



INTEREST WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA • 1 - 4 DECEMBER 2020

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIV TREATMENT,
PATHOGENESIS, AND PREVENTION RESEARCH
IN RESOURCE-LIMITED SETTINGS

MEETING PROSPECTUS



INTRODUCTION

The International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research in Resource-Limited Settings (INTEREST Conference) brings together 500-700 scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research in Africa to share pivotal findings, promote collaboration, and transfer experiences across several fields and many continents. The pressing need for a scientific platform is demonstrated by the increasing number of participants every year, as well as the number of abstracts submitted.

PARTICIPANTS

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Country	Zimbabwe	Cameroon	Malawi	Rwanda	Ghana
Participants	400	474	506	599	690

UNIQUE MEETING FEATURES:

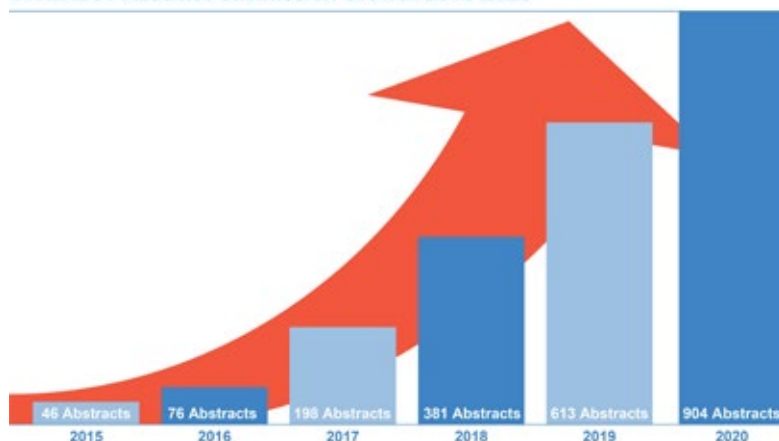
- High community involvement
- Meet-the-expert lunches
- Daily sessions for early career investigators: the *Joep Lange research career guidance session* and the *grantspersonship session*
- Themed poster discussions

The INTEREST Conference is co-founded by the late Professor Joep Lange of the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD) and Professor Charles Boucher of Virology Education. It's co-organised annually by AIGHD and Virology Education.

Abstracts

"Over the years, we have seen a steady increase in the number of abstracts submitted. This speaks to the important platform INTEREST provides to the HIV research and scientific community, and particularly to young researchers who often present their work here for the first time" *Professor Catherine Hankins, Scientific Chair*

INTEREST Abstract Submission Growth 2015-2020



Young Investigators

- All abstract presenters with an accepted abstract receive complimentary registration. In 2019, 245 abstract submitters received a complimentary registration.
- All oral and mini-oral presenters receive travel and accommodation to attend the conference.
- The highest scoring abstract is awarded the Joep Lange Award to support the next generation of researchers in Africa. The winner is announced on the final day of the Conference and receives a scholarship to attend the next INTEREST conference.



WELCOME MESSAGE

It is our great pleasure to announce the 14th edition of the **International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research in Resource-Limited Settings (INTEREST 2020)** to be held from December 1-4 in Windhoek, Namibia.

Known as the “African CROI”, **INTEREST** brings together scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research in Africa to share pivotal findings, promote collaboration, and transfer experiences across several fields and many continents. **INTEREST** showcases cutting-edge knowledge in the fields of HIV diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV-1 infection. It aims to build a community of African physicians and scientists who will discuss implementing local solutions for the management of patients living with HIV-1 infection and for the prevention of HIV transmission.

The **INTEREST** Conference is now a recognised fixture in the HIV conference calendar. It focuses on HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention in resource-limited settings, particularly in Africa. Young researchers and established international HIV experts share original research and state-of-the-art reviews on a wide range of HIV-related topics. The conference offers lectures, abstract-driven oral and poster sessions, debates, and meet-the-expert lunches. In addition to poster discussions and other early morning sessions, two sessions are held daily for early career investigators: the *Joep Lange research career guidance session* and the *grantspersonship session*.

