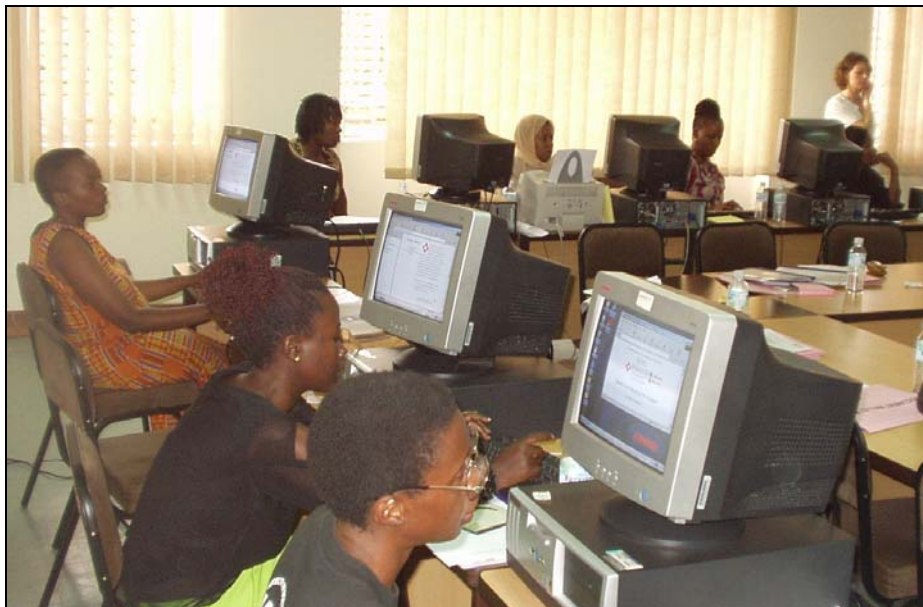


UNESCO/SciDev.Net

**Workshop for Women Communicators on the
Use of ICTs in Reporting on the Science of
HIV/AIDS**

FINAL REPORT



*7 – 11 April 2003,
University of Makerere, Kampala, Uganda*

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1. Introduction and summary of goals and content

This report describes the UNESCO/SciDev.Net workshop for women communicators on "The Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Reporting on the Science of HIV/AIDS", held on 7 – 11 April 2003.

Seventeen women from Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia attended the workshop, which took place in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Makerere, Kampala, Uganda.

The workshop was held as part of a broader shared goal between UNESCO and the Science Development Network (SciDev.Net) to strengthen the role of the media in the fight against HIV/AIDS. With over 42 million people around the world infected with HIV, it is now "one of the most devastating epidemics in human history" [1], requiring action on many fronts, including the raising of awareness about HIV/AIDS through balanced and in-depth reporting by the media [2]. The workshop provided training in three areas: HIV/AIDS science information search and retrieval, journalism skills, and basic and applied ICT skills.

Women and ICTs

Many of the women attending the workshop had expressed a strong wish to enhance their ICT skills, citing a lack of resources and opportunity in their workplaces. This corresponded to published reports about women in the media often feeling disadvantaged compared to male colleagues, and less able to make full use of communication technology. Whether through 'technophobia' – a perception that computers and other technology are for 'men only' – or through lack of training, finance, or being outnumbered and outmanoeuvred by men, women often report being less confident and influential than male colleagues [3].

The workshop aimed to introduce such individuals to the various ways in which ICTs could help them perform their tasks more effectively. These included the use of ICTs to gather basic scientific information about HIV/AIDS, track the most recent research developments, identify and contact scientists engaged in research and others who may be in a position to comment on its significance, and finally to prepare and disseminate findings and analysis.

This, we hoped, would contribute to:

1. A better understanding of the nature of HIV, including what type of disease it is, how it spreads, and how it can be diagnosed, treated and prevented;
2. Increased awareness of the latest scientific results about HIV/AIDS, and their potential implications for diagnosis, treatment and prevention – including a realistic assessment of the timescales likely to be involved;
3. An enhanced ability to provide counter arguments to those questioning the scientific consensus on the relationship between HIV and AIDS;
4. An awareness of the resources available through the Internet and elsewhere to check out the scientific legitimacy of claims for novel forms of prevention and treatment;
5. An awareness of the importance of both basic research in immunology and other disciplines, and controlled clinical trials (for example of potential vaccines) if HIV/AIDS is to be tackled successfully.

Another key goal of the workshops was to develop both training material and practical experience that can be used as the basis of similar workshops in other locations.

Nicholas Abola, information scientist and librarian at the University of Makerere, in collaboration with Julie Clayton, freelance science journalist and consultant to SciDev.Net, provided basic and applied ICT skills training in a series of tutorials and practical exercises. These included how to use email and the Internet more effectively for finding stories, background facts and information, and contact details for researchers, through email alerts, online databases and search engines. Besides accessing recommended resources online, participants also each received a CD-rom containing recommended HIV/AIDS documents, as well as hard copies of a selection of documents.

HIV/AIDS Science

Many participants were experienced at reporting on social and cultural issues around HIV/AIDS, but expressed a lack of confidence and experience in reporting about science. Although they regarded science as an important weapon in the fight against HIV/AIDS, it remained for them a relatively untapped source of new story ideas. Participants welcomed the idea of exploring new science-based story angles not only for raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, but also to rekindle interest among readers and listeners already sensitised to many aspects of HIV/AIDS, but bored with familiar messages.

The workshop included presentations from Ugandan journalists Charles Wendo and Joan Mugenzi of New Vision, "Uganda's leading daily newspaper", who discussed how to approach HIV/AIDS science from different angles and explore its human elements to broaden appeal to readers. Participants were encouraged to consider science as a key source of facts and information about HIV and AIDS, and how to use these, and interviews with scientists, to dispel myths, and expose fake claims and quack solutions.

Participants discussed the latest developments in vaccines and drug treatments directly with researchers: virologist Pontiano Kaleebu, virologist at the Uganda Virus Research Institute spoke about the vaccine trials in Uganda sponsored by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), while Peter Mugenyi hosted a tour of Uganda's premier drug treatment centre, the Joint Clinical Research Centre, in Kampala, where he is Director. Here participants saw laboratories and equipment used for research and monitoring of HIV-infected individuals, and heard about the use and availability of drugs against HIV for patients from Uganda and other parts of East Africa.

Juliet Nsiima, graphic designer from New Vision newspaper, led a session on the use of graphical illustrations and photographs can be used to get across information about HIV/AIDS. Meanwhile, a small number of radio journalists opted to visit Straight Talk Foundation a non-profit organisation in Kampala that targets young and adolescent children with safer sex messages through a monthly newspaper and radio shows.

Sarah Ossiya from Panos Eastern Africa facilitated a discussion with representatives of local media organisations about the role of 'information gatekeepers' in HIV/AIDS reporting. Participants were encouraged to consider doctors, patients, scientists, reporters and editors, audiences and sponsors of media publications all as potential gatekeepers. Participants also considered ways in which they could have more influence in their organisations, and how to network and support each other in future as women communicators, so as to boost their own confidence and standing in the workplace, and report more extensively on HIV/AIDS science.

