

Status Report: An update on last year's recommendations



The AIDS vaccine field needs more predictive measurements to guide development of substantially improved next-generation candidates.

The game changed with the RV144 result—and the search is now on for answers about what that result means, how to improve on it and what wholly novel approaches should be explored. See Chapters One and Three for discussion of these issues.



Biomedical prevention researchers and sponsors, along with WHO and UNAIDS, must plan for the steps that would be needed if PrEP or any other emerging strategy shows benefit.

Expanded discussions facilitated by Georgetown University, Imperial College, WHO, UNAIDS and AVAC, all with financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, have started to map out what next steps for the PrEP agenda might be. See Chapter Four for more.



The Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise needs to demonstrate its value through timely publication of an updated Scientific Strategic Plan by early 2010.

At press time, the Scientific Strategic Plan was scheduled for publication in September 2010. See page 18 for more analysis of the Enterprise.



The HIV Vaccine Trials Network needs to develop a suite of easy-to-understand materials regarding HVTN 505.

While HVTN 505 has fact sheets and a range of promotional materials, it still lacks the additional materials AVAC called for last year to provide “depth and detail” on the study for advocates and potential participants. This complex trial is facing recruitment challenges, and it is possible that confusion over its purpose could be contributing. With proposals for more complex trial designs in the works (see Chapters One and Four), it is critical to support and learn from the HVTN 505 community engagement process.



Stakeholders exploring PrEP and treatment as prevention need to add specificity around financial, health care infrastructure and human rights implications.

“Test and treat” and other approaches to treatment as prevention seized global attention this year with a range of publications, mathematical models and intriguing findings. Unfortunately, this vigorous engagement is coming at the same time as a looming crisis in meeting the needs of people already on or waiting for ARV treatment.



Prevention research stakeholders need to embrace an agenda focused on HIV testing and counseling as the cornerstone for implementing male circumcision and any new ARV-based prevention strategy.

Prevention programming is getting more attention, but there still isn't a broad-based, developing country-focused advocacy agenda aimed at delivering improved, comprehensive prevention including expanded testing services.



Governments around the world need to respond to the HIV prevention needs and priorities of gay men and other men who have sex with men.

It has been a deeply troubling year on this front, with anti-gay legislation introduced in Uganda and the persecution of a gay couple in Malawi. Legal and social environments that uphold the human rights and dignity of all individuals are the cornerstone of effective HIV prevention. This year's *AVAC Report* is dedicated to those on the front line of this struggle (see p. 6).