We look forward to seeing you in Namibia!

Catherine Hankins and Elly Katabira
Conference Chairs 2020



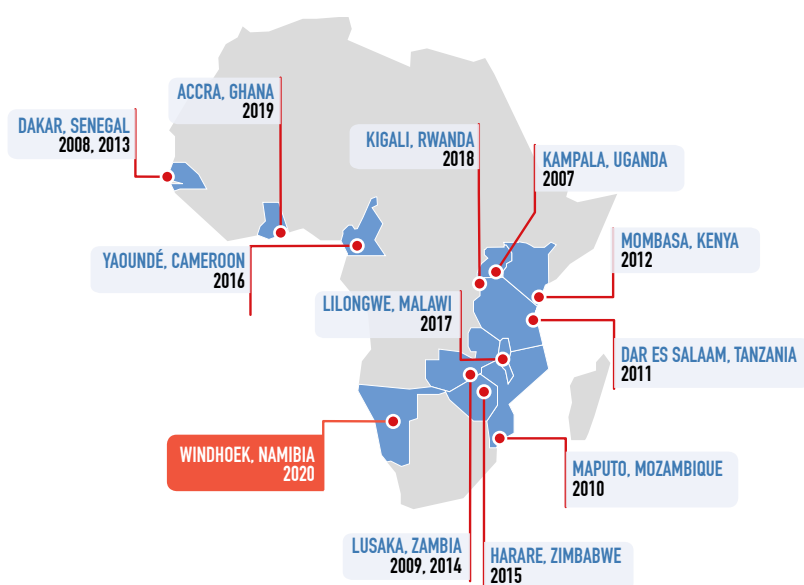
CHAIRS



Catherine Hankins
MD, PhD, FRCPC, CM
Amsterdam Institute
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Elly Katabira
MD, FRCP
Makerere University
College of Health
Sciences,
Uganda





NEEDS STATEMENT

The **INTEREST Conference** focuses on issues of particular relevance for the African continent and offers young researchers the opportunity to present their data. The size of the conference and the atmosphere facilitates discussion and interaction between participants. Thirteen successful conferences have been convened since **INTEREST's** inception; in Uganda, Senegal (twice), Zambia (twice), Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Malawi, Rwanda, and Ghana.

The conference has been held annually, bringing together between 500-700 global and regional experts in HIV research each year.

Meeting Objectives

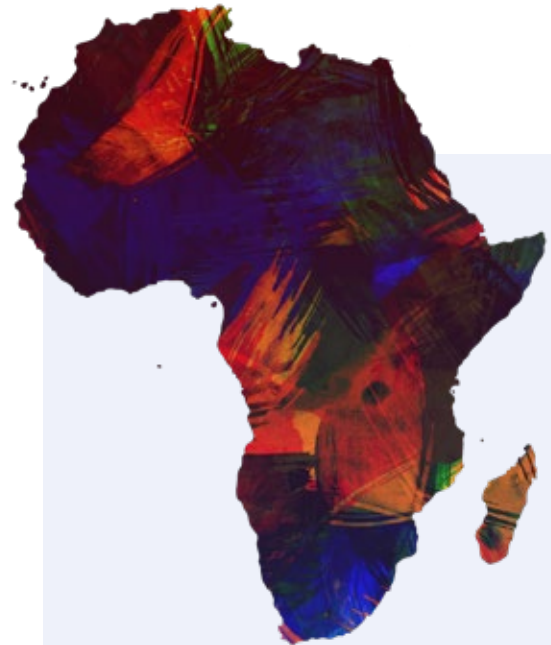
The **INTEREST Conference** aims to:

- Provide cutting-edge knowledge in the fields of treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention of HIV-1 and related infections and chronic conditions
- Exchange ideas on how to provide and support HIV testing services and clinical care provision to adults, adolescents, and children living with HIV in Africa to achieve 90-90-90 goals
- Foster new research interactions among leading investigators and those who represent the potential future scientific leadership of healthcare and research on the African continent
- Expand our focus on capacity building and implementation science
- Offer a unique platform to discuss issues of particular relevance to the African continent
- Provide a forum for high-level scientific interchange on developments that will improve the prevention of HIV infection and care for people living with HIV in Africa
- be a critical element for strengthening the African community and forging new collaborations to advance the scientific research agenda

