

## Overview

Tibotec recognizes the unparalleled global challenge posed by the AIDS epidemic and our responsibility to collaborate in the international response to HIV. The elements of an effective response to this crisis have been identified and include education, prevention, care and research. Tibotec has a number of on-going initiatives that address key elements in the global response to HIV/AIDS in addition to providing access to our antiretroviral medicines.

One such effort, the REACH Initiative, is a request-for-proposal mechanism that supports collaborative projects between organizations in the developed and developing world by providing financial support for HIV/AIDS projects in resource-poor countries located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

The REACH Initiative focuses on research and education projects that optimize HIV/AIDS treatment and care, including:

### Research

- Development of new technologies for resource-limited countries
- Social and epidemiological research
- Optimizing treatment and care in resource-poor countries

### Education

- Physician training, with an emphasis on sustainable learning
- Patient and community education
- Allied healthcare worker training

The REACH program committee is chaired by Dr Joep Lange, Professor of Medicine, Academic Medical Centre of the University of Amsterdam and Dr Michael Saag, Professor of Medicine, University of Alabama Center for AIDS Research, in partnership with Tibotec and external regional advisors.

## REACH Committee Chairs



### Joep Lange, MD, PhD

Dr Joep Lange is Professor of Internal Medicine at the Academic Medical Centre of the University of Amsterdam and Director of the National AIDS Therapy Evaluation Centre (NATEC). He became heavily involved in the clinical care of HIV-infected patients as early as 1982. Dr Lange has been director of NATEC since 1990 and has been responsible for coordinating clinical trials in HIV-infection and secondary complications both nationally and internationally. He is a former president of the International AIDS Society (2002-2004) and in 2001 founded the PharmAccess Foundation, a non-for-profit organization that provides support for organizations providing HIV treatment and care in resource-poor countries.



### Michael Saag, MD

Dr Michael Saag is Professor of Medicine and Director of University of Alabama (UAB) Center for AIDS Research. Dr Saag is Director of the UAB's 1917 AIDS Clinics, which today provides medical and social services to more than 1200 HIV/AIDS patients. He is an active researcher, with a specific interest in infectious diseases toward better understanding how the body responds to HIV infection. Dr Saag is also heavily involved in leading clinical studies aimed at using this knowledge to develop new therapies for treating HIV. In addition to his administrative, clinical and research posts, Dr Saag is a respected lecturer and mentor. He has taught with the Department of Medicine's Division of Infectious Diseases since 1987.

## Regional Advisors

### Nombulelo Magula, BSc, MBChB, FCP(SA), MSc

Department of Medicine  
Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine  
University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

### Milena Stevanovic, MD

Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions, Macedonia

## Tibotec Representatives

### Karen Manson, BVSc, MBA

Vice President, Communications, Tibotec

### Mark Wildgust, BSc (Hons), PhD

Senior Director, Medical Communications, Tibotec Therapeutics



Research and Education in HIV/AIDS  
for Resource-Poor Countries

2007  
REACH  
Initiative  
Grant  
Recipients

# 2007 REACH Initiative Grant Recipients

## Clinical Trial of a New Medical Technique Designed for Large Scale Circumcision of Adults to Reduce the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Partner Organizations:** University of Versailles (France), National Institute for Communicable Diseases (South Africa), Progressus (South Africa)

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Bertran Auvert (France)

**Co-Investigators:** David Lewis, Dirk Taljaard, Mohamed Haffeejee and Muhammad Barmania (South Africa), Kasonde Bowa (Zambia) and Adam Groeneveld (Swaziland)

**Objectives:** A team of engineers, urologists and public health specialists has designed a low-cost, simple, fast and safe method of medical adult circumcision (MAMC) that can be implemented by non-physicians. This clinical trial will test this bloodless method of MAMC in three sub-Saharan countries with the goal of adding this technique to the WHO MAMC manual.

## Impact and Costs of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (TCAM) on Antiretroviral Adherence in South Africa

**Partner Organizations:** Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa) and Center for the Study of Sexual Health and HIV (UK)

**Principal Investigators:** Professor Karl Peltzer (South Africa) and Dr Jane Anderson (UK)

**Objectives:** Improve HIV treatment literacy and help-seeking behavior in KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape. This clinical study will examine patient characteristics and beliefs in TCAM, patterns of use and its impact on adherence and in helping to alleviate side effects of ARVs.

## Severe Adverse Events Occurring in Adult Patients Treated for Tuberculosis in Rwanda

**Partner Organizations:** Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (Rwanda) and Institute for Tropical Medicine Antwerp (Belgium)

**Principal Investigator:** Drs Natalie Lorent and Narcisse Muganga (Rwanda)

**Co-Investigator:** Dr Jan Clerinx (Belgium)

**Objectives:** This cohort study is designed to estimate the incidence, etiology and clinical presentation of adverse events in patients treated for tuberculosis, in relation to their HIV co-infection and HAART. Morbidity and mortality occurring on tuberculosis treatment will be evaluated in relation with HIV, immunodepression and adverse events, with the goal of developing an algorithm for the management of adverse events in patients on tuberculosis treatment.

