

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON

HIV & ADOLESCENCE

CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS 2020

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA • 28 - 30 NOVEMBER

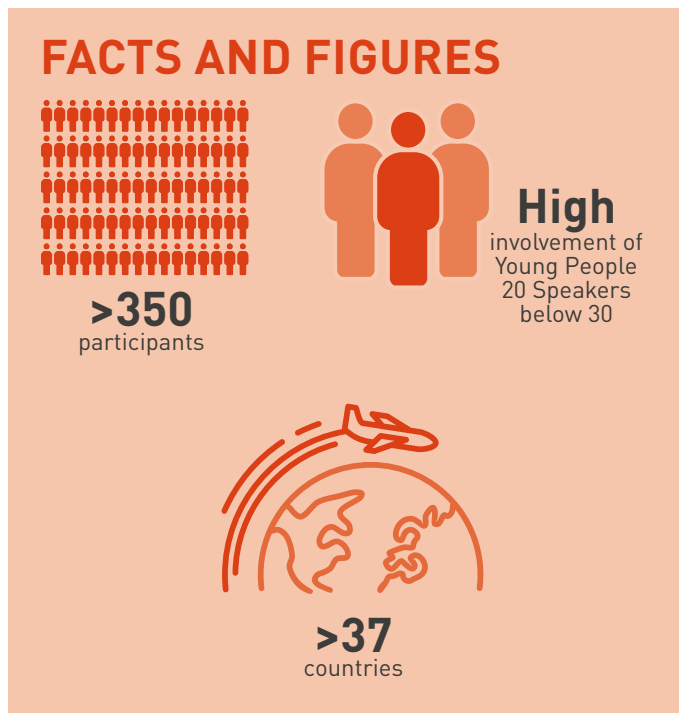


MEETING PROSPECTUS



INTRODUCTION

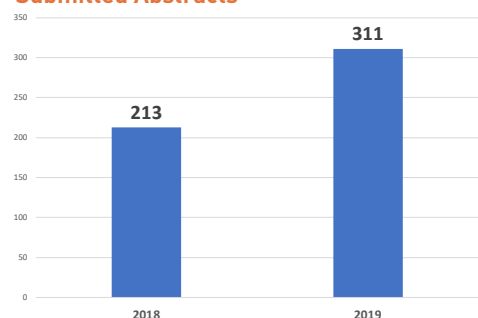
The **International Workshop on HIV & Adolescence** is a key platform that brings together researchers, implementers, young people, programmers, advocates, NGO representatives, and other stakeholders working with adolescents affected by and living with HIV. Through developing collaborations and solutions, this workshop aims to optimize the health and overall well-being of all adolescents.



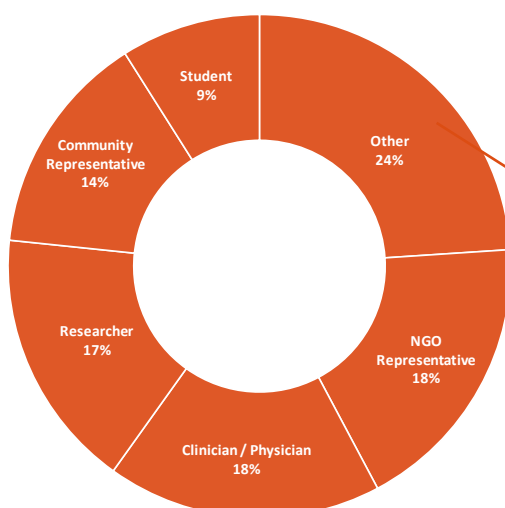
• UNIQUE MEETING FEATURES:

- Focus on adolescence across the **whole cascade**;
- **Key evidence** from programs that provide services and interventions for adolescents;
- Over **30%** of the attendees are **under the age of 30**;
- High **community involvement**;
- Brings together **all stakeholders** in the field of HIV & Adolescence;
- A **market place** for organizations to showcase their work in the field of HIV & Adolescence;
- **Skill-building sessions** to foster interactive participatory learning;
- **Daily highlight newsletters** for people that cannot attend - in collaboration with UNICEF; and
- The **Youth Reference Group (YRG)** - A group of young people who advise the organizing committee on the program and format as well as lead on youth focused content.

