

## WORLD AIDS VACCINE DAY 2017

World AIDS Vaccine Day (WAVD) is commemorated every 18<sup>th</sup> May to create awareness, educate and inform the public about the HIV vaccine research and development. It is also an opportune time for us to thank the different groups and communities that have continually supported our efforts to this end.

KAVI-ICR is planning to commemorate this year's WAVD at Paradise Children's Home in Kibera. This home houses 48 orphaned children in addition to providing hot meals to several destitute children in Kibera.

Kibera is one of KAVI-ICR catchment areas and several volunteers for the different clinical trials have been drawn from here since the inception of our clinical research activities.

The day's activities will commence with a clean-up of the home and its environs and a mobilization/awareness walk and soon after the crowd will gather at NYS grounds for the main function and speeches. The day will culminate with the KAVI-ICR management donating a water tank, foodstuffs and clothe items to the children's home.

The event will be graced by the Deputy Assistant County Commissioner; Representatives from organizations working with youth in Kibera, KAVI- ICR management and the general public.

There is tremendous progress and an exciting new HIV vaccine concepts getting ready to be tested. Vaccine development is a long-term process, but we've seen unprecedented advances in recent years. For the first time ever, three different approaches are in, or moving to, efficacy trials simultaneously, two vaccine candidates and one vaccine-related approach.

HIV vaccine R&D is a smart public health investment. Every \$1 invested in HIV vaccine R&D is expected to return anywhere from \$2-\$67 in cost savings, according to the Global Health Technologies Coalition. Plus, many of the platforms and concepts researchers are pursuing for HIV have collateral benefits for prevention research more broadly, as well as for vaccines for other diseases.

Global partnerships are advancing HIV vaccine science, which is increasingly led by scientists and in Africa and India, where the HIV burden is greatest. IAVI's robust clinical partner networks in these regions have helped lead to the discovery of promising antibodies that have the power to block HIV. Fully developing and eventually delivering these antibodies as HIV prevention depends on global partnerships, sustained funding, political will, and continued community support.

Women, men who have sex with men (MSM), youth, and difficult-to-reach populations (such as residents of fishing communities along Lake Victoria) are more susceptible to HIV infection. A vaccine will enable them to take charge of their health and protect themselves, without fear of judgment or stigma – two of the main social barriers inhibiting access to existing HIV prevention tools.

Progress in HIV vaccine research today would not be possible without the commitment of 41K+ clinical research volunteers who have participated in trials thus far – thank you!

### Fast Facts – Vulnerable Populations

#### Women

□ AIDS is the #1 killer of women of reproductive age – driven by the epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa

- In South Africa, almost 1 in 4 women lives with HIV, and new infections among young women (age 15-24) were two-and-a-half times infections in young men in 2015
- Gender inequity limits women's access to education, health care, and their ability to negotiate safe sex, putting them at greater risk of contracting HIV.

#### Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)

- Stigma and criminalization prevent many MSM from accessing prevention, testing, and treatment
- MSM are up to 24 times more likely to have HIV than the general population
- Compared to people solely having heterosexual sex, MSM are twice as likely to contract multiple strains of HIV

#### Youth

- 4.3 million young people under the age of 24 in Sub-Saharan Africa are living with HIV
- Young people (age 15-24) represent 63% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa, and that percentage will steadily rise over the coming decades

#### IAVI – HVAD 2017 Global Social Media Toolkit

- 1.8 million children live with HIV globally, but only 49% are accessing treatment

#### Difficult-To-Reach Populations

- Mobile communities in developing countries often lack basic health care and are at high risk of HIV infection
- In Uganda, HIV prevalence among people living on the shores and islands of Lake Victoria can be more than 4 times higher than in the general population
- A study found 1 in 3 women in Ugandan fishing communities is HIV-positive