



PRESS RELEASE

17th European AIDS Conference

6–9 November 2019, Basel, Switzerland

Conference Organiser

European AIDS Clinical Society
56, rue des Colonies,
1000 Brussels – Belgium
Tel: + 32 2 316 10 19
info@eacsociety.org
www.eacsociety.org

VAT number: BE 0458-322-624

EACS Conference Co-Chair

Jürgen Rockstroh, EACS President

Local Conference Co-Chair

Manuel Battegay

Conference Secretariat

EACS Conference Secretariat
c/o K.I.T. Group GmbH
Association & Conference Management
Kurfürstendamm 71
10709 Berlin - Germany
T +49-30-24603-0, F +49-30-24603-200
info@eacs-conference2019.com
www.kit-group.org

Bank Information

K.I.T. Group GmbH
Commerzbank
Account Number: 05 140 018 01
Reference: EACS 2019
SWIFT Code: DRESDEFF100
IBAN Code: DE50 1008 0000 0514 0018 01

www.eacs-conference2019.com

Basel, 10 September 2019

The 17th European AIDS Conference will be held in Basel this year and is greatly anticipated among leading HIV experts, scientists and researchers, as well as representatives of the HIV-positive community in Europe, in order to discuss the latest research in all HIV-relevant scientific fields.

Setting the stage to end AIDS

According to UNAIDS, the AIDS epidemic can be ended by 2030 if the 90-90-90 targets are reached by 2020: 90% of people with HIV know their status – 90% of people who know their status are on antiretroviral therapy – 90% of people who are on antiretroviral therapy achieve viral suppression.

This year's conference is setting the stage for what needs to be done to reach these targets by bringing HIV prevention, treatment and care to all who need it. One major concern is the increase in HIV infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. HIV diagnoses in these regions have increased dramatically – by 60% – between 2010 and 2016.* For that reason, 16 conference sessions will be translated into Russian for the first time.

'Despite a fully prepared toolbox of prevention, treatment and care, the challenges of ending the AIDS epidemic are still dramatic when we look at the HIV status in specific regions of Europe and Central Asia,' says Professor Juergen Rockstroh, EACS president and conference co-chair.



Prospects of a cure for HIV and new antiretroviral drugs

Hopes for finding a cure for HIV have risen in light of this year's success with the 'London and Düsseldorf patients' who are in remission from HIV without any antiretroviral medication after having received stem cells donated by so-called elite controllers. The European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) co-organises, with the French National Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS), the CURE symposium at the conference at which the latest scientific developments in creating a vaccine will be presented and discussed.

Another focus at this conference will be the simplification of antiretroviral therapy (ART) using, i.e. once a month injectables, and the discussion of clinical results from new HIV drugs.

Therapy as prevention to reduce HIV infections

Another topic of the AIDS conference concerns the latest results from studies regarding PrEP, short for pre-exposure prophylaxis. Research clearly shows PrEP as being an effective prevention strategy for people who do not have HIV – but who are at high risk – to take antiretroviral medication to reduce their risk of becoming infected with HIV if they are exposed to it. Even though many European countries are moving forward to implement PrEP, there are still countries where no PrEP programme is in place.

Bridging the HIV knowledge gap between the East and West

Most importantly, this year's conference will be used to find ways to enhance the cooperation and exchange of knowledge between HIV research institutions and clinics in Western and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. At the EACS Guidelines sessions and the Standard of Care meetings new initiatives on that matter will be presented and discussed among clinicians, members of the HIV community and other partners such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Addressing inequalities in HIV care

In their opening ceremony keynote speech, this year's conference presidents Anastasia Pharris and Professor Jens Lundgren will address the disparities and challenges within Europe when it comes to reaching the 90-90-90 goals. Adding to this, community representative Dr Alex Schneider will point to the causes of inequalities in HIV care with, for example, 1.4 million people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia but only 36% accessing treatment.*

* UNAIDS 2018

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17th European AIDS Conference

The biannual conference is the largest European HIV/AIDS meeting to date and will bring together a total of approximately 3,000 delegates from across the world, with a clear focus on European clinicians, researchers and HIV care providers interacting and discussing the current challenges of HIV/AIDS.

The conference organisers expect more than 70 journalists. News coverage as well as exchange and dialogue are a vital factor in creating awareness and education. Media registration is free of charge.

For registration details, please visit:
www.eacs-conference2019.com

For further information, please contact:

Huberta Liebrecht
Mobile: +49 (0)172 4424 771
Email: media@eacsociety.org

Sven Huebner
Mobile: +49 (0)151 2002 8247
Email: media@eacsociety.org

liebrecht kommunikation
Carl-von-Ossietzky-Str. 24
14471 Potsdam, Germany
Phone: +49 (0)331 8132 7430

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