



AIDS 2020 SPC vision

Connecting the global response across communities and disciplines

AIDS 2020 offers a critical opportunity to highlight achievements across multiple areas of research, as well as link investigators from these disciplines who are working towards ending the AIDS epidemic around the world. For the first time, the conference will include an additional sixth track on political research, law, policy and human rights in recognition of the importance of these fields to addressing structural barriers to rights-based HIV prevention, testing, care and treatment.

There are multiple ongoing and emerging threats to epidemic control, including stigma, discrimination, the opioid epidemic, criminalization of key populations and indifference. These have led to growing social injustice and exclusion, widening the gap between those with and without access to health services for people living with HIV. By providing the platform at the conference and working together, we can more effectively communicate our messages and effect change than if we remain in our siloes.

Optimizing the use of data and prevention and treatment tools to benefit people vulnerable to, and living with, HIV

The conference will highlight how surveillance and cohort data and data modelling will expand our knowledge of the trajectory of the epidemic to guide effective practice and policies. These data must be translated for different audiences to have the broadest impact.

While we have effective tools to prevent and manage HIV, we continue to struggle with how to optimally deliver them. The conference will highlight innovative approaches that utilize novel interventions, as well as generic medicines and biologics, and community-led programmes that are critical to ensuring that key and other vulnerable populations are engaged and reached.

Tuberculosis remains the leading cause of mortality among people living with HIV. Yet we struggle with how to effectively expand tuberculosis preventive therapy and promptly diagnose HIV in those with tuberculosis so that antiretroviral therapy can be initiated. The conference will showcase that we have effective prevention, treatment and cure strategies for chronic infections like hepatitis and human papillomavirus, although access to these interventions and their cancer-preventing benefits are unequal.

Pushing the limits of scientific discovery and understanding

While we implement the technologies we already have, we will persistently and tirelessly pursue the promise of a vaccine and a cure. During the conference we need to show how medical technologies and social and digital media are making it possible to simplify prevention and treatment in ways we had not previously imagined. We need to make all efforts to implement and roll out these technologies while utilizing social and behavioural science to study their impact.

As HIV increasingly becomes a chronic disease around the world, we must look beyond short-term survival and have a vision for long-term management that integrates care as people age. This means that understanding how HIV intersects with non-communicable disease and mental health across the lifespan is a top priority.