



PRESS RELEASE

17th European AIDS Conference

6–9 November 2019, Basel, Switzerland

Basel, 10 September 2019

The 17th European AIDS Conference will be held in Basel and is greatly anticipated among leading HIV experts, scientists and researchers, as well as representatives of the people living with HIV in Europe, in order to discuss the latest research in all HIV-related 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 them. One major concern is the increase of HIV infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. HIV diagnoses in these regions have increased dramatically – by 60% – between 2010 and 2016.¹ For that reason, 16 conference sessions will be simultaneously interpreted into Russian.

“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, at the Conference, with the French National Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS), a cure symposium at which the latest scientific developments in creating a vaccine will be presented and discussed.

Conference Organiser

European AIDS Clinical Society
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1000 Brussels – Belgium
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www.eacsociety.org

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EACS Conference Co-Chair

Jürgen Rockstroh, EACS President

Local Conference Co-Chair

Manuel Battegay

Conference Secretariat

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Account Number: 05 140 018 01
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www.eacs-conference2019.com

¹ UNAIDS 2018 Fact Sheet



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

Therapy as prevention to reduce HIV infections

Another topic of the European AIDS Conference concerns the latest results from studies regarding PrEP, short for pre-exposure prophylaxis. Research clearly shows that PrEP is an effective prevention strategy for people who do not have HIV and who are at high risk. Taking antiretroviral medication reduces 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 there is no PrEP programme in place.

Bridging the HIV knowledge gap between the East and the 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. New initiatives on that matter will be presented at the Standard of Care session and discussed among clinicians, people living with HIV and other partners such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Addressing inequalities in HIV care

In their opening ceremony keynote speeches, speakers Dr Anastasia Pharris and Prof. Jens D. Lundgren will address the disparities and challenges within Europe when it comes to reaching the 90-90-90 goals. Adding to this, the community representative Dr Alex Schneider will point out 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% of them accessing treatment.²

About the Conference

The biennial Conference is the largest European HIV/AIDS meeting to date and 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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² UNAIDS 2018 Fact Sheet

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EACS
European
AIDS
Clinical
Society

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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

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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