Julie Clayton
Science journalist and consultant to the UNESCO/SciDev.Net Workshop
May 2003

References

- [1] *Report on the global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, 2002*
UNAIDS 02.26E

- [2] *Media and HIV/AIDS in East and Southern Africa: a resource book*
UNESCO 2000
- [3] *Leading in a Different Language: Will Women Change the News Media?*
International Women's Media Foundation, December 2000

2. Introductory session

The first speaker in the introductory session was David Dickson, the Director of SciDev.Net. He welcomed the participants and expressed both the importance of the workshop, and his pleasure that this was being held in Uganda, a country that was well known for the openness with which it had approached the problem of HIV/AIDS.

He was followed by Grace Bantebya-Kyomahende, the Director of the Centre for Gender and Women Studies, who said that the workshop was very important both for the university and for her department, since it was tackling an issue that was critical for women in the region. She was particularly pleased with the way that women could develop their skills to become more effective in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the region.

Alonso Aznar, Regional Advisor in Communication and Information with the East African office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), described how his agency was working with the media in Africa to eliminate the stigma and marginalisation attached to sufferers of HIV/AIDS.

Aznar said that UNESCO's strategy was complementary to that of SciDev.Net, which was focusing more on the scientific dimensions of AIDS. UNESCO was also keen to enhance information exchange among all stakeholders engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and was convinced that the use of ICTs was particularly important, as was the need to sensitise the major stakeholders.

The final speaker in the introductory session Uganda's Minister of Information, Basoga Nsadhu, who told the participants that journalists specialising in reporting on HIV/AIDS have a vital role to play in translating scientific results into a language that people living in villages can understand.

Nsadhu, who worked as a journalist before entering politics, said that ICTs were an important means for journalists to find out the latest scientific information. But he added that there was a danger that much of this information would stop at this level. "You must be creative in translating and transforming such information into useful packages that will make sense to the communities that you come from."

Nsadhu said that although there was wide discussion of all countries now belonging to a global village, in his view the diversity of languages spoken by different groups and individuals meant that countries in Africa were not part of such a village. "To be part of that presupposes the existence of certain common



Uganda's Minister of Information, Basoga Nsadhu, addresses the opening session. Other participants include (left to right) David Dickson, the director of SciDev.Net, Grace Bantebya-Kyomahende, the director of the Centre for Gender and Women Studies, and Alonso Aznar, regional advisor in communication and information with the East African office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

denominators that are not there in the African continent, which are not even there in the Ugandan context," said, pointing out that 57 different languages are currently spoken in the country.

"You need to know the people that you are trying to communicate with," he said. "When we use ICTs, we need to ask who is our target audience, who are the people that we want to help. You must know your audience, and that language that they speak, and only then will you be able to communicate with them."

[We have been regretfully informed that Minister Nsadhu died on 30 April 2003].

3. Discussion Sessions:

a. "Getting to know you/Icebreaker" (Monday 7 April)

Guided by Julie Clayton, participants spent 20 to 30 minutes talking to a partner from another country, then introduced their partner to the rest of the group, saying who they were, who they worked for, what job they did, and one obstacle or difficulty that they would like the workshop to help them overcome.

The obstacles listed were as follows:

- Lack of ICT capacity, particularly access to the internet, and especially in rural areas;
- The expense of having to resort to using internet cafes instead of having computers in the workplace;
- Lack of ICT skills and HIV/AIDS information, particularly country-level statistics;
- Lack of time to learn new skills;
- Lack of knowledge about how to access and verify scientific information, and how to network with other journalists;
- Lack of understanding of HIV/AIDS science by journalists, particularly the scientific jargon;
- Difficulty in getting information from government ministers and officials;
- Over-sensitisation of the public to too often repeated messages on HIV/AIDS, and the need to find new information and stories;
- The difficulty of trying to gather, analyse and package information for local audiences, particularly the translation of scientific terms into local languages;
- The problem of trying to communicate HIV/AIDS stories to women, particularly in rural areas;
- Convincing an editor that HIV/AIDS is a real problem, and a priority for reporting compared to political stories – unless it is a disaster story;
- Lower remuneration for HIV/AIDS stories with some newspapers;

Many of these obstacles became recurring themes in subsequent discussion sessions.

b. "Information gatekeepers: whose job is it anyway?" (Tuesday 8 April)

In a panel discussion facilitated by Sarah Ossiya from Panos Eastern Africa office, participants heard views from a panel of speakers about who the gatekeepers are in different media organizations and how reporters can influence their organisations' output of HIV/AIDS reporting.

The Lead Speaker: Margaret Juuko of U. Makerere Dept of Mass Communication, with additional panel members: Edward Mukibi from The AIDS Care Organisation (TASO), Richard Magumba from Uganda Radio, Charles Wendo, New Vision newspaper, Betty Kagoro from Straight Talk Foundation, and Angelo Izama, Monitor FM radio. Participants were also joined on the floor by Joan Mugenzi, New Vision newspaper and Alonso Aznar, UNESCO Communication Advisor for Eastern Africa.

Margaret Juuko opened the session with a stark reminder of HIV/AIDS statistics in Uganda, where the epidemic was first noticed in the Rakai district, and has now killed an estimated 800,000 people. There are now 1.4 million currently living with HIV/AIDS, and 1.7 million children orphaned, in Uganda.

The media, she said, has had a considerable impact on HIV/AIDS reporting and awareness. She gave the example of a recent report in *New Vision* by Joan Mugenzi about a couple who decided to get married despite one being infected with HIV. This was responsible balanced reporting, whereas in the past the same theme would have been given a far more sensationalized slant. Reporters themselves are gatekeepers of information, either consciously or unconsciously, through their selection of stories and research. Juuko added a list of additional gatekeepers, including editors, political establishments, and owners of production facilities, and their influences - editorial and institutional policies, training, skills, knowledge, and social factors such as religion.

Citing a report by Richard Baguma, Juuko noted that there was a big gap between scientists and reporters, because most journalists in Uganda are not trained in science, and rely instead on acquiring knowledge along the way, or attending short courses. The church too has a role in influencing the flow of information about HIV/AIDS, through conflicting opinions, for example about the promotion of condoms and disapproval of pre-marital sex.



Linda Wamboka addresses the group.

As a way forwards, Juuko recommended media institutions to follow the model set by *New Vision*, which pays the medical bills and looks after the families of HIV-positive employees, an effective step towards removing the stigma attached to being HIV-positive, and promoting a culture of openness. "If all media institutions would emulate I think it would go a long way towards solving our problem".

She called for balanced and unbiased reporting, the development of media training networks similar to those in South Africa. She also recommended that reporters be more assertive in digging up facts on HIV/AIDS information, and to be more selective about what information is accurate. Juuko acknowledged, however, that the media's role is undermined by a number of other information gatekeepers, including government and political institutions.

Other panel members raised additional points, including the powerful gatekeeper role played by care organizations such as TASO, particularly for counteracting the stigma of HIV/AIDS. TASO now has more than 7,000 clients, motivated to share a common vision and sense of purpose, according to Edward Mukiibi. TASO has seven centres across the country responsible for distributing information, and views the media as a powerful tool. TASO managers carry out advocacy for HIV policies; TASO also produces radio programmes, as well as printed stories and drama.

Richard Baguma highlighted the difficulty that many media professionals have in gaining access to computer technology, particularly the internet, and the importance of organizations such as TASO as information providers. This was a "humbling reality check" that people in responsible positions had limited access to resources, noted Sarah Ossiya.