Submitted Abstracts



PROFESSIONAL ROLE



Programmer, Pharmacologist
Corporate Representative, Health
Administrator, Laboratory Manager
Patient, Media Representative,
Nurse and Government Representative



Message from our chairs

We are looking forward to the **4th International Workshop on HIV & Adolescence**, to be held on 28 November - 30 November 2020 in Windhoek, Namibia. Adolescents are disproportionately affected by HIV and there is a growing need for a focused platform on adolescent health, prevention, and treatment to assist programmers, providers, researchers, and advocates in optimizing the overall health and well-being of adolescents.

Globally, adolescents account for 1 in 7 new HIV infections, with 250,000 new HIV infections in 2017 of which 68% are among adolescent girls (UNAIDS). The overall number of adolescents and young people is predicated to grow, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, by 42% by 2030 (United Nations). As countries experience this 'youth bulge', if the coverage of HIV prevention services remain static, more adolescents will be at risk of acquiring HIV. The medical advances that have transformed HIV treatment into a manageable disease have yet to alter the stark reality for young people, particularly in low to middle-income countries and young people within key populations. Even as AIDS-related mortality has decreased overall in recent years, AIDS-related deaths among adolescents have risen by 50%. AIDS, in other words, is far from over - especially for adolescents. Every effort must be made to engage and retain adolescents in care so they can improve and maintain their health for the long term.

At major meetings, advances in HIV management focuses mainly on either adults or children, often leaving out this critical group within its response - adolescents. Additionally, other platforms are severely limited in bringing together stakeholders across the whole adolescent HIV cascade from prevention, to testing, to treatment, and to care. To meet this need for international exchange to bring the field forward, we have established the International Workshop on HIV & Adolescence: challenges and solutions. This workshop is set up as an inclusive summit for multidisciplinary experts working with and for adolescents affected by HIV. The objective is to share experiences, knowledge, and best practices with the aim of defining a pathway forward for optimizing services for adolescents at risk of acquiring HIV and those living with HIV. Using an ecological framework, the program places adolescents in the center while covering a spectrum of their developmental changes including social, behavioral, physiological and biological aspects, and the impact of living with HIV.

The workshop brings together important stakeholders including young people to explore cross-cutting issues such as service delivery approaches, scaling up interventions, youth leadership and engagement, biomedical interventions and clinical management, communications and behavior change, mental health and psychosocial support, and more. In all, the structural and systematic barriers encountered in delivering these services and ways to mitigate these barriers shall be key focus during the workshop.

Izukanji Sikazwe & Kanengo Zoe Nakamba
Regional Chairs 2020
Alice Armstrong and Linda Gail-Bekker
Workshop Chairs



#HIVAdolescence

#YouthInAction

Chairs



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NEEDS STATEMENT

There are an estimated 1.8 million adolescents living with HIV globally with an additional 250 000 new infections occurring among adolescents in 2017 (UNAIDS).

Furthermore, adolescents and young people account for 40% of all new HIV infections each year, making them the drivers of the epidemic. The number of adolescents living with HIV has risen by 28% between 2005 and 2015 while those dying due to AIDS-related illness tripled in the same period. Adolescents are the only age group with an increased death rate. AIDS is now the second leading cause of death among young people worldwide.[1,2]

Significant data gaps exist in the knowledge of HIV among adolescents and young people. This is particularly due to a lack of involvement of adolescents in clinical trials, challenges in obtaining parental approval for their involvement in surveys, as well as a lack of age appropriate questions. Where data does exist, limited sample sizes and lack of disaggregation limits the available evidence to sufficiently inform programming initiatives. In part because of these gaps, adolescents and young people are often missing from national HIV strategic plans, particularly interventions beyond Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV(PMTCT).[3,4] Young people are particularly vulnerable to HIV transmission. The vulnerability is increased through multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and structural inequality as well as unprotected sex with multiple sexual partners, early sex debut, older partners, and being part of key populations [2,5,6]. Evidence indicates that there is a significant lack of HIV services, along with deplorable access to and coverage of ART for adolescents living with HIV. They are at a higher risk of follow-up loss, less likely to adhere to ART and require increased psychosocial support [Auld et al, Grimsrud et al, Hudelson et al, Ngoksin et al].

