

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 ongoing research and education 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 innovative, collaborative projects between organizations in the developed and developing world by providing financial support for HIV/AIDS projects in resource-poor countries.

The REACH Initiative focuses on innovative projects in research and education for resource-poor countries, including:

- Optimization of treatment and care
- Development of new or more cost-effective diagnostic, treatment or prevention technologies
- Integration of bio-medical and social research
- Development of new or improvements in existing approaches to healthcare worker training and education

In 2008, the initiative also specifically encouraged projects that address the needs of women and youth. 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.

REACH Committee Chairs



Joep Lange, MD, PhD

Professor of Internal Medicine at the Academic Medical Centre of the University of Amsterdam

Dr. Lange heads the Center for Poverty-related Communicable Diseases. He became heavily involved in HIV research and clinical care in 1983 and was one of the earliest advocates of increasing access to antiretroviral (ARV) therapy in resource-poor settings. Dr. Lange has been Director of the National AIDS Therapy Evaluation Centre (NATEC) since 1990. He has served as Chief of Clinical Research and Drug Development at the Global Program on AIDS of the World Health Organization (1992-1995) and was the former President of the International AIDS Society (2002-2004). He was the architect and principal investigator of several pivotal trials on ARV therapy and on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in both the developed and developing world. He is Editor-in-Chief of Antiviral Therapy and is author or co-author of over 300 papers in peer-reviewed medical journals and book chapters. In 2001, he founded the PharmAccess Foundation, a non-for-profit organization that supports organizations that provide HIV treatment and care in resource-poor countries, and continues to serve as Chairman.



Michael Saag, MD

Professor of Medicine and Director of University of Alabama (UAB) Center for AIDS Research

Dr. Saag was the Founding Director of 1917 AIDS Clinic, which today provides medical and social services to more than 1,500 HIV/AIDS patients. He is an active researcher, with a specific interest in infectious diseases and 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 and has published extensively on his research on the clinical and basic science of HIV. He has served on several advisory committees, including the Executive Committee of the NIH/NIAID Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group, as Chair of the American Board of Internal Medicine Infectious Diseases Subspecialty Board, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the HIV Medical Association. Dr. Saag has served on the Board of Directors of the International AIDS Society—USA since 1992.

Tibotec Representatives

Karen Manson, BVSc, MBA

Vice President, Public Affairs and Advocacy, Tibotec

Mark Wildgust, BSc (Hons), PhD

Senior Director, Medical Communications, Tibotec Therapeutics

Anchilla Owor, MB Ch.B, MPH

Manager, Medical Scientific Liaison for Africa, Tibotec



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

2008 REACH Initiative Grant Recipients

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Beliefs about Male Circumcision and HIV Prevention at Primary Care Clinics in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Partner Organizations: University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) and New York State Psychiatric Institute, Columbia University (USA)

Participants: Dr. Jennifer Smit, Dr. Arthi Ramkissoon, Zonke Mabude, Dr. Schene Bhayroo, Prof. Helen Rees (South Africa) and Dr. Joanne Mantell, Dr. Elizabeth Kelvin, Dr. Zena Stein (USA)

Objectives: Determine potential barriers to and facilitators of rolling out male circumcision in public sector health services and develop a counseling tool to address these barriers. This study will explore knowledge, attitudes and intentions regarding male circumcision among clinic staff and male and female clients, including the concept of partial efficacy and protection, and proven efficacy and prevention for men only.

Comparison of Treatment Failure Criteria to Determine Optimal Time to Switch to Second Line Antiretroviral Regimen among Treatment- Experienced HIV-infected Ugandan Children

Partner Organizations: Makerere University, Johns Hopkins University Care LTD (Uganda) and Johns Hopkins University (USA)

Participants: Dr. Linda Barlow-Mosha, Dr. Danstan Bagenda, Dr. Philippa Musoke, Dr. Mary Glenn Fowler (Uganda) and Dr. Susan Eshleman (USA)

Objectives: Compare the use of the current WHO criteria (clinical and immunological parameters alone) to the combination of viral load and WHO criteria in defining treatment failure among children. The results of this study will help guide WHO and national ART pediatric guidelines.

Cotrimoxazole (CMX) as Prevention of Malaria in HIV Pregnant Women in Togo

Partner Organizations: Programme National de Lutte contre le Sida du Togo (PNLS) (Togo) and Association AlterSanté (France)

Participants: Prof. Vincent Pitché, Prof. Mireille Prince-David, Dr. Monique Amego Dorkenoo (Togo), Dr. Elise Klement (France), and 20 additional investigators in France and Togo

Objectives: Determine the best preventative medication for malaria among HIV-positive pregnant women by comparing the efficacy of CMX against intermittent treatment of malaria sulfamethoxazole-pyrimethamine. This prospective cohort study aims to better understand malaria impact and prevention.