## Early Mortality among Patients on Combination Antiretroviral Therapy in Ghana

**Partner Organizations:** Family Health International Organization (USA) and Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (Ghana)

**Principal Investigators:** Dr Altaye Kidane, Dr Richard Amenyah and Dr. Philippe Chiliade

**Objectives:** 1) Identify and characterize the causes of early mortality for patients during the first six months of combination ART treatment, 2) examine how use of services and psycho-social variables differ between patients dying within six months compared to those who do not, and 3) explore the demographic, clinical, social, and behavioral predictors of early mortality among treatment naïve patients.

## Portuguese Training Program for Senior Medical Students and Other Healthcare Workers in Mozambique

**Partner Organizations:** The HealtheFoundation, (Netherlands) and Catholic University of Mozambique (Mozambique)

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Fransje W. van der Waals (Netherlands)

**Co-Investigator:** Dr Jeannet Bos (Mozambique)

**Objectives:** Introduce and optimize knowledge about HIV/AIDS treatment and care by translating into Portuguese the HIVeDucation training program, consisting of a combination of computer based e-learning and on-site workshops on HIV/AIDS treatment and care in resource-poor settings. This program is designed for senior medical students and other health care workers.

## The HIV Online Provider Education (HOPE) Program: The Internet as a Tool for Training Physicians and Nurses in Resource-Poor Countries

**Partner Organizations:** Harvard Medical School Division of AIDS and Massachusetts General Hospital (USA) and McCord Hospital (South Africa)

**Principal Investigators:** Drs Rajesh Gandhi (USA) and Henry Sunpath (South Africa)

**Co-Investigator:** Sheila Davis, ANP (USA)

**Objectives:** Create a sustainable web-based training program for healthcare providers treating HIV/AIDS patients in resource-poor countries by using a voice-over-internet (VoIP) conference technology. HOPE will include on-line interactive conference series for doctors and nurses, an interactive Web site providing information on caring for HIV/AIDS patients in resource-poor countries, and a consultative e-mail service with all answers saved in a searchable format on the Web site.

## Directly Administered Antiretroviral Therapy (DAART) for the Management of HIV-Infected Drug Users in a Methadone Program in Estonia

**Partner Organizations:** SUNY Downstate Medical Center (USA), University of Tartu (Estonia)

**Principal Investigators:** Drs Anjali Sharma, Jack DeHovitz, (USA) and Anneili Uusküla (Estonia)

**Objectives:** Determine whether directly administered antiretroviral therapy (DAART) provided on-site at a methadone clinic is: 1) more efficacious than self-administered HAART for achieving HIV treatment outcomes and 2) whether DAART is an adherence-enhancing intervention.

## Improving HIV/AIDS Care by Detecting and Treating Malaria in HIV Co-Infected Individuals in Southern India

**Partner Organizations:** Y.R. Gaitonade Center for AIDS Research and Education (India) and University of California, San Diego (USA)

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Scott Letendre (USA)

**Co-Investigators:** Drs Nagalingeswaran Kumarasamy, Ajay Bharti (India), and Thomas Marcotte (USA)

**Objectives:** Demonstrate the effects of previously undetected malaria co-infection on HIV disease progression and neuropsychological performance in HIV positive individuals in southern India.

## HIV Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (IRIS) in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Partner Organizations:** University of Minnesota (USA) and Infectious Diseases Institute, Makerere University (Uganda)

**Principal Investigator:** Drs Paul R. Bohjanen and Andrew Kambugu (Uganda)

**Co-Investigators:** Drs David Boulware (USA) and David Meya (Uganda)

**Objectives:** 1) Determine the incidence, severity and clinical features of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) after initiation of antiretroviral therapy, 2) effects of IRIS on antiretroviral therapy compliance and associated clinical and virologic response, and 3) identify predictive and diagnostic biomarkers of IRIS to diagnose or predict future IRIS.

## An International Multicentre Prospective Observational Study of the Immunopathogenesis of Immune Restoration Disease in Severely Immunodeficient HIV Patients Commencing Antiretroviral Therapy Partner

**Partner Organizations:** University of Western Australia (Australia), Rush University (USA), Nelson Mandela School of Medicine (South Africa), University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa), and YRG Center for AIDS Research and Education (India)

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Martyn French (Australia)

**Co-Investigators:** Professors Yunus Moosa, Philippa Easterbrook (South Africa), Patricia Price (Australia), Alan Landay (USA) and Dr N Kumarasamy (India)

**Objectives:** To investigate the immunopathogenesis of 'paradoxical' *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and cryptococcal immune restoration disease in people with HIV infection who are commencing antiretroviral therapy in South Africa and India.