



PRESS RELEASE

17th European AIDS Conference

6–9 November 2019, Basel, Switzerland

Basel, 30 October 2019

The 17th European AIDS Conference is approaching fast and will be welcoming around 3,000 delegates from across the world to discuss the latest research in all HIV-related scientific fields.

Fastest growing HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Even though HIV-related infections have been reduced by 47% worldwide between the epidemic peak of 1996 and 2017, there is a dramatic increase of HIV infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This region has the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world. The annual number of new HIV infections is 29% higher than in 2010. The vast majority of people acquiring HIV live in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Together, these countries account for 84% of all new infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.¹ That is why one of the main topics of this year's Conference is what is needed to provide prevention, treatment and care to all.

Breaking down HIV stigma and discrimination

During the European AIDS Conference, HIV experts will be calling out for stronger political leadership and initiatives for effective public health policies and to eliminate stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV, which is a major contributing factor for the still increasing HIV incidence in some of the regions of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

On this occasion, the community support group for people living with HIV – Life4me+ – will launch the 'NO HIV STIGMA' campaign with numerous actions including a march on 8 November 2019. More information under: <https://nostigma.ch>

From the 90-90-90 target to zero infections

As a global partnership launched on World AIDS Day 2014, the Fast-Track Cities initiative, involving more than 300 cities and municipalities, is committed to attain the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target in urban environments: 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90% of all HIV-diagnosed people receiving sustained ART will achieve

Conference Organiser

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EACS Conference Co-Chair

Jürgen Rockstroh, EACS President

Local Conference Co-Chair

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Conference Secretariat

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¹ UNAIDS DATA SHEET 2019



viral suppression. Achieving zero stigma is the initiative's fourth, but no less important, target.

The initiative has recently updated its declaration to include the attainment of the 90-90-90 target as the starting point on a trajectory towards getting to zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths. At this year's European AIDS Conference, the Fast-Track Cities symposium will feature presentations and discussions on the pathway from the 90-90-90 target to getting to zero infections. This session will be interpreted into Russian.

Ageing with HIV

As the population of people requiring HIV care is ageing, as a result of effective antiretroviral treatment and while complications caused by HIV are rare, specialists see higher rates of cancers and cardiovascular diseases among older people living with HIV. Medical science does not fully understand the reasons for this yet but suspects a complex interplay of virally-driven inflammations and anti-inflammatory responses. At this year's Conference, one of the goals is to discuss models of care and define what recommendations might be proposed for future guidelines for the management of people living HIV as they grow older.

Further important topics of the Conference are the latest clinical developments in finding a cure for HIV, the simplification of antiretroviral medication, and the presentation of major updates in the EACS Guidelines.

About the Conference

The biennial Conference is the largest European HIV/AIDS meeting to date 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

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

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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

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.

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