

Media Release

Over 5000 delegates to attend international conference featuring the latest developments in HIV Biology, pathogenesis, treatment and prevention science

IAS 2007 to Explore How to Bridge the Gap Between Research and Practice, Particularly in Developing Countries That Bear the Brunt of the HIV Pandemic

Sydney, Thursday July 19, 2007--The Australian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) will co-host with the International AIDS Society (IAS) the largest international gathering of its kind, the 4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2007 www.ias2007.org) in Sydney, Australia from 22-25 July 2007.

Held every two years, the conference is a unique opportunity for leading scientists, clinicians, public health experts and community leaders to examine the latest developments in HIV-related research, and to explore how scientific advances can – in very practical ways – inform the global response to HIV/AIDS.

“With important developments in HIV science on the horizon, the need to effectively translate science into practice has never been more important,” said ASHM President and IAS 2007 International Conference Deputy Co-Chair Dr. Sharon Lewin.

“The successful scale-up of prevention and treatment requires an unprecedented level of collaboration between scientists, clinicians and others on the frontlines — and the IAS Conference is where this collaboration happens,” she added.

The choice of Australia as host of IAS 2007 reflects the country’s longstanding commitment to HIV/AIDS, including its support of dedicated research centres in several disciplines. Australia was one of the first countries to develop a national strategy on HIV/AIDS, and continues to base its response on a collaborative partnership between the research, health care, government and community sectors.

“Australia’s long history of leadership on HIV/AIDS makes it an ideal host for IAS 2007. As one of the first HIV medicine societies in the world, ASHM looks forward to welcoming delegates to Sydney, said Dr Lewin.

ASHM and the IAS have joined together to develop the Sydney Declaration, a global sign-on letter calling for the scale up of HIV research as an essential part of a comprehensive response to HIV, which also includes universal access to HIV treatment, care and prevention.

“We are inviting all stakeholders involved in the global response -- including people living with HIV, clinicians, policymakers, and of course scientists and other researchers -- to join us in urging national governments and bilateral, multilateral and private donors to allocate 10% of all resources dedicated to HIV programming for research,” said IAS 2007 Local Co-Chair Dr. David Cooper, Director of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

What: International AIDS Society Conference (IAS 2007)

Where: Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney

When: Sunday July 22-Wednesday July 25

Further information:

Michael Kessler, IAS 2007 Australian Press Officer +61 404 366 409

Dr Sharon Lewin, ASHM president and Deputy Co-Chair IAS 2007 +61 404 014 530

Levinia Crooks, ASHM Executive Director +61 411 249 891