Alonzo Aznar from UNESCO noted that the role of women in the media needs to be enhanced, and that an important goal at UNESCO was to promote HIV/AIDS journalism through sensitization seminars, building up of a resource center, including an interactive website (AIDSAfrica.com) and encouraging entries for regional prizes for the best HIV/AIDS reporting.

Betty Kagoro drew attention to young people as an important influence on the media – particularly when they contribute directly, as in *Straight Talk* print and radio. She also recommended tackling stigma as a

major focus for moving forwards. "20 years down the road we have HIV/AIDS but still stigma is entrenched in our society".

Angelo Izama's "message to fellow journalists" was that an HIV/AIDS slant should be considered for as many stories as possible in order to maintain the awareness of HIV infection as a dangerous and fatal disease. For example, a recent newspaper story featured the scandal of a hospital in Bali where doctors held a racket selling contaminated blood to patients, but without prominence. "That story should have been a lead story with an HIV/AIDS focus". Furthermore, coverage in rural areas about HIV/AIDS is not as extensive as it should be.

Joan Mugenzi recommended that journalists be sensitive and tactful towards their subjects, and to take care to explain why their story is needed. In the past, she noted, reporters were chased from the homes of patients and their families and friends, for their aggressive and insensitive manner. She also recommended that journalists needed specialist training opportunities.

In response to participants' questions, Juuko reminded the audience that the role of journalists was not only to provide information but also to protect their sources. She gave the example of a wife who was upset by an insensitive report on her husband dying of AIDS.

Participant Linda Wamboka commented that stigma was less of an issue in Uganda than it used to be because the government had taken the lead in identifying AIDS as a problem that needed to be tackled openly. As a result, there is good general awareness of HIV/AIDS, but even so, people still needed to be shocked into realizing that AIDS is still a problem. Juuko noted that in contrast, in South Africa, AIDS is still considered a taboo. "People think AIDS is for prostitutes and that it can't happen to them."

Participants then divided into four groups to discuss who is the information gatekeeper in their organization, and how can they influence the gatekeeper to allow more HIV/AIDS reporting.

Group 1 recommended that there be HIV/AIDS workshops especially for editors, as well as for reporters, to promote greater interest in HIV/AIDS stories. New information was needed for providing "fresh stories", and greater access to ICT. Group 1 also suggested that having a sponsored column in a newspaper could help to provide greater coverage of HIV/AIDS. Some felt that this would compromise editorial independence, while others argued that this problem could be solved through negotiation, and by insisting upon having journalistic freedom within an agreed theme.

Group 2 recommended that journalists consider different story sources and angles, including using as subjects, HIV/AIDS patients and family members, health workers, community organizations, government organizations and councilors. They also highlighted the positive influence of becoming a specialized HIV/AIDS reporter (often achieved through self-interest or working for a specialist organization), and the importance of developing rapport with communities affected by HIV/AIDS, and with editors. Communicators should also develop rapport with scientists, to encourage communication about new developments. Another approach would be to consider juxtaposing the role of traditional doctors, many of whom claim to have cures and draw local people with stories about scientific developments. Reporters could consult with orthodox medical doctors for balance when reporting.

Group 3 recommended the development of stories around new statistics and trends, and the importance of featuring "positive" stories that engender a sense of hope. "Negative" shock stories about HIV/AIDS would only sell stories in the short term, and give rise to the kind of image that predominates in the West of an African continent full of starving and dying people. Positive self-images of Africa are important.

Group 3 also suggested going beyond the contents of a press release to find deeper and alternative information, to discuss potential stories first with the editor, use ICT for background information, and to look for credible sources of information for verifying claims. Insisting on a clear editorial brief, including the angle and number of words of a story, could save disappointment later about excessive editing of a story.

Journalists also need to ensure that stories are sufficiently well written for an editor to accept without further editing. Good training would help further to bring confidence about writing skills.

Group 4 agreed with many points already raised, and in addition suggested that journalists needed to develop new and interesting ideas for stories, and look to new sources of information and ideas, including by subscribing to media alerts, and by getting training in specialist areas.

c. Private discussions on “Coping in the workplace: How to fight discouragement” (Wednesday 9 April and Thursday 10 April)

Following from private discussions, participants presented Julie with the following statement:

“The women communicators decided to form a network called the Media Network for African Women Communicators. The objectives of the network would be to:

- Exchange ideas on what is happening in the different countries and regions in Africa;
- Expose communicators to more conferences, such as science and ICTs conferences;
- Expand training and have a workshop on the science of HIV which could produce a ripple effect through participants becoming trainers of trainers;
- Brainstorm on story ideas and encourage scientifically-based stories;
- Develop a database containing scientific information;
- Promote the science of HIV/AIDS in the media;
- Promote the use of ethics and appropriate language among media owners and publishers;
- Promote the right of communicators to have access to ICTs;
- Support the development of ICTs and publishing skills for the dissemination of global information;
- Lobby relevant official players to develop specific models for ICT-based communication;
- Encourage NGOs and donors to sponsor programmes and airtime in the media;
- Develop an African Charter on Broadcasting at the UN summit on the Information Society 2003;
- Assess annually the progress of workshop participants in overcoming obstacles.”

Participants also recommended that in order to overcome workplace obstacles, reporters should think of new ways to re-package and sell stories to editors. HIV/AIDS stories may be side-lined for many reasons, including the sudden appearance of a new political story, or lack of interest from the editor – for example in January many editors are reluctant to give space to HIV/AIDS stories following a December splash for World AIDS Day. Participants recommended finding new angles or topical pegs to re-sell stories again in February. To overcome the influence of sponsors, particularly on radio airtime, journalists should try to influence more the choice of subject matter and sub-content.

d. Networking and support

The participants were unanimous in their desire to form a discussion group for instant communication to each other and for sharing regional and country specific information. They also expressed a strong wish for new workshops devoted specifically to providing training on HIV/AIDS science. Julie Clayton (trainer) noted the idea, and also suggested that an interim measure might be to arrange for groups of journalists to make their own country-level arrangements for visiting a research facility to meet scientists, learn more about current research projects, and the underlying scientific facts and principles.

4. HIV/AIDS Science

a. Seminar and discussion on HIV vaccine trials (Tuesday 8 April)

Pontiano Kaleebu of the Uganda Virus Research Institute introduced the strategy and science behind the vaccine trials of IAVI, a venture capitalist-funded organisation whose mission is to produce an affordable HIV vaccine for the developing world. Kaleebu recommended to participants that they take time to understand the science, and that they should never ‘switch off’ from paying attention to the details. He

stressed that a vaccine against HIV would be the most cost-effective way of controlling epidemics, and explained the term "preventive vaccine" to mean a vaccine that is given to non-infected people to prevent infection or disease, giving as examples vaccines against polio and measles.

The key to a vaccine's success is that it contains fragments of a bacteria or virus that the body's immune defences learn to recognise as foreign, forming a 'memory' of the encounter, so that if a person later becomes infected with the real organism, it will be swiftly 'recognised' and destroyed. Vaccines today come in many forms: some are live but weakened, or 'attenuated', such as for tuberculosis and measles, and some contained killed organisms, such as for polio, mumps and typhoid.

