calls-to-action to accelerate the development of affordable and accessible antibody products for global health. IAVI and the World Health Organization have published guidelines for eventual regulatory approval of an HIV antibody-based intervention.

These partners have expertise spanning the continuum of product development and access — antibody discovery, clinical trials, manufacturing, regulatory review, policy development, and acceptability for at-risk populations.

IAVI's bnAb pipeline	
Preclinical program	Partners
Next-generation bnAb combinations	USAID, Scripps Research, NIH/NIAID VRC & DAIDS, University of Oslo

## IAVI gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by the following major funders:

Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) | Foundation for the National Institutes of Health | National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research | Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS | The City of New York, Economic Development Corporation | Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (DoD) | GSK | The Hearst Foundations | Keith Haring Foundation | Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA (known as MSD outside the USA and Canada)

And many other generous individuals and partners around the world

As of July 2024