Adolescents are undergoing developmental changes that can have a great impact on how they engage with health services and treat their own health. These factors may negatively impact their health-seeking behavior and also intensify already existing negative experiences with using health services. This trend makes it even more important to focus on developing greater adolescent-focused solutions to improve services along the HIV cascade, from prevention and testing, to care and psychosocial support. In light of this, there is an undeniable need to considerably strengthen research, programming, policy, advocacy, and collaboration between the stakeholders leading these areas.

Target Audience

An array of stakeholders from all regions who work with and for adolescents. This workshop aims to attract the following delegates:

- Clinicians and other HCP's involved in care of HIV infected Adolescents;
- Researchers;
- Adolescents and youth;
- Policy makers;
- Programmers;
- Implementing partners;
- Community representatives; and
- (Non-)Government representatives.

Estimated Number of Physical Participants

100

Estimated Number of Virtual Participants

150

Target region

Global

[1] P. Idele et al., "Epidemiology of HIV and AIDS Among Adolescents," JAIDS J. Acquir. Immune Defic. Syndr., vol. 66, pp. S144–S153, 2014.

[2] Avert. H. and A. Avert, "Young people at school The medical advances that have transformed HIV treatment have yet to alter the stark reality for young people , particularly in low to middle-income countries , such as those in sub-Saharan Africa , and young people within key popul."

[3] UN World Health Organization, "HIV and Adolescents: Guidance for HIV Testing and Counselling and Care for Adolescents Living with HIV: Recommendations for a public health approach and considerations for policy-makers and managers," WHO Publ., p. 100, 2013.

[4] UNAIDS, "Active involvement of young people is key to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030."

[5] E. Toska, L. D. Cluver, M. E. Boyes, M. Isaacsohn, R. Hodes, and L. Sherr, "School, Supervision and Adolescent-Sensitive Clinic Care: Combination Social Protection and Reduced Unprotected Sex Among HIV-Positive Adolescents in South Africa," AIDS Behav., vol. 21, no. 9, pp. 1–14, 2016.

[6] C. Kuo et al., "Developing family interventions for adolescent HIV prevention in South Africa," AIDS Care, vol. 28, no. sup1, pp. 106–110, 2016.



To find solutions, it is of vital importance to provide a platform for interaction and discussion between the research community, healthcare providers, implementers, policy makers, and the young people themselves. To get an overall stronger HIV response that will reach this target population, meaningful youth engagement is of utmost importance. Youth involvement and leadership at all levels of research, trial design, implementation, scale-up, advocacy, evaluation, policy, guideline development, and more, will help to improve research and program outcomes. This approach is the only way forward to achieve a impactful, sustainable, and effective response to HIV. To catalyze and strengthen these much-needed developments, the 4th edition of the groundbreaking International Workshop on HIV & Adolescence will take place in 2020.

Meeting Objectives

The overall objective of the HIV & Adolescence Workshop is to share experiences, knowledge, and best practices with the aim of defining a pathway forward for optimizing services for adolescents at risk of acquiring HIV and those living with HIV. Specific objectives include :

- Facilitating the meaningful engagement of adolescents;
- Explore research design solutions for adolescents, including the use of program data;
- Translate the latest research results into best practices to optimize interventions and services for adolescents;
- Identify evidence-based practices that can be translated into programs, policy, and guidelines;
- Highlight the importance of bridging the gap between research and implementation;
- Share experiences with taking innovations and interventions to scale; and
- Stimulate networking and the formation of collaborations.