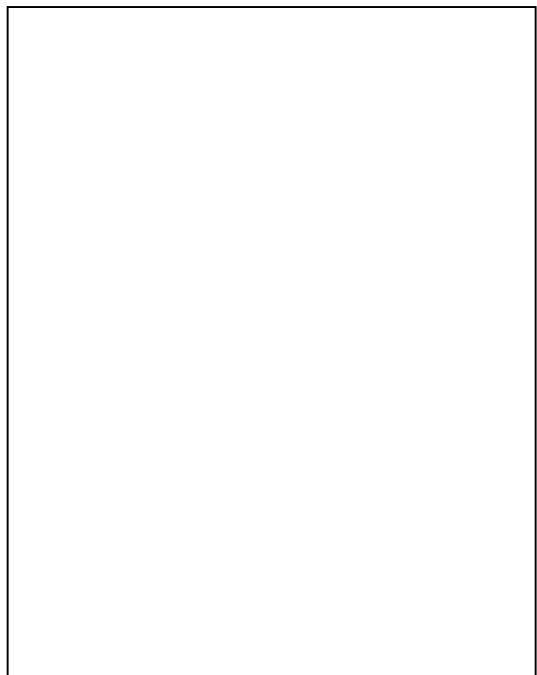
The road to a vaccine takes many years, beginning with a pre-clinical phase, involving tests in animals, followed by progression to clinical trials in human volunteers, through phase I safety trials (usually done in around 50 volunteers at low-risk of HIV infection); then phase II immunogenicity trials, to test the strength and nature of the immune response elicited by the vaccine (in 100 – 200 low-risk individuals); and finally phase III efficacy trials, which assess the success of a vaccine at protecting against infection (involving thousands of volunteers). So far, around 80 phase I and II trials of experimental HIV vaccines have taken place, or are ongoing, around the world, but only 3 involve Africa. To move forwards, said Kaleebu, people from the same ethnic background and environment as the intended targets for future vaccination should be involved in the clinical trials. Only one phase III trials has reach completion, in the US and Canada (the VaxGen trial which in February 2003 was announced to have produced disappointing results), while a second is still ongoing in Thailand. Some workshop participants had heard of the VaxGen trial results, and one had written about it.

There are many challenges to developing an HIV vaccine – scientific, ethical, social, political and financial. Focusing on scientific and ethical challenges, Kaleebu told participants that scientists still have only a poor understanding of what is needed for immunity against HIV. Studies on a group of sex workers who have been exposed to HIV but have remained resistant to infection, for example in Nairobi, are helping to provide some insights into what a protective immune response may entail. The IAVI vaccine currently being tested in a phase I clinical trial in Uganda has been designed according to clues provided by these sex workers.

Similarly, 'long term survivors' – people who have become infected with HIV but have survived for 15 or more years without showing signs of ill-health – are also providing scientists with ideas about how to construct vaccines against HIV. Kaleebu and others in Uganda are also investigating 'discordant couples' in which one partner of a couple is infected, while the other partner remains uninfected, despite multiple episodes of exposure to HIV through unprotected sexual intercourse. From these and other studies, it is clear that HIV virus infection does not spread, or transmit, from one person to another at every exposure. Transmission occurs more easily from man to woman, than from woman to man, which indicates that women are at greater risk of HIV infection. The amount of virus in the body – known as 'viral load' – also affects the likelihood of transmission from one person to another.

Vaccine trials involve many ethical issues, including the need for written consent by volunteers. Community education and individual counselling plays a vital role in paving the way for this, by helping volunteers to understand what the trial is about, and how the vaccine is intended to work. A question that vaccine trial designers currently face is what the lower age limit should be, and whether babies should also be included in future trials.

Following good clinical practice is important, including monitoring of individuals and the provision of care if



something goes wrong. A big issue currently facing vaccine trial researchers and doctors is how to treat volunteers who become infected with HIV during a vaccine trial. Further questions are the ownership of a vaccine – who should have proprietary rights for a vaccine produced in one country, for example, but tested in another. Many pharmaceutical companies are not attracted to the idea of investing in vaccine research because they foresee little financial return on their investment. IAVI aims to overcome some of these issues by working with other partners, including the Ugandan Government, and in Kenya, the University of Nairobi, with a view to sharing intellectual property rights between IAVI and the countries where vaccines are tested. In 5 or 6 years time, IAVI hope to have a trial underway in China.

Uganda's first HIV vaccine trial took place in 1999, and was a phase I trial involving 40 volunteers. A second phase I trial is now being conducted at the UVRI and in Kenya, and involves a different composition and dose range. Plans are now underway for testing a 'perinatal vaccine' that can be given to the babies of HIV-infected mothers, which may begin later this year. IAVI is now also a member of a larger umbrella organisation, the African AIDS Vaccine Programme.

b. Visit to the Joint Clinical Research Centre, Kampala [Thursday 10 April]

The participants visited the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC), Uganda's premier treatment center for HIV infection, with a tour hosted by JCRC Director Peter Mugenyi. They saw the laboratories where first-rate scientific research and monitoring of HIV-infected patients takes place, and the clinic area where patients from all over Uganda and other East African countries are treated with some of the latest anti-retroviral drugs. The center also caters to patients with other diseases, such as tuberculosis.

Mugenyi was pleased to reveal that all equipment and facilities in the laboratories was purchased through international grants obtained through peer-reviewed competition, rather than through donor money. JCRC was the location for Africa's first HIV vaccine trial, in 1999, sponsored by IAVI, and also Uganda's first site for treatment with anti-retroviral drugs.

In the past, misunderstandings have arisen over the nature of research at the clinic, where blood cells taken from human volunteers are sometimes deliberately infected with HIV to understand the biology of the virus, rather than people being infected with HIV! Laboratory staff take all necessary safety precautions, including the wearing of masks, gloves, and protective clothing, and using specially covered 'Flow hood' work cabinets in which air is circulated so as to keep any air-borne pathogens inside the cabinets.

Tuberculosis is a major research focus of JCRC, because it is now the fastest spreading infection among HIV-positive people. "It is probably killing as many people as other complications of AIDS altogether", Mugenyi told participants. The JCRC collaborates with laboratories at other locations, including the University of Makerere and the Uganda Virus Research Institute. One of its roles is to test and monitor for resistance to drugs used for treating HIV infection.



JCRC Director Peter Mugenyi talks to workshop participants.

The centre has no independent income for funding drug treatment, and patients have to pay. Mugenyi has negotiated, however, for the cheapest possible costs for anti-retroviral drugs. This he did initially by importing so-called 'generic' drugs – alternatively produced versions of the expensive drugs produced by Western pharmaceutical companies which are sold at far lower cost by producers who are willing to bypass patents held on original drugs. Subsequent to taking this move, Western pharmaceutical companies lowered the costs of their drugs in order to match the costs of generic drug producers, and

Mugenyi now takes their supplies instead. At the original high prices, only 800 patients a year could afford the \$12,000 that it cost for treatment. Now Mugenyi is treating more than 6,000 patients at a cost of around \$22 per month. In total, JCRC has seen more than 60,000 patients.

Mugenyi stressed, however, that no patients are cured with these treatments, counteracting the myths that participants said they sometimes encounter, of people who claim their HIV infection has disappeared after treatment. Antibody tests will always reveal a person's infection with HIV, but what can happen, is that the level of virus present can fall to below detectable levels in the blood, with treatment. The virus, however, still resides in the body, particularly in other tissues. Even so, a person is still infectious. Mugenyi also refuted the myth that eating too much food fuels the levels of virus in the body, saying that "anybody who's ill needs good food" for a healthy immune system to fight other infections.

