



Clinical Research Continues



Throughout this section, you'll find quotes from AIDS vaccine trial sites in Africa describing some of the work they've undertaken in the past year.

While the field is focused on a range of fundamental basic scientific questions, clinical trials continue to play an important role in vaccine discovery and development. At clinical trial sites, where plans for specific trials may have changed, there's a varied and vibrant range of activities contributing to the overall search for a vaccine.

As demonstrated in our annual table of *Ongoing Vaccine Trials* on pages 42-43, there remains a long list of products in different stages of clinical development.

Notably, results from the Thai prime-boost vaccine trial are expected in September. With over 16,400 participants, this is the largest AIDS vaccine trial ever undertaken. Despite its size, sponsors have pointed out that it is a "test-of-concept" meaning that if there's any sign of efficacy from the strategy—which consists of a canary pox-vectored candidate and the gp120-based AIDSVAX candidate—there will need to be follow-up studies to confirm and learn more.

If there is benefit, there will undoubtedly be questions about whether it is due to the combination of both vaccines or to a single component. (AIDSVAX alone showed no signs of efficacy in two prior Phase III trials.) AVAC will be providing an expanded discussion of the Thai trial as part of its "Anticipating Results" series which will be published prior to the data release.