



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, 20 July 2015

### STUDY RESULTS HELP GUIDE REAL-WORLD PREP IMPLEMENTATION

*Research Examines PrEP Use in Non-Clinical Settings among Diverse Populations Worldwide*

**Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (20 July 2015)** – The first results from four studies examining real-world uptake, adherence and other factors related to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV infection provided key insights that will help shape PrEP implementation planning. The studies were conducted in a range of non-clinical settings among multiple global populations at high risk for HIV, including men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) in the United States and Brazil, and young heterosexual adults in Botswana – and were highlighted today in an official press briefing at the 8<sup>th</sup> IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2015) in Vancouver.

“The science on PrEP is overwhelming and its conclusions are clear: PrEP works when taken,” said **Chris Beyrer**, IAS 2015 International Chair and International AIDS Society President. “Access to PrEP is now a public health and human rights imperative. The studies presented here provide the most detailed data to date on PrEP implementation successes and challenges, underscoring that the intervention is feasible and effective in the real world. We hope these studies launch the beginning of a new PrEP era.”

Research featured in the briefing includes:

**First data from the U.S. PrEP Demonstration Project show high PrEP adherence in real world settings:** While multiple studies have demonstrated the safety and efficacy of PrEP in clinical settings, little has been known about adherence, sexual behaviour and HIV or STI incidence among those who take PrEP outside of clinical studies. The Demo Project assessed PrEP delivery and use by MSM and TGW in municipal STD and community-health clinics in Miami, San Francisco and Washington, DC. **Albert Liu** of the San Francisco Department of Health reported that the study found high PrEP adherence, with 65% of participants whose drug levels were tested showing levels consistent with  $\geq 4$  doses per week at all visits. Low HIV incidence was also observed among this cohort at high ongoing risk for HIV. At the same time, the study showed that STIs were common among the participants, though STIs did not increase over the course of the study, highlighting the importance of STI screening and treatment among people using PrEP. *[Summary based on submitted abstract; updated data may be presented on site.]*

*Abstract: Adherence, sexual behavior and HIV/STI incidence among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) in the US PrEP demonstration (Demo) project*  
*Session: PrEP: Demonstration for Implementation (Ballroom B; Tuesday 21 July, 11:00 – 12:30)*

**First middle-income country demonstration project reports high uptake of PrEP:** To date, little has been known about either the feasibility or acceptability of PrEP in low- and middle-income countries. PrEP Brasil is the first PrEP demonstration project for MSM and TGW in a middle-income country. The project assessed the feasibility of implementing PrEP provided at

no cost to high-risk MSM and TGW within that nation's public health system. Study results presented by **Beatriz Grinsztejn** of Instituto Pesq Clinica Evandro Chagas (IPEC) show high PrEP uptake (51.25%) within the project, with higher uptake among those at increased risk and with an existing awareness of PrEP, demonstrating that PrEP is most likely to be used by those most in need. *[Summary based on submitted abstract; updated data may be presented on site.]*

*Abstract: Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake and associated factors among MSM and TGW in the PrEP Brasil demonstration project*

*Session: PrEP: Demonstration for Implementation (Ballroom B; Tuesday 21 July, 11:00 – 12:30)*

**Botswana TDF2 Open-Label Extension reports strong adherence, high drug levels and no HIV infections:** Data from this 12-month open-label extension of the TDF2 study of PrEP among young heterosexual adults in Botswana were reported by **Faith Henderson** of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The original TDF2 study completed follow-up in 2011, demonstrating 62% overall protective efficacy.

Researchers from the study's open-label extension described high self-reported three-day medication adherence (for the prior three days, 87.8% reported taking TDF/FTC daily, while 5.5% reported taking it 1-2 times and 6.7% reported taking none) and no HIV infections among 229 participants receiving PrEP. In a cohort of 30 participants randomly selected for dried blood spot testing, a high percentage had detectable PrEP drug levels (at months 1, 3, 6, 9 and 12, the proportions with detectable mean tenofovir levels were 93%, 93%, 100%, 93% and 90%, respectively). Authors concluded that the findings lend support to efforts to expand PrEP availability in the context of generalized epidemics in resource-limited settings. *[Summary based on submitted abstract; updated data may be presented on site.]*

*Abstract: Characteristics and oral PrEP adherence in the TDF2 open-label extension in Botswana*

*Session: PrEP: Demonstration for Implementation (Ballroom B; Tuesday 21 July, 11:00 – 12:30)*

**Strong start on PrEP for a diverse population of young MSM in U.S., but more adherence support may be needed:** This open-label study examined PrEP uptake and adherence, as well as sexual risk behaviour, among a diverse (54.5% Black, 26.5% Latino) group of young men who have sex with men (YMSM) in 12 U.S. cities. YMSM, particularly racial/ethnic minority YMSM, are at heightened risk for HIV in the U.S. Among the key study findings reported by **Sybil Hosek** of Stroger Hospital, Cook County (Illinois): initial PrEP uptake in the cohort was high, with the majority of participants (56%) achieving protective drug levels in their first monthly study visit (week 4). As visits decreased in frequency (occurring monthly through week 12, then quarterly through week 48), so did adherence, with 34% of participants showing blood levels consistent with  $\geq 4$  PrEP pills per week by week 48. Condomless sex was reported by >80% of participants throughout the study, but condomless anal sex with last partner was also associated with higher PrEP drug levels, indicating that those at highest risk for HIV were also adhering to PrEP. The study concluded that providing access to PrEP in youth-friendly settings with tailored adherence support and augmented visit schedules may help to maximize the impact of this prevention approach among this heavily affected population. *[Summary based on submitted abstract; updated data may be presented on site.]*

*Abstract: An HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) demonstration project and safety study for young men who have sex with men in the United States (ATN 110)*

*Session: PrEP: Demonstration for Implementation (Ballroom B; Tuesday 21 July, 11:00 – 12:30)*

**Special PrEP-themed issue of *JIAS*:** Also at today's press conference, **Carlos F. Cáceres** of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia presented a special issue of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS)* entitled, "PrEP Implementation Science: State-of-the-Art and Research Agenda." The PrEP-themed issue includes new data and expert commentary by leading researchers that address different approaches to PrEP access and use, the potential impact of PrEP in specific regions and countries and among different populations at risk for HIV, as well as the political, economic and social issues raised by PrEP.

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#### About IAS

Founded in 1988, the International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's largest association of HIV professionals, with members from more than 180 countries. IAS members work on all fronts of the global response to AIDS and include researchers, clinicians, policy and programme planners, and public health and community practitioners.

#### About IAS 2015

The 8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (19-22 July, Vancouver) is the leading scientific meeting on HIV. IAS 2015 brings together a broad cross section of more than 6,000 HIV professionals from around the world, with a focus on moving science into practice.

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- Like IAS 2015 on [Facebook](#) – and stay in touch with the latest conference updates and developments.
- Check us out on Instagram to see photos as they are happening! <https://instagram.com/iasociety/>
- Tell us why you're following IAS 2015 and what matters most to you. Join the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention group on LinkedIn. You are welcome to start new discussions and add your comments to existing threads.

**Contacts:** Kyle Murphy, +1 778 389 1695  
[kmurphy@corkeryunlimited.com](mailto:kmurphy@corkeryunlimited.com)

Rob Caruano, +1 778 386 3485  
[rcaruano@corkeryunlimited.com](mailto:rcaruano@corkeryunlimited.com)

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