Mugenyi is now trying to set up HIV/AIDS clinics in every provincial hospital in Uganda, particularly as 80 to 85 per cent of the population live in rural areas. Patients also come to JCRC from Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania, and pay the same costs as Ugandans. All research at JCRC first gains the approval of ethical and other regulatory committees, to avoid exploitation. Mugenyi also lamented the lack of awareness elsewhere in the world of the scale of the HIV/AIDS problem in Africa. "27 million Africans are infected with HIV. That's like killing the whole of Baghdad every second. But it's less graphic than the Iraq war. People return to their villages to die. It's not seen."

5. Journalism Skills

a. Reporting on the Science of HIV/AIDS: Choosing an angle, developing an HIV/AIDS story, and using appropriate language that avoids stigma (Tuesday 8 April)

Charles Wendo introduced participants to elements of HIV/AIDS science reporting. Scientists and journalists have a symbiotic relationship, he said, in which journalists gain tips and interviews, as well as learning about research and information, while scientists gain raised profiles among the public, are able to disseminate information about their work, and are held more accountable. Conflicts do arise, however, over the definition of what makes news, writing style, fear that journalists may distort stories, and the time frame from interview to reporting – particularly if work is unpublished.

Charles stressed the importance of understanding the science, so as to be able to identify news stories, anticipate developments, ask sensible questions, save time, and put a story in context. "Science is amazing and interesting but poor teaching makes it look difficult and boring". He also provided some brief scientific facts about HIV/AIDS, the definition of a virus, the structure of HIV, the type of cells of the immune system that make up the body's defences against HIV (and which are susceptible to infection). The possible newsworthy elements of HIV/AIDS research were suggested to be research results – such as for vaccine trials and new treatments, reports, such as surveillance, policy announcements and official statements on scientific issues, and profiles of scientists. For interviewing scientists Charles recommended that journalists: be armed with basic interviewing skills, be prepared to make the extra effort to break the ice if a scientist appears shy, ask reasonable questions, be persistent with questions until information is properly understood, and be ready to handle requests from scientists to read the copy before publication.

Joan Mugenzi discussed alternative story angles for HIV/AIDS, such as social aspects – the roles of health workers, doctors, community workers, patients' families and friends. Joan then facilitated a discussion on stigma and appropriate terms to use when reporting on HIV/AIDS. Participants divided into two groups. Group 1 was asked to consider: 1) what are the main complaints that people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA) raise about the media in relation to stigma; 2) Are they genuine; 3) How can these objections be overcome? Group 2 were asked to consider 1) how reporters can influence their media houses to use more sensitive language when reporting about PLWA; 2) whether journalists should either

use a common language code, or instead have the freedom to exercise self-regulation; and 3) practical solutions.

Group 1 answered that the main complaints from PLWA were that headlines and stories were often sensational and scare mongering rather than analytical, and that journalists exploited people by refusing to share payment for a story. Payment may be justified, some suggested to sex workers who lose income through time spent in interviews with journalists. Others argued that journalists should look elsewhere for new interviewees rather than give in to demands for payment. PLWA were often stigmatised by being portrayed as sexually promiscuity. Group 1 recommended that reporters develop an ethical code, get to know the background and circumstances of PLWA, and portray PLWA in a positive light, rather than as "victims".

Group 2 suggested that in order to influence media organisations to report more on HIV/AIDS, journalists should attend international conferences, write "positive" stories, talk to scientists for new story ideas and angles, and look for HIV/AIDS angles in other stories – a practice known as "mainstreaming" – to avoid stigma. In Kenya, non-government organisations regularly invite newspaper editors to attend monthly breakfast meetings so that they can get to know NGO interests and language. In Uganda, in contrast, there is no policy for media editors to meet regularly with NGOs.

Group 2 argued against the adoption of a language code and preferred instead the idea that journalists should exercise self-regulation and be flexible and sensitive to new trends. It was important also to alert editors and sub-editors to changes in acceptable language, such as using the term "sex workers" instead of "prostitutes", and to check sub-edited copy before publication. Internal guidelines and editorial meetings were another suggested way to influence the use of appropriate language. Group 2 also called for better training of journalists and the production of manuals containing guidelines about ethical reporting in relation to different themes (for example HIV and women, HIV and children, HIV and science). Each of these areas represents a unique aspect of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and provides new story ideas and angles.

b. Developing an HIV/AIDS story (Wednesday 9 April)

Joan Mugenzi led a discussion on different possible story angles, including on HIV/AIDS vaccine research, how to find new sources, which sources to trust, and how to verify claims. Joan presented examples of her own reporting on HIV/AIDS science, placing emphasis on the human angle of stories, and the need to be alert for unexpected story leads. On one occasion, for example, Joan had attended a seminar and a casual remark by one investigator saying that she was the first person to deliver an injection of an HIV vaccine in Africa led to Joan pursuing her story and profiling her in a health page feature. Both Joan and her colleague Charles Wendo have made considerable effort to build up rapport with scientists involved in vaccine trials, beginning first with an introductory visit that was not to request stories or information but simply to express and interest in reporting on vaccine research in future, followed by follow up visits and telephone calls.

Participants discussed at length the need to verify the claims of some people that they are HIV-infected, such as to ask to see proof of test results and contact details of doctors, as well as to ask specific questions about illnesses. There are notorious cases of people making claims now widely believed to be false, and for women to claim that they are rape victims, for example, so as to get free anti-retroviral drugs, funded by donor organisations. Another issue raised was whether reporting about faith healers and traditional doctors would convey the wrong message to readers that these provided legitimate treatments and even cure for HIV infection. One suggestion was to balance stories with comments from orthodox scientists and doctors about what evidence there may or may not be supporting such claims.

Finally, participants agreed strongly that there was a need for more workshops devoted specifically to teaching about HIV/AIDS science, which was echoed by Joan Mugenzi from New Vision. Joan also suggested, however, that to counteract the knowledge gap journalists could ask scientists for basic information and explanations, and develop and build an interest in particular subjects.

c. Visit to Straight Talk Radio (Wednesday 9 April)

Workshop trainer Julie Clayton accompanied two participants, Jovita Mirembe and Sofia Duba Halake, on a visit to Straight Talk Foundation, hosted by radio producer Annette Kyosiimire, where we were able to listen to clips of the Straight Talk Radio shows. Annette explained the aims and scope of Straight Talk Radio, to promote good health and safer sex messages to youth and adolescent children between the ages of 10 to 19. In particular, the radio programmes are designed to reinforce the messages in the monthly Straight Talk and Young Talk newspapers, to reach adolescents who cannot read English and who have no access to Straight Talk or Young Talk newspapers. According to a recent Uganda Demographic and Health survey, radio reaches 70 per cent of the population.

The 25-minute weekly programmes are currently aired on 11 FM radio stations throughout Uganda, and are translated into local languages. Newsletters are also produced in local languages to accompany the programmes, particularly in an attempt to reach those without access to radio, especially girls, who often find themselves restricted to the kitchen, and who may be shy about talking about sex. Presenters are young (usually 20 – 25 years old) and therefore more likely to be in touch with youth issues, and young people contribute ideas and interviews to the programmes. Once a month, the programmes also feature question and answer sessions with doctors, counsellors or qualified health providers. As a result of these and other media activities, Straight Talk Foundation has found that some young people have dropped multiple sex partners, more are seeking information about voluntary counselling and testing, more are reporting abstinence or condom use, and more young people know about transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Straight Talk Foundation also promotes the activities of "Straight Talk" Clubs in schools, where students gather to discuss relevant issues, and to act as peer-counsellors to others.

