

**Nancy PADIAN, PhD, MPH, Executive Director of the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Women's Global Health Imperative**

***"Synthesizing our options: biomedical prevention technologies in the context of behavioural interventions"***

Dr. Nancy Padian is Director of International Programs at the UCSF AIDS Research Institute, co-director of the UCSF Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy, and a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. Dr. Padian, an internationally recognized expert in heterosexual transmission of HIV, has spent the last 17 years developing and directing a range of domestic and international research and intervention projects on sexually transmitted infections, HIV and contraception in high-risk populations.

In 1994, she co-founded the UZ-UCSF Collaborative Research Programme in Women's Health in Zimbabwe. Her current research focuses largely on developing and evaluating the efficacy of female-controlled physical and barrier contraceptive methods that might decrease susceptibility to HIV and other STIs and alternative strategies for fostering young women's economic independence, thus reducing their susceptibility to HIV, STIs, and unwanted pregnancies.

Dr. Padian has projects in North Carolina and Zimbabwe evaluating the acceptability and effectiveness of existing over-the-counter barrier methods. In Zimbabwe, she recently completed a study on the risks associated with use of intravaginal preparations and will also test new microbicides as part of the HIVNET international prevention network.