Learning Objectives

After attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the challenges and barriers faced by adolescents affected by and living with HIV, including systematic and structural barriers;
- Identify effective strategies for youth engagement and leadership to improve health services, implementation of programs, and research;
- Summarize the latest research on new therapeutics and innovative services and their potential impact on adolescent health;
- Describe ways to scale up interventions, and improve the quality and sustainability of programs;
- Identify the need for psychosocial support and how to implement interventions to improve mental health services for adolescents and young people affected by and living with HIV;
- Discuss the role of technologies and mHealth for improved communication and engagement of adolescents and young people in health services; and
- Reflect on how to address challenges and barriers in their own setting along the whole HIV cascade from prevention, testing, and treatment, to care and support.



THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPERTS

HIV & Adolescence 2020 proudly collaborates with a large number of international [and local] experts in the field of HIV and adolescence. By working together with our extensive global network of experts from various backgrounds in the field, we can ensure to design and deliver the most relevant and state-of-the-art program.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The members of the Organizing Committee (OC) are carefully selected experts and inspirational leaders in their respective fields. They come together on a frequent basis to develop a scientific program tailored to the needs of healthcare professionals in the field. Furthermore, they identify clinical cases and research projects within their organizations/network and review and select abstracts. They actively participate as session chairs and join the Q&A sessions, discussions, and debates during the meeting.



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YOUTH REFERENCE GROUP

The Youth Reference Group (YRG) consists of young people from key networks and organizations. They come together on a regular basis to advise the organizing committee on the program and the workshop format, as well as leading on youth focused content. Their aim is to maximize meaningful youth engagement in the workshop.



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This will be the fourth edition of this highly successful, interactive workshop. This 2.5-day international workshop will be organized in **both face-to-face and virtual format**. Like last year, the workshop will be abstract-driven and will be guided by cross-cutting themes in the field of adolescent health and HIV care. Each session will include one invited plenary session on a key issue in the field, followed by abstract presentations, debates, and discussion. Sessions will be led by two chairs, one an experienced implementer, researcher, or healthcare provider; and the other a young person. Each discussion panel or debate will include young people to ensure their expertise and opinion is incorporated into each discussion. To further improve youth engagement and leadership we will devote a day to skill-building workshops specifically designed by young people for young people to foster interactive participatory learning. We will also host a market place during which organizations can share their tools, publications, and other materials. This has proven to present an excellent networking platform to share ideas, exchange knowledge and lessons learned, and form new collaborations.

Virtual participants can attend all plenary sessions during the event dates. Skill-building sessions are available for physical participants only. All participants can freely access the enduring materials after the event.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions, the format of the 2020 edition of the conference will be adapted to enable the participation of international speakers and audiences who are unable to travel to the meeting location. The program will offer a hybrid-learning approach by combining live and virtual components. Lectures given by international speakers, who cannot attend the meeting in person, will be pre-recorded and broadcasted during the live event. This will be followed by a livestreamed Q&A session during which speakers will be available online in real time. They will also take part in livestreamed roundtables in real time to further enhance interactivity. In a similar way, the audience can choose to join the meeting in person or virtually. The major part of the program will be livestreamed. Interactive platforms for real time Q&A sessions, chat rooms, and roundtables will provide an immersive experience to the virtual audience. Importantly, the virtual format is a cost-effective solution that prompts knowledge dissemination notably (*in Resource-Limited settings or) among younger investigators who would otherwise need financial support to travel.

In this way, we aim to deliver the much-needed program regarding HIV and Adolescence in an optimal and convenient manner to all participants, reducing risk to their personal as well as public health, and circumventing challenges imposed by the current global pandemic. The blended workshop is anticipated to attract a broader audience, far beyond the conference walls, and thus increase the reach and educational impact of the program.



Meaningful Youth Engagement

A key feature of this workshop is the active and meaningful engagement of young people in the development and planning of the workshop, specifically the scientific program. Young people form part of the organizing committee with one of our chairs being an adolescent from the local community. Furthermore, a dedicated Youth Reference Group (YRG) of young people from key networks and organizations across all regions come together on a regular basis to advise the organizing committee on the program and the format as well as lead on youth focused content.