6. Brainstorming (Friday 11 April)

Joan Mugenzi, Julie Clayton and Nicholas Abola facilitated a brainstorming about how participants would like to make use of their workshop training. Participants listed the way forwards as:

- Creation of a newsletter between journalists interested in HIV/AIDS reporting;
- Publication of articles with SciDevNet;
- Further development of journalism skills for finding fresh angles on stories, and creative ways of writing;
- Develop a database for background information;
- Exchange story ideas and seek advice via the group network;



Participants during a brainstorming/discussion sessions

- Find sources of equipment - participants asked whether or not UNESCO or SciDevNet might fund the provision of computers to enable women communicators for greater access to ICTs;

7. Basic and applied ICT skills

a. Basic ICT skills training

Nicholas Abola introduced participants the basic features of websites, including search engines, and provided practical exercises and guidance on how to use a search engine such as <http://www.google.com> to find information on "HIV and nutrition". Participants also discovered how to sign up for email alert with AEGIS.com, via <http://www.thebody.com>

b. Internet treasure hunt

Julie Clayton discussed with participants a recent South African political story about the appointment of a government minister with controversial views on the link between nutrition and AIDS, and whether or not HIV is the cause of AIDS. Julie then guided participants through an alternative way to general search engines for finding information on the link between HIV/AIDS and nutrition using websites that specialise as gateways to HIV/AIDS information, such as <http://hivinsite.com>, where participants could search a resources database using the term "HIV and nutrition". Then participants followed links to obtain information from the Food and Agricultural Organisation on Food and Nutrition, including a report published jointly with the WHO titled "Living well with HIV/AIDS". Participants also did a separate search at HIVinsite.com to find resources on "evidence that HIV causes AIDS", including a link to a page of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) website titled "Focus on the HIV/AIDS connection", on which they could access a fact sheet titled "the evidence that HIV causes AIDS", including reference to the basic criteria for disease causation being the fulfilment of Koch's postulates.

c. Search engines and online databases

Nicholas introduced participants to information databases, such as Medline and HepNet, and practical exercises for finding relevant scientific and medical publications by specific named authors, contact details of individuals, eg via Google search engine (for example Pontiano Kaleebu, of IAVI). Participants also searched for HIV vaccine information through Google, and were recommended to look further at the IAVI website.

d. Email alerts, downloading and cutting and pasting information from the internet

Nicholas and Julie guided participants through the skills of signing up for email alerts with SciDevNet and AfAIDSInfo. Participants also practiced cutting and pasting information from the internet, from html pages and word documents, and also from pdf documents, and downloading and saving pdf files. Later, Nicholas guided participants on how to sign up to a group email address at <http://www.coollist.com> (womencomm@coollist.com)

e. Searching online databases on HIV/AIDS drugs and vaccines

Nicholas and Julie guided participants on how to access and search recommended databases of information and contact details for clinical trials of HIV vaccines and drugs (eg websites of IAVI <http://www.iavi.org> and HPTN, the HIV Prevention Trials Network <http://www.hptn.org>) and also calendars of international meetings.



f. The Use of Information Graphics to Disseminate Information about HIV/AIDS

Juliet Nsiima and Joan Mugenzi of New Vision led a session on the use of information graphics to disseminate information in both print and visual media. An additional plan to teach simple techniques on magazine/newspaper layouts had to be abandoned for technical reasons.

Juliet started the session by asking which participants had seen or used information graphics. As several participants responded that they had not, Juliet decided to demonstrate the basic usefulness of information graphics, that they are a visual presentation of statistics, mainly by bar, line graphs or pie charts. She suggested how to spot the potential for using graphics with a story by looking for statistics and making sure that the numbers tally – eg percentages should add up to roughly 100 per cent (99% to 101%). A graphic with wrong statistics is a failure!

Juliet also warned about the need to stick to reliable sources of statistics because they tend to get challenged by readers. She recommended that graphics be kept simple, and without too much scientific information. "If I cannot understand it, then the readers will not". If a graphic is to be detailed, the reporters and editors should create the space to accommodate an enlarged graphic, to avoid it becoming illegible. Juliet discussed the need to 'humanise' graphics to create "the face behind the statistics", and to learn when to use black and white or colour graphics appropriately. When possible, local human models should be used in photographic images to impress upon readers that the statistics affect them directly. It does not make sense, she asserted, to use Caucasian models in African newspapers, or use an offensively dressed woman in an Islamic community.

g. SciDev.Net recommended resources

Julie Clayton and Nicholas Abola allowed time in 3 separate sessions for participants to get acquainted with SciDevNet's own recommended HIV/AIDS resources (<http://www.scidev.net/hivworkshop/resources>), with links to information on HIV vaccines, background facts and information, and other resources. Julie also gave each participant a CD-Rom containing a selection of resources on HIV/AIDS science that participants would look at during the week, as well as a floppy disk for participants' own use, and hard copies of recommended websites and selected reports.

8. Participant Feedback

Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire at the end of the workshop, to give their feedback on the usefulness of the workshop. A full workshop evaluation is to be produced at a later date, but in summary, the majority of participants found the workshop extremely valuable, describing it as "exciting", "interesting" and "a real eye-opener".

The sessions on ICT skills and HIV/AIDS science were particularly novel and useful for participants, and while most participants also thoroughly enjoyed the sessions on journalism skills and gained many new insights from these, they recommended that in future more time be allocated to more in-depth coverage of HIV/AIDS science, in particular. Participants said that they had greatly enjoyed the outside visit to JCRC, where the insights were "fascinating".

Participants were unanimous in finding the resources, particularly the CD-rom containing reports and background information on HIV/AIDS science invaluable for their future work. The guidance on signing up to email alerts, the use of HIV/AIDS information portals on the internet, such as <http://www.hivinsite.com>, and search engines and online HIV/AIDS-related databases for finding contact information, were particularly valuable sessions.

Participants also greatly enjoyed the graphics session, and would like to have had more opportunity to learn practical skills, such as image processing, and also layout and design, for example to produce a newsletter.

Appendix 1: Workshop Programme

SUNDAY 6 April

8 – 10pm Evening welcome and dinner at University of Makerere guesthouse.

MONDAY 7 April

9.30am – 11am Welcome ceremony - with Basoga Nsadu, Uganda Minister for Information (now deceased), David Dickson of SciDevNet, Alonso Aznar of UNESCO East Africa, and Grace Bantebiya, Dept. Women and Gender Studies, U.Makerere.

11.30am – 12.30pm "Getting to know you" Icebreaker

12.30 - 1pm The week ahead: HIV/AIDS science, journalism skills and ICT skills.

2 – 3.30pm Basic ICTs skills [Nicholas]: Introduction to websites and search engines.

4 – 4.30pm Introduction to HIV/AIDS Information Sources [Julie]

4.30 - 5.30pm Internet treasure hunt [Julie]: using HIV/AIDS information portals.

