How to engage in research
Entry points for advocacy

Small Group Session: Vaccine trials and the P5 initiative
Session time: 40 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the graphics on pages 28 and 29 in the AVAC Report 2014/15, review both tracks of the P5, including strategies and timelines. AR 2014/15 highlights the goal of defining the standard of prevention for next-generation efficacy trials.

In your group, outline potential activities based on P5 timing for efficacy trials to come to consensus on standard of prevention that incorporates input from stakeholders, including those in trial communities.

Also, answer relevant questions below

- Are there other short-term goals that advocates should push regarding the P5 trials?
- How can an individual advocate, a group, or network help achieve short-term goals?
- With whom do we partner?
- Who do we push?
- Is there a mechanism that can be put in place to engage in this area?

REPORT BACK

The objective of the session was to define short-term goals around the vaccine development agenda, with specific focus (if relevant) on the P5 initiative and timeline for efficacy trials. The group discussed important goals to focus on in the short-term and how to consolidate input as a network of advocates. Discussion also centered on an update given during the session from Angelo Kaggwa-Katumba and Dr. Mannasseh Phiri from the Pan-African Vaccine Development Agenda meeting.

Key emphases from the discussion are summarized here.

- Clarity is needed around what the P5 trials in Southern Africa will mean for other regions, in Africa and beyond. Advocates expressed concern about other areas where foundation has been set up for vaccine research, but are not involved in the P5 agenda.
- Participants in the Pan-African Vaccine Development Agenda meeting identified a need for a scientific agenda for Africa as a whole. This will be a follow up from the recent meeting. This report may be an entry point for advocates and can be coordinated through the VARG and AVAC.
- Southern Africa has been prioritized because of the burden of the epidemic and the identified high-risk cohorts. Attention could be raised around high-risk cohorts
that have been identified in other regions, e.g. MSM in East Africa. Advocates could request further information about this awareness amongst DAIDS, P5 and other decision makers in trial design and site identification.

- The group identified the need for consolidated advocacy messages for various audiences, including African governments, media, and concerned civil society groups. This may be coordinated through AVAC’s communications working group, the VARG, and key individuals in this discussion.

Short-term goals include

- Request clarity and a discussion around implications of P5 research for regions beyond Southern Africa. Request further information about whether clade is important in vaccine development and where the scientific thinking stands on this issue.
- Consider engaging East African governments to raise their interests with research teams as has been done in South Africa, and has possibly created impetus for focusing research in this region and around clade C-based vaccines.

Participants of this discussion included:

- Stacey Hannah, AVAC
- Angelo Kagawa-Katumba, AVAC
- Wanjiku Kamau, International AIDS Alliance
- Denis Kibira, HEPS Uganda
- Rosemary Mburu, World AIDS Campaign Kenya
- Genevieve Meyer, HVTN South Africa
- Lillian Mutengu, IAVI Kenya
- Busi Neala, PHRU South Africa
- Nelson Otwoma, NEPHAK Kenya

---

1 The AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group (VARG) consists of ten civil society representatives from countries engaged in vaccine research, working in partnership with AVAC. VARG members have been identified as vaccine advocates well connected with HIV researchers, activists, health officials and community members in their home countries.