This concerted effort to facilitate youth engagement makes this workshop a unique platform for discussion between researchers, implementers, and young people. To further foster youth engagement, this workshop has incorporated several unique elements:

- Youth involvement in every session;
- At least one young person as co-chair, and at least one young person sharing their experience, research, and input in every session;
- Skill-building sessions focused on young people;
- An additional 0.5 day leadership session for adolescents and young people;
- Free registration for young people under 25 and a 50% discount for young people under 30;
- Travel grants for young people to attend the workshop; and
- Local youth volunteers.

Youth leadership day - Youth In Action

The first workshop day will be devoted to skill-building sessions to enhance the leadership skills of adolescents and young people. The sessions will be designed and given by young people for young people, and will aim to reach a local and international audience of adolescents and young people to pass on skills, knowledge, and confidence to engage and collaborate with researchers, implementers, and policy maker. The program of this day will consist of youth led discussion panels and interactive skill-building workshops





Reach and Impact

Together with the Youth Reference Group we plan to develop channels to share the content and discussions from the workshop with a broader audience; this way, we increase the reach and impact of the workshop. Through social media, live streaming, and reporting from the workshop; we aim to involve more stakeholders (including young people) even if they cannot attend the meeting. We will publish all presentations and videos from the meeting with a global audience to promote and support the workshop goals.

Encouraging Research Through Recognition

This year, we aim to introduce two awards in this workshop:

1. Young researcher award

We will honor the best presentation (oral or poster presentation) of a young researcher (up to 25 years) given at the workshop.

2. Youth engagement award

We will honor the best presentation or research design for the involvement of adolescents, how they were engaged, which strategies and methods were applied, how were youth themselves involved in developing these strategies.

The awards will be given by the Organizing Committee after careful selection and according to set criteria to evaluate the accepted abstracts. They will be announced on the last day of the workshop

Enduring Materials

To further increase the impact of this workshop, the invited lectures given at this workshop will be freely accessible and widely disseminated to reach thousands of virtual participants beyond the walls of the conference center.

Professionals will be able to watch videos of the presentations given and download slide decks from our professional online platform www.academicmedicaleducation.com. Infectious Diseases Online is a premier online platform offering scientific materials in specific topic areas and proceedings from conferences. Visitors of the website will have full access to:

- Abstract Books;
- Meeting Reports;
- Workshop Presentations; and
- Webcasts





OUTCOME EVALUATION

To assess and evaluate the outcomes of this workshop, **Virology Education** provides each delegate with a detailed feedback form in which they can anonymously assess the speakers, the relevance of each lecture, whether or not the meeting objectives were met, their intent to change, the rationale behind their motivation to attend, the general organization of the meeting, and much more. We encourage participants to share their ideas and suggestions for future conferences, as well as their educational needs, in order to further improve the program and ensure that it matches the needs of participants.

All the questions are then fully analyzed and a comprehensive report is created and shared with the committee members. These reports help us to better understand the needs of our delegates and how to further improve the conference in the future. For a maximum response rate, we invite the chairs of each session to encourage the participants to take a few minutes and complete the feedback forms. We are also introducing a web-based application to allow participants access to the feedback forms electronically.

In addition to the on-site evaluation of the workshop, we also evaluate the registration, abstract submission, and scholarship process. We ask delegates to fill in short questionnaires that help us to improve all processes including registration, abstract submission, or grant application. We are committed to continuously improving the overall conference experience and the scientific and clinical impact of our conferences.

We also assess knowledge and incorporate quizzes into the conference sessions. This serves to further engage participants in the conference and the content, while also giving us insight into participants' level of background knowledge. We are moving towards incorporating more pre- and post-test quizzes in order to assess knowledge increase in the coming years.

