

## AIDS Conferences That Made History—And Must Again

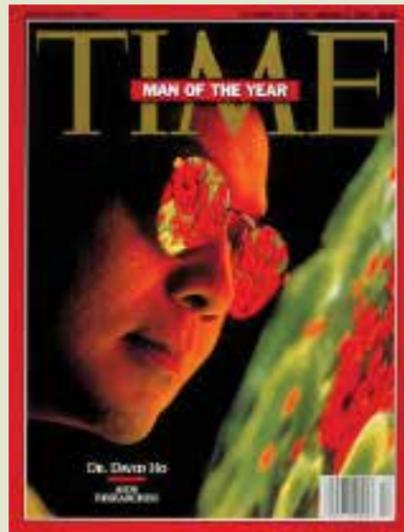
AIDS conferences have made history for better and for worse. Some meetings, like those in 1996 and 2000, are remembered for radical, positive shifts. Others for inaction and inertia.

What will the conferences in 2015 and 2016 bring? Now is the time to ensure they contribute to lasting change.

### Vancouver 1996

#### 11th International AIDS Conference

“Common sense and experience in infectious diseases dictate that treatment should hit hard and early.” – Joep Lange, 1995



- ✓ Scientific evidence proves that combination antiretroviral medicine can reverse the escalating number of AIDS deaths and save lives.
- ✓ Within one week of the Vancouver AIDS conference, 75,000 patients begin HAART.

### Durban 2000

#### 13th International AIDS Conference



- ✓ South Africa is at a boiling point with staggering HIV rates and little government action.
- ✓ Years of fighting inaction on AIDS culminate in massive protests. Durban 2000 becomes a forum for anger about the world's inaction on AIDS in Africa—and a turning point in the global AIDS response.

### Vancouver 2015

#### 8th IAS Conference

“We wouldn't have the drugs if there hadn't been enormous activism. If you look at Africa, the situation there with MSM is just horrible. That's something where I think our voice should have been much stronger.” – Joep Lange, 2014



- > Scientific evidence—from the START trial and HPTN 052—shows expanded coverage of ART can benefit individual and public health.
- ? But programs are struggling to deliver comprehensive, rights-based services and non-ART prevention is often missing—and why are VMMC, PrEP, harm reduction and human rights for all on the margins of global targets and discourse?
- ? Will this meeting do more than take stock of START? Will it keep prevention on track? What will advocates demand?
- ? Will this be the meeting where science, rights and action get in sync and revolutionize the epidemic—once again?

### Durban 2016

#### 21st International AIDS Conference



- ? Durban 2000 was a high point of global solidarity. In 2016, will AIDS activism be rekindled and reinvigorated leading to massive mobilization for decisive action on ending the epidemic?
- ? Is the world on track to 90-90-90 and fewer than 500,000 new infections by 2020?
- ? The 2000 conference saw the first meeting by and for women living with HIV—*Women at Durban*—which became the Women's Networking Zone. Will 2016 bring breakthroughs in effective, comprehensive women-centered services for HIV prevention, treatment and reproductive health?
- ? In 2000, the question regarding ART became “not if, but how” would treatment reach people in low-income countries. Will 2016 be the year that this question is answered for comprehensive prevention?