5.30 – 6.30pm Basic ICT skills [Nicholas]

TUESDAY 8 April

9.30 – 1pm Panel discussion "Information Gatekeepers: whose job is it anyway?"
Chaired by Sarah Ossiya from Panos Eastern Africa office, Kampala

1 – 1.30 pm Part 1 of HIV/AIDS Journalism skills [Charles Wendo and Joan Mugenzi]

3 – 4.30pm Seminar and discussion on the IAVI HIV vaccine trials with Pontiano Kaleebu from UVRI, Emmanuel Mugisha, and Leslie Nielsen

4.50 – 6pm Part 2 of Journalism skills with Charles Wendo and Joan Mugenzi: stigma and appropriate terms to use when reporting on HIV/AIDS

6 – 6.30pm Review of the day, hand-outs, and recommendations for further reading.

WEDNESDAY 9 April

9.00 – 10.30 am Use of Information databases, Medline and HepNet [Nicholas]

11am – 12.30pm Journalism skills: how to develop an HIV/AIDS story [Joan Mugenzi]

12.30 – 1pm HIV terminology, glossaries and background information [Julie].

3 – 5pm Choice: Session on the use of Graphics and images about HIV/AIDS [Juliet Nsiima and Joan Mugenzi], or Visit to Straight Talk Foundation.

- 5.30pm to 6.15pm** **Use of SciDevNet resources**
(<http://www.scidev.net/hivworkshop/resources>)
- 6.15 – 7pm** **Review of the day: Participants were asked to say what they had learned so far, and to set their own agendas for Thursday and Friday.**
- 7.30** **Dinner and private discussion amongst participants on “Coping in the workplace: How to fight discouragement and networking”.**
- THURSDAY 10 April**
- 8.30 – 10.30 am** **Basic and applied ICT skills**
- 11am – 12noon** **Further exploration of HIV/AIDS resources on the SciDevNet website**
- 2.45 – 3.15pm** **Brainstorming: coping in the workplace, networking and support [Julie]**
- 4 – 6pm** **Visit to Joint Clinical Research Centre, Kampala [Dr Peter Mugenyi]**
- 6.30 – 7.30pm** **Advanced ICT skills: Signing up for group email**
- FRIDAY 11 April**
- 8.30 – 9am** **Email skills**
- 9.15 – 10.40am** **PERI, a scheme for the free-access to scientific and medical journals for developing and transitional countries [Presca, U.Makerere].**
- 11am – 12noon** **Online databases on HIV/AIDS drugs and vaccines [Nicholas and Julie]**
- 12noon –1.45pm** **Brain storming and workshop evaluation [Joan, Nicholas and Julie]**
- 1.45 onwards** **Departure**



Peter Mugenyi, JCRC Director, shows participants anti-retroviral drugs.

Appendix 2: Workshop Trainers

Nicholas Abola is a librarian at the University of Makerere, with specialist skills in information and communication technologies, including the internet. He regularly conducts ICT training sessions and has attended several ICT awareness and electronic resources access workshops. *Email:* nicabola@yahoo.co.uk

Julie Clayton began her professional life in immunology research before embarking on a career as a freelance science journalist 12 years ago. She has worked for the journal Nature as a science writer and immunology manuscript editor, as an assistant producer for the BBC on television documentaries, and has also written for New Scientist magazine and a number of other journals and websites, including news and features on HIV/AIDS. *Email:* Julie.p.clayton@blueyonder.co.uk

Joan Mugenzi has been a features writer for New Vision newspaper since 1997, focusing mainly on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, women and education issues. She has also attended several media training workshops on HIV/AIDS reporting in the past two years. *Email:* jmugenzi74@yahoo.com

Juliet Nsiima is a graphics illustrator for New Vision, Uganda's leading daily newspaper, where she has worked on a number of HIV/AIDS projects with Joan Mugenzi and Charles Wendo. *Email:* jnsiima@newvision.co.ug

Charles Wendo is Science Editor at New Vision, covering health (particularly HIV/AIDS), agriculture, environment and other science-related issues. He also writes freelance for SciDevNet and the Lancet, and is Secretary of the African Regional Advisory Panel for SciDevNet. *Email:* cwendo@newvision.co.ug

Additional Speakers

Angelo Izama is a radio producer and journalist for 93.3 FM radio station, producing a flagship morning show called The Eye Opener. He writes for Monitor newspaper on business, finance and the economy, and is Health and Development Networks (HDN) correspondent on HIV/AIDS and microbicides

Richard Baguma, Producer and Head of Programs for Radio Uganda and Uganda TV, and head of the Uganda Broadcasters Forum,. He has also worked for the Panos Broadcasting Pluralism Project in Eastern Africa, and is a program analyst and information officer for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Betty Kagoro, an editor for Straight Talk Foundation, a health communication NGO that targets young people age 10 - 19. The foundation produces the popular Straight Talk and Young Talk monthly supplements of New Vision that focus on adolescent reproductive health and HIV/AIDS safer sex messages. It has contributed greatly to sensitizing youth about the realities and responsibilities of growing up healthily.

Sarah Ossiya, acting HIV/AIDS program coordinator of Panos Eastern Africa, which covers eight Greater Horn of Africa countries with a three year strategy to address issues of stigma, ownership and accountability in the response to HIV/AIDS through media initiatives. Sarah has a Ph.D. in Natural Resource Management, extensive research experience, and has worked with community radio. She is also the Coordinator of the Pastoralist Communication program of Panos Eastern Africa.

Edward Mukiibi, The AIDS Care Organisation (TASO) a local NGO was founded in 1987 by a group of 16 community volunteers, most of whom were directly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The mission of TASO is to contribute to a process of restoring hope and improving the quality of life of persons and communities infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Appendix 3: Workshop Participants

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Appendix 4: Documents distributed on CD-ROM

HIV/AIDS Research and Contacts in East Africa

Comprehensive Programme of International Research on AIDS (CIPRA)
Funded by National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Division of AIDS, Office of International Research, including the Collaborative AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), Planning for Randomized Controlled Trials of Antiretroviral Therapy in Lusaka, Zambia, HIV Vaccine Trial Site Development for Zambia, HIV Clinical Trials Sited Planning in Northern Tanzania, ARV Therapy for MCTH Prevention and Treatment in Zimbabwe.