Expected Outcomes

We aim to measure and enhance the impact of this workshop through:

- Measuring intent to change and analyzing ways to increase it
- Sharing meeting videos and presentations with a wide global audience and measuring reach (number of views, downloads, etc.)
- Measuring knowledge increase through pre- and post-tests

“ We are committed to continuously improving the overall conference experience and the scientific and clinical impact of our conferences. ”



This meeting has been previously supported by:

Johnson & Johnson



Previous endorsers include:

ANOVA
HEALTH INSTITUTE





SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Hybrid conferences such as the **HIV & Adolescence Workshop** allow participants to experience our educational programs either in person or virtually and produces more opportunities for our supporters to interact with our audience. By supporting **HIV & Adolescence Workshop**, you can connect with clinicians and researchers from academia, research institutes, and GOs/NGOs in the field of HIV during adolescence, both face-to-face and online. By merging in-person communication and virtual elements, the hybrid conference format is an optimal solution in light of the current circumstances.

Why supporting is beneficial to your organization:

- REACH NEW AUDIENCES – Gives you opportunities to network and share your company message with a broader audience via virtual or in-person participation;
- PARTICIPATE CONVENIENTLY – Join and contribute to this educational initiative from home or in person; and
- MEET YOUR GOALS – Interact with participants and organizations in your target audience from across the globe.

We are pleased to provide the following opportunities and benefits to further your business. Get in touch with us to discuss a custom package or find out more about these support opportunities.

Exposure*

- Recognition via banner on high-traffic registration and meeting webpages;
- Pre-event recognition via attendee email communications;
- Acknowledgment prior to and during livestreamed sessions;
- On-site recognition via banners, flyers, and in the program book;
- Your logo on our monthly newsletters, delivered to thousands of opt-in subscribers;
- Recognition on our social media channels;
- Opportunities to produce video content embedded onto the meeting website to be viewed by our participants;
- Logo recognition on (e-)conference bag; and
- Opportunity to organize a private dinner with meeting faculty.

Contribute to the Program*

- Opportunities to organize a symposium or event before, during, or after the meeting; and
- Complimentary attendance as a (virtual) participant and join in on discussions.

Exhibition*

- Opportunity to organize a virtual or physical exhibit; and
- Interact, chat, and share information through 1 on 1 conversations with participants using our virtual exhibition platform.

* Dependent on the sponsorship level

Other benefits are described under various sponsorship levels.

Scholarships

The scholarships provide young people and healthcare professionals with the opportunity to attend the event physically or virtually that they would otherwise be unable to attend due to financial restrictions. All applications include a CV, a motivation letter, and invited to include an abstract submission as part of the application. These are submitted via an independent scholarship application portal and are evaluated against defined assessment criteria using a robust, impartial and independent peer review process. This process ensures that the most qualified candidates will receive scholarships.

The grants are supported by the financial contributions allocated by our sponsors. A review committee of selected experts reviews scholarship applications in an independent and rigorous process. Priority is given to applicants who have actively participated in original research or scientific work that is being presented at the meeting and/or those who will profit most from participating in order to improve their daily clinical management.



VIROLOGY EDUCATION



With over 20 years of experience, **Virology Education** is a leading provider of innovative scientific and educational programs worldwide. Our programs provide excellent platforms for scientific exchange, education and knowledge-sharing tailored to the needs of healthcare professionals in the fields of infectious diseases, pharmacology, liver disease, and more. Our activities include the initiation and organization of real-time and online platforms for international exchange, knowledge-sharing and education for medical professionals. We have developed long-standing collaborations with world-reknowned experts and work together with other important stakeholders to achieve the greatest impact for our programs and to provide top quality scientific content. Our programs range from international abstract-driven workshops to small- and large-scale educational series, masterclasses, advisory boards, expert roundtables, satellite symposia, and more.

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More than 50 programs are planned for **2020** in more than **20 different cities** around the globe! 13+ online activities planned for 2020.



OUR IMPACT IN 2019

46 programs | 6330 participants | 2230 accepted abstracts
35% of participants were Clinician/Physicians | 25% were researchers
86% of the respondents agreed that attending our program was beneficial for their patients