

Leadership in the AIDS Response
The path of shared science:
How can we make game-changing
HIV medicines available to everyone
everywhere?

Long-acting injectable antiretrovirals are powerful tools for both HIV prevention and treatment. However, three years after the first injectable became available, access remains limited. As additional options hit the market, experts calculate that they could avert substantially more HIV infections if they are both affordable and equitably and cost-effectively distributed.

This is a critical moment for the UNAIDS PCB to engage on this issue. Stakeholders within the Board are invited to discuss how these innovations can be more rapidly and more equitably provided to people most at risk of HIV, including young women and people from marginalized communities, and people living with HIV.

The UNAIDS Executive Director will moderate an interactive panel dialogue with speakers representing science/academia, the community of people living with HIV, industry and enablers. Following the panel, the floor will be open to members and observers of the PCB to make their comments and reflections.

PANELLISTS

Dr Cissy Kityo, Executive Director of the Joint Clinical Research Centre, Uganda



Dr Kityo is a medical doctor, public health specialist and researcher with over 30 years' experience in AIDS research and care for people living with HIV. She has a Master's from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and a PhD from the University of Amsterdam. She is a pioneer of ART use in Africa and a mover in scaling up treatment in Uganda. Cissy has worked on more than 100 trials of treatment of HIV and related conditions, and has been closely involved in studies of prevention of HIV and preparation for vaccines, which have informed policy and practice in low- and middle-income countries. She is an executive member of various scientific committees in HIV research, prevention and treatment. Cissy is leading the first long-acting ART trial in Africa and catalysed the alliance of experts in gene therapy to support bridging gaps in HIV cure research between high- and lower-income countries. She has published over 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Ms Jerop Limo, Executive Director of the Ambassador for Youth and Adolescent Reproductive Health Program (AYARHEP), Young person living with HIV, Kenya



Drawing from her personal experience of living with HIV since childhood, Jerop has been passionately advocating to advance the health and well-being of young people living with HIV, including calling for better pediatric treatment options for children and adolescents living with HIV, and pushing for more peer educators to support young people navigating the challenges of living with HIV from an early age. She is driven by her strong belief that young people can design, lead, and shape a future where no young person living with HIV feels limited by their status. Instead, they can live fulfilling lives, free from stigma and discrimination and participate meaningfully in their communities for better health for all. Jerop participates and dedicates her time to representing her community at national, regional, and global decision-making levels, ensuring that the voice of young people living with HIV is heard. She advocates for youth-led and youth-focused solutions as a board member of the National Network of People Living with HIV in Kenya, the National Network of Young People Living with HIV in Kenya, the National Network of TB Champions, and the Young Women HIV Prevention Council. Her NGO, AYARHEP, is affiliated with Y+ Global Network.

Dr Ethel Maciel, Secretary of Health, Surveillance and Environment, Ministry of Health, Brazil



Dr Maciel holds a nursing degree by the University of Espirito Santo (UFES) and a Master's degree in nursing and PhD in Epidemiology from the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) and a Post-Doctorate in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University. She is Full Professor at the University of Espirito Santa and has a scholarship in Productivity Epidemiology at the National Council of Research-CNPq. She was coordinator of the Clinical Research Center at the University Hospital of UFES, of the Post-Graduation Program in Collective Health and the Research Ethics Committee of the Centre for Health Sciences of UFES. She has also served as vice-rector of UFES, from 2013 to 2020.

She was President of the Brazilian Tuberculosis Research Network (REDE-TB). She represented Brazil in the Governmental Tuberculosis Research Network of the BRICS countries. She was a member of the Executive Committee of the Brazilian Network of Women Scientists.

Mr Javier Padilla Bernáldez, Secretary of State for Health, Spain



Degree in Medicine (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 2001-2007). Master in Public Health and Health Management by the Andalusian School of Public Health (2013-2014). Master in Health Economics and Medicine (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 2012). Master in Philosophy for Contemporary Challenges (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya 2021). Resident Medical Intern at the Andalusian Health Service (2008-2012). Family and Community Physician in the Madrid Health Service (2015-2021). Regional Deputy of Más Madrid (2021–2023). Currently, and since November 2023, he holds the position of Secretary of State for Health of the Government of Spain. He is co-author of *Malestamos* (Capitán Swing, 2022) *Epidemiocracia* (Capitán Swing, 2020) and author of *¿A quién vamos a dejar morir?* (Capitán Swing, 2019) as well as co-coordinator of *Salubrismo o barbarie* (Atrapasueños, 2017)

Dr Sylvia Vito, Africa Head, EVA Pharma



Dr Sylvia Vito is a seasoned C-suite business executive with a medical professional background and in-depth 20 years of experience in Healthcare Leadership across the African Cluster.

She currently serves as the AFRICA HEAD Sub Sahara Africa & Frontier Markets at Eva PHARMA INTERNATIONAL, a leading pharmaceutical manufacturing company in AFRICA & the EMEA region. She has worked extensively in the Healthcare & Pharma industry across Africa in several capacities to drive commercial & Infrastructural developments, investments in healthcare systems, strengthening & portfolio performance and community investments around Communicable, Non-Communicable diseases and Vaccines. Sylvia believes that the Private Sector and Industry players should be able to not only support in building more resilient healthcare systems, but through partnerships and concerted efforts with the Global partners, Governments, development partners, regulators, advocacy groups in a bid to make a meaningful, tangible, efficient and sustainable shift in Africa. She affirms that Local Manufacturing of pharmaceuticals in Africa is essential for promoting sustainable health security, economic growth, and self-reliance in healthcare. This will also enable Africa's response to health emergencies and ensure medicines are tailored to meet our specific needs for the ultimate improvement of health outcomes of our people. Sylvia believes that some Big Problems, disguise Big Opportunities