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov>

The Journal of Infectious Diseases 2003; 187:887–95

Cao, H., et al: "Immunogenicity of a Recombinant Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)–Canarypox Vaccine in HIV-Seronegative Ugandan Volunteers: Results of the HIV Network for Prevention Trials 007 Vaccine Study"
Authors include Pontiano Kaleebu of the Uganda Virus Research Institute

Harvard AIDS Institute

"Annual Tidings", December 2002

Newsletter containing a summary of research studies on HIV clade C at the Harvard AIDS Institute

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hai/>

Uganda AIDS Commission Secretariat

"Twenty years of HIV/AIDS in the world: evolution of the epidemic and response in Uganda", June 2001

<http://www.aidsuganda.org>

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

"Directory of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS", July 2002

www.usaid.gov

World Health Organisation

"Directory of African Regional Representatives"

www.afro.who.int/download/wr.pdf

Glossaries, Fact Sheets and Background Information on HIV/AIDS

American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR)

"Facts for Life", 2001

and "AmFAR Glossary A-Z"

www.amfar.org

Center for AIDS Development Research and Evaluation (CADRE)

"HIV/AIDS and the Media: a Literature Review", Johannesburg, South Africa, April 2001

www.cadre.org.za

Hesperian Foundation

"HIV, Health and Your Community: a Guide for Action", 2001

www.hesperian.org

HIV InSite

Knowledge Base Chapter "Molecular Insights into HIV Biology", February 2003

www.hivinsite.com

HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Services, National Institutes of Health
"Glossary of HIV-AIDS Related Terms", September 2002,
www.hivatis.org

IAVI AIDS Vaccine Glossary
www.iavi.org

International Center for Research on Women
"Community Development and the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS", report 2002
"Addressing HIV-Related Stigma and Resulting Discrimination in Africa: A Three-Country Study in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Zambia", ICRW Information Bulletin March 2002
www.icrw.org

New Mexico AIDS InfoNet
Fact Sheet Number 103 "Acute HIV Infection"
www.aidsinonet.org

Panos Institute
"Critical Challenges in HIV Communication", Perspective Paper, November 2002
www.panoslondon.org.uk

Population Reference Bureau
Population Bulletin vol 57 no.3: "Facing the HIV/AIDS Pandemic", September 2002
www.prb.org

Science Working Group of the Microbicide Initiative
"The Science of Microbicides: Accelerating Development", a report funded by the Rockefeller Foundation
www.rockfound.org

Southern African AIDS Information Dissemination Services (SafAIDS)
"HIV and AIDS Surveillance", fact sheet
www.saf aids.org

Soul City: Institute for Health and Development Communication
"HIV/AIDS: a resource for journalists", produced in partnership with the South African National Editors' Forum, Health-e and the Department of Health
www.soulcity.org.za

South African Medical Research Council
"Scientists and the Media: attitudes to, and experiences of, reporting their findings to the public". Learning Brief 2002/3, published with Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED).
www.mrc.ac.za and www.cohred.ch

Southern African HIV/AIDS Dissemination and Information Service
News for December 2002,
www.saf aids.org.zw

UNICEF Fact Sheet "Mother to Child Transmission", February 2002
UNICEF Fact Sheet "HIV and Infant Feeding", September 2002
www.unicef.org

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division
"HIV/AIDS Awareness and behaviour", New York, 2002
<http://www.unpopulation.org>

News reports on HIV/AIDS

"Dirty needles" and the VaxGen trial

SciDev.Net Comment "When hype undermines hope" about the media reaction to recent claims by researchers about the possibility that HIV/AIDS in Africa is spread by contaminated needles, and results of the VaxGen HIV vaccine trial released in February 2003. Also included: copy of WHO press release of 14 March 2003, arguing against the "dirty needles" hypothesis.

www.scidev.net

HIV/AIDS Statistics

AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)

"Drugs in Development: New Promise", and "HIV Life Cycle", Update, vol 12 no.1, Winter 2002/3

www.acria.org

Canadian AIDS Society and Health Canada

"A Guide to HIV/AIDS Epidemiological and Surveillance Terms", 2002

www.cdn aids.ca and <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/hast-vsmt/index.html>

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and World Health Organisation

"AIDS Epidemic Update December 2002"

UNAIDS Epidemiological Fact Sheets "HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections: Uganda", 2002 Update

www.unaids.org and www.who.ch

USAID

The Synergy Project: "What Happened in Uganda?: Declining HIV Prevalence, Behaviour Change and the National Response" 2000

www.usaid.gov

Training Manuals

African Women's Media Center

"Reporting on HIV/AIDS in Africa: a Training Manual"

www.awmc.com/pub/p-4680/e-4681/ch-6730

BBC Training and Development

"Your Guide to Better Searching on the Net"

www.bbc.co.uk

International HIV/AIDS Alliance

"100 Ways to Energize Groups: Games You Can Use in Workshops, Meetings and the Community", 2002

www.aidsalliance.org

Inter Press Service

"Gender, HIV/AIDS and Rights: Developing a Training Manual and Module for the Media", Expert Group Consultation report, 20 – 22 February 2002

"How to Report on Gender, HIV/AIDS and Rights: Training Workshop for African Journalists", Johannesburg, September 22 – 24, 2002
IPS Manual "Gender, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: a Training Manual for the Media" 2002
www.ipsnews.net/hivaids.asp

SciDevNet's "How Do I?" series: "How do I become 'media savvy'?", "What Makes News News", and "Writing a press release"
www.scidev.net

UNAIDS
The Essential Handbook "Radio and HIV/AIDS: Making a Difference: a Guide for Radio Practitioners, Health Workers and Donors", 1999
www.unaids.org

Drugs Against HIV/AIDS

Access Working Group of the Microbicide Initiative
"Preparing for Microbicide Access and Use", a report by funded by The Rockefeller Foundation
www.rockfound.org

Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) July 10, vol 288 no 2, 151-3
"Cheaper HIV drugs for developing nations brings a new challenge: monitoring treatment"

JAMA July 10, vol 288 no 2, 153-4
"Mother to Child-Plus programme has two goals: end maternal HIV transmission and treat mothers"

New Mexico AIDS InfoNet
Fact Sheet Number 404 "New drugs against HIV: new classes of drugs", August 2002
Fact Sheet Number 430 "Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors in development, January 2003
Fact Sheet Number 403 "New drugs against HIV: protease inhibitors", August 2002
Fact Sheet Number 402 "New drugs against HIV: reverse transcriptase inhibitors", December 2002
Fact Sheet Number 405 "New drugs against HIV: immune stimulators", December 2001
www.aidsinonet.org

HIV Vaccines

AIDScience Vol. 1, No. 13, October 31, 2001
Laurence Peiperl: "Progress toward an AIDS vaccine: Prospects for protective immunity"

Annu. Rev. Med. 2002. 53:207–21
Graham, B: "Clinical Trials of HIV Vaccines"
Barney S. Graham

British Medical Journal 2002;324:211–3
Makgoba, MW, Solomon, N, and Tucker, TJP: "The Search for an HIV Vaccine"

British Medical Journal Vol 324, 26 January 2002

Mugerwa, RD, et al and the HIV-1 Vaccine Trial Group: "First trial of the HIV-1 vaccine in Africa: Ugandan Experience"

www.bmj.com

HIV Vaccine Trials Network

"Scientific Agenda: Phase I/II Committee"

"The Road to an HIV Vaccine", 2001

www.hvtn.org

IAVI Report

"Working together: the global search for an AIDS vaccine", An Anthology of IAVI Report Articles, July 2002

"When Will an AIDS Vaccine be Found? And The State of Global Research"

"Accelerating AIDS Vaccine Development and Testing", November 2002

IAVI Clinical Trials Watch

"Ongoing Preventive Trials of HIV Vaccines", March 2003

www.iavi.org

Science, 29 November 2002 Vol 298

Gallo, R, and Montagnier, L. "Prospects for the Future", Historic Essay

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/298/5599/1730

World Health Organisation Executive Summary

"State of the world's vaccines"

www.who.int

HIV/AIDS Resources on the Internet

News, international meetings calendars and reports, sources of HIV/AIDS images, general information on HIV/AIDS, fact sheets and glossaries, HIV/AIDS research, general research, vaccines, prevention of HIV/AIDS (non-vaccine), ethical issues, scientific and medical literature, media training

<http://www.scidev.net/hivworkshop/resources/>