

27 August 2013

## **Call for Nomination of Community Representative in Working Groups of the International AIDS Society (IAS) Towards an HIV Cure Initiative.**

### **Background**

Under the auspices of the IAS, a group of more than 30 scientists developed a Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure. The IAS launched the Global Scientific Strategy at a scientific symposium, immediately preceding the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC in July 2012, with the support of the NIH, the ANRS, Sidaction and TAG. The symposium was structured in line with the scientific priorities defined in the Global Scientific Strategy.

The IAS and the Towards an HIV Cure Stakeholder's Advisory Board are now fully dedicated to ensuring significant roll-out of the Global Scientific Strategy and plan to coordinate future developments in collaborations and in advocating the benefits of an HIV cure. Following the seminal work of the International Scientific Working Group in the establishment of the Global Scientific Strategy, the IAS has facilitated the creation of a number of smaller topic-specific working groups. These working groups bring together leading scientists and community members to work on relevant topics, including ethics, psycho-social studies, public health and cost-effectiveness as detailed below. Moreover the IAS has also mediated the creation of an Industry Collaboration Group with the aim to bring together industry partners and cure researchers to facilitate and encourage interactions and collaborations. In addition, the IAS is planning to organize symposia, workshops and training sessions in conjunction with international, regional and national conferences both for health care providers and community members.

The aim of the initiative is to contribute both to maximizing resources and strategic investment in the most promising strategies in search of a cure, and to the establishment of an international research alliance and/or expansion and global collaboration of existing consortia.

The Towards an HIV Cure initiative is committed to recruiting and sustaining skilled, effective, diverse and gender-balanced working groups, and to the greater involvement of PLHIV. The HIV Cure initiative is requesting nominations from PLHIV for participation in the following working groups and to facilitate trainings.

**Working Group on Cost-Effectiveness:**

The Working Group on Cost-Effectiveness will prepare an opinion piece on the cost-effectiveness of different potential HIV cure strategies in 2013. The group will also determine the HIV cure strategies which should be assessed in mathematical models for cost-effectiveness in order to develop short-term affordable strategies to cure HIV considering the long-term toxicity of ART and the difficulty of life-long adherence. The working group will also calculate an estimate of the global cost of the Global Scientific Strategy: Towards an HIV Cure.

The Working Group on Cost-Effectiveness may meet periodically by conference call to review ongoing activities and bi-annually for in-person meetings typically in conjunction with the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI: February/March) and IAS/AIDS Conferences (July).

**Industry Collaboration Group:**

The Industry Collaboration Group aims to bring together industry partners and cure researchers to facilitate and encourage interactions and collaborations. The Industry Collaboration Group is co-chaired by two scientists (David Margolis, UNC and Sharon Lewin, The Burnet Institute, Melbourne) and two industry representatives (Andrew Spaltenstein, GSK and Guenter Kraus, Janssen) and the aim of the group is to foster the involvement of industry to develop a safe, accessible and scalable cure for HIV.

The Industry Collaboration Group may meet periodically by conference call to review ongoing activities and bi-annually for in-person meetings typically in conjunction with the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI: February/March) and IAS/AIDS Conferences (July).

**Psychosocial Studies Group:**

The Psychosocial Studies Group consists of a multinational academic and community-based research team developing a multi-country project to assess the willingness of patients to participate in HIV-cure related strategies and the potential impact of an HIV cure from a social and behavioral sciences perspective.

The Psychosocial Studies Group may meet periodically by conference call to review ongoing activities and bi-annually for in-person meetings typically in conjunction with International Conferences and Social Science Conferences.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

Preference will be given to candidates who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Affiliation with an organization involved in HIV-related issues
- Familiarity with and understanding of current HIV-cure research and strategies
- Ability to disseminate information about the cure initiative to other community contacts
- Willing to serve in a voluntary capacity, without remuneration. Travel support to Working Group meetings may be provided.

**Nomination Process:**

Nominations must be made in writing and must include the curriculum vitae of the nominee, along with a letter of intent describing how the candidate meets the eligibility requirements as outlined above, and which working group they would like to participate in. Please submit applications by email to [hivcure@iasociety.org](mailto:hivcure@iasociety.org) no later than 30 September 2013.

Please include the following information in the email:

Nominee Name

Mailing Address

Email Address

Current Employment

*Note: applications that do not include a nominee's curriculum vitae and letter of intent will not be considered.*

The review process will be coordinated by IAS staff under the guidance of members of the Towards an HIV Cure Stakeholder's Advisory Board.

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