

Daily Roundup – Friday, August 8, 2008

The following are highlights from the last day of the conference.

Bruno Spire, Ph.D.
Social Researcher, University of Marseilles/AIDES

“I would like to propose an effective combination therapy to fight against stigma. The proposed regimen must include the following. First, fighting for better acceptance of people living with HIV. Second, improving relevant laws and policies. Third, involving prevention users working with people rather than for people.”

Edwin Cameron
Justice, South African Supreme Court of Appeal

“Criminal laws and criminal prosecutions are a shoddy and misguided substitute for measures that really protect those at risk of contracting HIV. You’ve just had a presentation from Bruno in which he sets out what we really can do. These laws are a side show. We know what we need in this epidemic, and this conference has taken our knowledge further. After more than a quarter century we know that we need effective prevention, protection against discrimination, reduced stigma, strong leadership, greater access to testing and most importantly treatment, treatment for those who today -- this morning -- are unnecessarily dying of AIDS. AIDS is now a medically manageable condition, it is a virus not a crime, and we must reject interventions that suggest it is a crime.”

Zonibel Woods
Program Manager, The Ford Foundation

“Countless studies make one thing very clear. It is undeniable that gender inequality fuels the spread of HIV. Let me tell you how. When a woman is not free to ask her partner to use a condom she is more vulnerable to HIV. When a girl must look to sex to pay for school or food she is more vulnerable to HIV. When a woman does not have the right to own property or inherit it she is more vulnerable to HIV. The lesson could not be more urgent; when the world denies women their most basic human rights the world is more vulnerable to HIV.”

Pedro Cahn, M.D.
President, International AIDS Society
Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases, Buenos Aires University
Medical School
Director, Fundación Huésped

“This conference will be recognized as the one – in the words of Mike Cohen -- in which prevention and treatment got married. We look forward to the offspring,

which needs to be the closing of the gap between where we are today and what we need to achieve. I hope that this conference will also be reminded as the one in which the false contradiction between AIDS Funding and Public Health strengthening has been solved. I hope that this conference will also be reminded as the one in which the false contradiction between AIDS Funding and Public Health strengthening has been solved. We need more funds for AIDS; we need more integration with sexual and reproductive health.”

Julio Montaner, M.D.
Clinical Director, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
Professor of Medicine, University of British Columbia

“The key word emerging from this conference is combination. Combination prevention strategies tailored to decrease HIV transmission. Combination antiretroviral therapy to dramatically reduce morbidity and mortality among those infected. Combination antiretroviral therapy to reduce community viral load as an aid to HIV prevention. Combination strategies to enhance HIV testing. Combination strategies to reduce poverty, and discrimination.”

Luis Soto-Ramirez
Head of the Molecular Virology Unit, Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán
Co-Chair, AIDS 2008

“In the past few days we have learned many, many things. The fact that last year more than 2 million people were newly infected with HIV, an infection that is entirely preventable is simply unacceptable. Despite the progress we have made we are not on course to meet universal access targets. Our failure to meet those commitments will have an impact on millions of lives. It is time to bring drugs to everyone in need. It is time for universal access now.”

Michel Kazatchkine, M.D.
Executive Director
Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis

We will leave Mexico with a strong consensus, united in our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals as our roadmap for another seven years. I believe that Mexico marks the points when the tiresome and damaging debate between disease programs and broader health systems strengthening is finally over. Let us continue to show that, far from being ‘the problem’ in global health, AIDS will always be a part of the solution.

Carlos García de León
AVE de México

“While this inequity exists, we should be working restlessly to ensure that everyone particularly and at risk populations have full enjoyment of their human rights. Including access to prevention, sexual education always based on evidence, care, treatment and respect. That’s why community organizations and activists are here. That’s our global challenge. And that’s our commitment.”

Brigitte Schmied, M.D.
President, Austrian AIDS Society
AIDS 2010 Co-Chair

“It is no coincidence that Vienna was selected to host AIDS 2010. Vienna has through history been seen as a crossroads between Western and Eastern Europe. And it will continue to serve in that roll as host of the conference. The conference will specifically look at the challenges facing the emerging epidemics in Eastern Europe in the context of hardest hit regions in the world and at the overall global response.”