



PRESS RELEASE

17th European AIDS Conference

6–9 November 2019, Basel, Switzerland

Basel, 9 October 2019

The European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) is holding the 17th European AIDS Conference in Basel this 6-9 November. The Conference is greatly anticipated among leading HIV experts, scientists and researchers, as well as members of the community of people living with HIV, in order to discuss the latest research in all HIV-related scientific fields.

Reaching the 90-90-90 target equals ending AIDS in 2030

HIV experts will be calling out for stronger political leadership and initiatives when it comes to reaching UNAIDS' 90-90-90 target. One of the major topics to be debated will be the gap in HIV care between Western and Eastern regions in Europe and Central Asia.

“The good news is that the 90-90-90 target is achievable, for all required tools are developed to end the HIV epidemic in 2030. But we need stronger political and collegial leadership – especially in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – for productive public health policies to make HIV treatment accessible to all people who need it.”

Prof. Jens D. Lundgren, CHIP at Department of Infectious Diseases, University of Copenhagen, and keynote speaker at the Conference

Recent data provided by the European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) shows that countries in the Western parts of Europe are closer to the 90-90-90 target: 87% of the people living with HIV know their status, 91% of them are on antiretroviral therapy, and 93% on antiretroviral therapy achieved viral suppression. Whilst the Eastern European region is lagging behind, where 76% of the people diagnosed with HIV, only 46% of them are on antiretroviral therapy, and 78% on antiretroviral therapy achieved viral suppression.¹

Improving the standards of HIV care across Europe

The European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) has played an important role in ensuring the development of clinical standards for HIV care across European countries. The EACS Guidelines cover HIV-related topics such as prevention, diagnosis, antiretroviral treatment, drug-drug interactions, monitoring and

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EACS Conference Co-Chair

Jürgen Rockstroh, EACS President

Local Conference Co-Chair

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¹ <https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/documents/HIV-continuum-of-care-monitoring-dublin-declaration-progress-report-2018.pdf>



treatment of comorbidities, coinfections and opportunistic diseases. These evidence-based recommendations have been proven crucial in implementing and improving standards of HIV care across Europe. The major updates will be presented at the EACS Guidelines session.

EACS has also initiated a project in collaboration with the European Centre of Prevention and Disease Control (ECDC) with the objective to improve the standards of care delivered to people living with HIV across Europe and to establish a mechanism to measure and report performance against these standards at a local, regional and national level. Research data on hepatitis co-infection from a pilot audit conducted in Georgia, Germany, Poland, Romania, and Spain will be presented at the 17th European AIDS Conference.

Further important topics of the Conference are the latest clinical developments in finding a cure for HIV, the simplification of antiretroviral medication, long-term research on medical implications of ageing with HIV, and promising new insights on PrEP, short for pre-exposure prophylaxis, as a successful HIV prevention strategy.

About the Conference

The biennial Conference is the largest European HIV/AIDS meeting to date and it will bring together around 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

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Programme of the press conferences:

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 15:45-16:30, Room Osaka (Level 2) HIV in Europe – reaching the 90-90-90 target and beyond

Press conference chair: Prof. Jürgen Rockstroh, EACS President, University Hospital Bonn, Germany

- **Presentation of the Conference and its objectives**
Prof. Manuel Battegay, local conference co-chair, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland
Prof. Jürgen Rockstroh, EACS President, EACS conference co-chair, University Hospital Bonn, Germany
- **90-90-90 target in Europe**
Dr Anastasia Pharris, European Centre for Prevention and Disease Control (ECDC), Sweden
- **HIV care beyond 2019**
Prof. Jens D. Lundgren, CHIP-Rigshospitalet, Denmark
- **Inequalities in care, the community perspective**
Dr Alex Schneider, Life4me.plus to fight AIDS, Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis, Switzerland

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Thursday, November 7, 2019, 9:30-10:00, Room Darwin (Level 0) New European Treatment Guidelines v10.0

Press conference chair: Prof. Manuel Battegay, EACS Guidelines chair, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland

- **Presentation of the new Treatment Guidelines**
Dr Lene Ryom, CHIP-Rigshospitalet, Denmark
- **Antiretroviral therapy**
Dr José Arribas, Hospital La Paz, Spain
- **Comorbidities**
Prof. Paddy Mallon, University College Dublin, Ireland
- **Coinfections**
Prof. Andri Rauch, University Hospital Bern, Switzerland
- **Opportunistic infections**
Prof. Ole Kirk, CHIP-Rigshospitalet, Denmark
- **Drug-drug interactions**
Prof. Catia Marzolini, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland
- **The community perspective**
Mr Simon Collins, HIV i-Base, United Kingdom



Friday, November 8, 2019, 9.30-10.00 am, Room Darwin (Level 0)

Today's emerging challenges in HIV medicine and standard of care

Press conference chair: Prof. Jürgen Rockstroh, EACS President, University Hospital Bonn, Germany

- **HIV cure**
Dr Annemarie Wensing, University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands, University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa
- **New drugs and ARV toxicities, including weight gain**
Prof. Chloe Orkin, Barts Health NHS Trust, United Kingdom
- **HIV prevention**
Dr Ann Sullivan, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom
- **Ageing with HIV**
Dr Tristan Barber, Royal Free Hospital, United Kingdom
- **Standard of care and co-infections in Europe**
Dr Cristiana Oprea, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Victor Babes Hospital of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Romania
Prof. Aleksandr Panteleev, City TB Hospital, Russian Federation
Dr Anastasia Pharris, European Centre for Prevention and Disease Control (ECDC), Sweden
Dr Elena Vovc, WHO, Denmark

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EACS Press Live: Please note if you are unable to personally attend the press conferences, you can be present through our new service via YouTube.