



“We can no longer remain docile!”

- The European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS – www.eacsociety.org) and the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG – www.eatg.org) call the attention of political and industry decision makers that access to pre-exposure prophylaxis is essentially and urgently needed across Europe if we want to achieve the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target, and stop the HIV epidemic in Europe¹.

Barcelona; October 23, 2015. The press conference held by the EACS at the 15th European AIDS Conference pointed out that prevention and early treatment initiation are essential if we are to stop the HIV epidemic in Europe as devised by UNAIDS. However, the medical indication of medicines (Truvada[®]) for pre-exposure prophylaxis is still not approved in Europe.

“It is imperative to speed up registration application and regulatory review for PrEP indication”, confirmed Prof. Manuel Battegay, President of the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS). Results from recent scientific research show that PrEP is up to 96% effective if used as prescribed. The use of medical prevention tools is not detrimental to the health of people, even in the long term.

“I think we have been too patient, and I don’t think we have to wait any more to make PrEP available. We have scientific evidence, institutional guidelines support, and we know how to prescribe PrEP, so it is a good moment to start”, said Prof. Jean-Michel Molina, lead investigator of the IPERGAY study², one of the largest clinical studies that confirmed the effectiveness and reliability of PrEP in prevention in the community of men having sex with men in Europe, and EACS Guidelines panel member. There is a growing body of evidence that PrEP also works for other groups of people at high risk of HIV infection such as trans* people, and this is also confirmed in the guidelines.

Prof. Jens D. Lundgren, chair and coordinator of the EACS Guidelines working group and recent awardee of the EACS Award for Excellence in HIV Medicine explained several times why it was important for the development of the new EACS Treatment Guidelines to include PrEP.

“Science has given an answer, and the Guidelines have captured this change, and now we have to make sure that these recommendations are timely approved in the different European countries and translated into access to all in need. Ipergay and Proud proved how critical the involvement of community is in preparedness and deliver of PrEP to increase efficiency”, said Mr. Luís Mendão, chair of the EATG.

“PrEP is already cost saving now, at current drug prices, and given to people at similar high risk”, confirmed Prof. Sheena McCormack, lead investigator of PROUD, the other pivotal PrEP study in Europe³ and EACS Guidelines panel member. A similar use of the same drugs for prevention purposes should not pose a problem, and it is and should be an essential tool for the different populations that face the risk of contracting HIV.

PrEP has been very high on the agenda of the 15th European AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain. The effective combination of different prevention tools is a key component of HIV response.

1-<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2014/90-90-90>

2-<http://www.ipergaymtl.com/en/home.html>

3-<http://www.proud.mrc.ac.uk>



About the 15th European AIDS Conference

<http://www.eacs-conference2015.com>

Since the first European AIDS Conference held in 1987 in Brussels, the Conference has become a must for clinicians and researchers, communities and people living with HIV / AIDS. Through scientific excellence, the Conference promotes the participation and engagement of young researchers in clinical research. The Conference aims at presenting and critically discussing new knowledge as a fundamental part of good clinical practice and health care, whether to deal with HIV transmission, Hepatitis C and other co-infections, as well as co-morbidities. The European AIDS Conference is held every two years, this being its 15th edition.

About the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS)

<http://www.eacsociety.org>

The European AIDS Clinical Society was founded with the aim of bringing together health professionals that are working in the HIV/AIDS field in Europe. Since its beginning, the EACS has ensured compliance with the highest ethical standards, care and treatment of people living with HIV, as well as scientific excellence, in order to respond to the pandemic. The organisation of the European AIDS Conference is one of the most important activities of the EACS.

About the European AIDS Treatment Group

<http://www.eatg.org>

The European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) is a European network of nationally-based volunteer activists comprising of more than 150 members from 40 countries in Europe. Our members are representatives of different communities affected by HIV/AIDS in Europe.

Since its foundation, the EATG has been at the forefront of the development of the civil society response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Europe. It represents and defends the treatment-related interests of people living with HIV/AIDS. EATG's activities focus on treatment literacy and treatment advocacy.