Development of African HIV Economic and Disease Models

Partner Organizations: University of Cape Town and Aid for AIDS (South Africa) and University of Auckland (New Zealand)

Participants: Prof. Gary Maartens, Dr. Susan Cleary, Dr. Rory Leisegang (South Africa) and Prof. Nick Holford (New Zealand)

Objectives: Develop HIV progression and economic models, before and during antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, populated entirely with data from South African patients. This project will provide a quantitative model to facilitate predictions of costs and outcomes in expanding ARV programs in Africa.

Development of Simple Diagnostic Devices that Will Allow Individuals to Self-Manage Use of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicines (TCAM) and Dietary Supplements by Detecting Induction of CYP3A4 Using a Natural Metabolite

Partner Organizations: University of Western Cape (South Africa) and University of Missouri-Columbia (USA)

Participants: Dr. James Syce (South Africa) and Dr. William R. Folk, Dr. Shubhra Gangopadhyay, Dr. Purnendu Dasgupta, Dr. Peter Tipton (USA)

Objectives: Develop and study a prototype diagnostic test to measure the potential for adverse interactions between allopathic medicines and TCAM. A diagnostic device will allow healthcare workers to evaluate and more safely use TCAM in conjunction with allopathic medicines.

Diagnosis of Tuberculosis in HIV-Infected and HIV-Uninfected Children in Papua New Guinea with a T-cell Based Assay: A Prospective Cohort Study

Partner Organizations: Port Moresby General Hospital (Papua New Guinea), National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and The Centre for International Child Health (Australia)

Participants: Prof. John Vince, Associate Prof. Nakapi Tefarani, Dr. Mobumo Kiromat, Dr. Tarcisius Uluk, Dr. Evelyn Lavu (Papua New Guinea) and Dr. John Kaldor, Associate Prof. Stephen Graham, Dr. Wari Allison, Philip Cunningham, Dr. Handan Wand (Australia)

Objectives: Examine the role of a T-cell based assay for tuberculosis diagnosis in children in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. This prospective cohort study will compare tests in the diagnosis of active TB disease and evaluate the predictive value of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold test assay in children. This study will also focus on capacity building and work to improve the ability of clinicians to diagnose tuberculosis in children, particularly in the context of HIV infection.

Impact of Using Nurses Instead of Clinicians to Care for Stable HIV-Infected Patients

Partner Organizations: Moi University School of Medicine (Kenya) and Indiana University (USA)

Participants: Jane Gitau, Edwin Sang, Jepkorir Kiplagat (Kenya) and Dr. William Tierney, Dr. Martin Were, Dr. Changyu Shen, Dr. James Habyarimana (USA)

Objectives: Evaluate the effect of a new patient care model, Express Care (EC), at two HIV clinics in Western Kenya. This study will determine if the innovative model will cost-effectively increase clinic efficiency and productivity without compromising quality of care or provider and patient satisfaction.

Improving HIV/AIDS Diagnostic Knowledge and Skills among Ugandan Pathologists and Trainees: Use of Case Method Instruction

Partner Organizations: Makerere University (Uganda) and Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (USA)

Participants: Dr. Robert Lukande (Uganda) and Dr. Ann Marie Nelson (USA)

Objectives: Improve the diagnostic knowledge and skills of Ugandan pathologists and trainees in order to increase the use and strengthen the capacity of pathology diagnostics in HIV/AIDS in Uganda. This project will help to build a work force in HIV/AIDS pathology that can direct care and formulate public policy.

Improving the Diagnosis of Tuberculosis (TB) in HIV-Infected Children in Thailand

Partner Organizations: Australia Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) (Thailand) and Columbia University (USA), South East Asia Research Collaboration with Hawaii (SEARCH) and HIV Netherlands

Participants: Dr. Jintanat Ananworanich, Dr. Thanyawee Puthanakit (Thailand) and Dr. Simon Tsiouris, Dr. Scott Hammer, Dr. Hong Van Tieu (USA)

Objectives: Compare the utility of TB diagnostic and screening modalities, including interferon-gamma release assays, tuberculin skin test, and refined symptom-based questionnaire, in diagnosing active and screening latent TB in HIV-infected children. This study will develop a screening algorithm for TB.

mLearning in Peru

Partner Organizations: Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt (IMTA VH) (Peru) and Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) (Belgium)

Participants: Dr. David Iglesias, Dr. Juan Echevarria (Peru), Dr. Carlos Kiyan and Dr. Maria Zolfo (Belgium)

Objectives: Design and evaluate an innovative approach to healthcare worker training, with the utilization of mobile technology as a personal learning environment. This project will use mobile devices to simulate interactive clinical cases for healthcare workers managing HIV/AIDS patients.

VCT-PLUS: Enhancing VCT to Improve Case Finding and Access to Care in Tanzania

Partner Organizations: KIWAKKUKI Women's HIV/AIDS Organization, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (Tanzania) and Duke University (USA)

Participants: Dafrosa K. Itemba (Tanzania) and Dr. Nathan Thielman, Dr. Jan Ostermann, Dr. Elizabeth Reddy (USA)

Objectives: Assess the acceptability, impact, and cost-effectiveness of a patient referral system, VCT-Plus, in the Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania. The study will examine the strategy of patient-initiated HIV case-finding to determine community acceptance and the overall change in the number of identified HIV cases.