



AVAC has been involved with the Enterprise from its beginning in 2003, and we have provided updates and recommendations in each of our annual reports since then. In 2005, we identified eight issues that needed to be addressed. Below we've reprinted those key recommendations and updated them. They're broad and ambitious, and many of them could not be accomplished in the single year that the Enterprise secretariat has had an executive director and staff. But they're still targets and there's both progress in some areas and indications of the Enterprise falling short in others.

- 1. Communicate frequently and transparently.** More information, more opinions, more leadership. We'd like to see the Enterprise communicating with stakeholders about emerging issues on a more regular basis, and not just through periodic letters. On the other hand, the meeting reports and minutes posted on the website are useful resources and demonstrate a commitment to transparency.
- 2. Set policies for sharing and coordination of data and technology.** Work here is ongoing; we're eager to hear reports in the coming year.
- 3. Ensure the ability to take risks.** As we discuss in the main article, there's a time for caution and a time for provoking discussion, and we look forward to even more of the latter to balance the former in Enterprise activity.
- 4. Bring new investigators into the search.** This has been a particular area of strength, evidenced by investments in the development of the New Minds, New Ideas initiative to address the need for young and early career investigators, and efforts to build bridges to systems biology. The key now is to set metrics for measuring progress and to update the field on what's working and what's falling short.
- 5. Make the Enterprise truly global.** Commitment to African and Asian regional networks, and on the 2008 AIDS Vaccine Conference in South Africa has helped the Enterprise strengthen global ties. Now the challenge is to get more developing country scientists to the table for scientific deliberations in addition to discussions of geography-specific issues.
- 6. Involve civil society in a meaningful way.** Much more needs to be done here, and the Enterprise needs to be clear about its goals. Is developing country civil society involvement a priority? Is input on scientific issues, such as the Strategic Plan, a priority as the secretariat has stated? If not, that's alright. If so, what's the plan for ensuring the scientific literacy that's needed for meaningful community involvement? Clear expectations and commitments are needed either way.
- 7. Take on the politics and ethics of clinical trials.** This hasn't happened yet. From HVTN 505 to plans for what AIDS vaccine trials might look like if there's benefit from PrEP, there are many issues where the Enterprise can and should play a critical leadership role.
- 8. Establish realistic milestones and a process for monitoring progress.** We look to these as an integral part of the Scientific Strategic Plan and will expect the Enterprise to provide status reports on an ongoing basis.