Learning Objectives

After attending the conference, the participants will be able to:

- Summarise the most recent findings in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research
- Describe the social determinants of health and HIV risk in order to contribute optimally to national, local, and individual HIV prevention strategies
- Summarise current guidelines and policies, as well as innovative programmes across the continent that are addressing HIV
- Recognise challenges in the screening, monitoring, and diagnosis of patients living with HIV and be able to integrate the latest scientific results into daily clinical care to improve the quality of life of individuals living with HIV



Target Audience

- Researchers and clinicians involved in HIV treatment and care
- Medical students/Master's and PhD students
- HIV programme planners
- Policymakers
- Advocates

Estimated Number of In-person Participants

150

Estimated Number of Virtual Participants

500

Target Region

Africa



WORLD'S LEADING EXPERTS

The **INTEREST Conference** proudly collaborates with a large number of international and local experts in the field of HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research in resource-limited settings. By working together with our extensive global network of experts from various backgrounds in the field, we can design and deliver the most relevant and state-of-the-art programme.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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



**Linda-Gail Bekker,
MBChB, FCP, PhD**
Desmond Tutu HIV
Foundation/ University
of Cape Town,
South Africa



**Charles Boucher
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Erasmus Medical
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**Elizabeth Bukusi,
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Guido Ferrari, MD
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**Pierre-Marie Girard,
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Kampala, Uganda



**Elly Katabira
MD, FRCP**

Makerere University
College of Health
Sciences,
Uganda



**Ismael Katjitae,
MD, Mmed**

National Technical
Advisory Committee of
the HIV/AIDS response
Namibia



**Peter Kilmarx
MD, FACP, FIDSA**

Fogarty International
Center NIH,
United States



**Nagalingeswaran
Kumarasamy, MD**

YRG Centre for
AIDS Research and
Education,
India



**Anna Laura Ross,
PhD**

UNITAID,
France



**Chewee Luo
MD, PhD**

UNICEF,
United States



**Timothy Mastro, MD,
FACP, DTM&H**

FHI 360, University
of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill,
United States



Anne-Marie Nitscke

Ministry of Health and
Social Services,
Namibia



**Sam Phiri
DCM, MSc, PhD**

Lighthouse,
Malawi



**Kwasi Torpey
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Sciences,
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**Coumba Touré Kane,
PharmD, PhD**

Laboratoire de
Bactériologie-Virologie
CHU Le Dantec, Dakar
University,
Senegal



François Venter, MD

University of the
Witwatersrand,
South Africa



Stephen Watiti, MD

Mildmay Hospital,
Kampala,
Uganda



EMERITUS GROUP

The members of the Emeritus Group (EG) have been involved in the [INTEREST Conference](#) for many years. The members of the EG assist the ICC by providing them with suggestions for speakers and topics.

- **Serge Eholié, MD, PhD** – CHU de Treichville, University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- **Grace John-Stewart, MD, PhD** – University of Washington, United States
- **Saidi Kapiga, MD, MPH, ScD** – Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit (NIMR)/LSHTM, Tanzania / United Kingdom / United States
- **Sinata Koulla, MD** – Ministry of Health, Yaoundé, Cameroon
- **Richard Koup, MD** – Vaccine Research Center, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), United States
- **Sabin Nsanzimana MD PhD** – Rwanda Biomedical Center, Rwanda
- **Anton Pozniak, MD** – Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Imperial College of London, United Kingdom
- **Helen Rees, MD** – WITS Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (WRHI), University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- **Mauro Schechter, MD, PhD** – Federal University Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- **Robert Schooley, MD** – University of California, United States
- **Stefano Vella, MD** – Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy
- **Debrework Zewdie, PhD** – CUNY School of Public Health and Public Policy, United States



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The 3.5-day regional conference will be organized in **both face-to-face and virtual format**. **INTEREST** will have 3.5 days of plenary lectures on HIV prevention and treatment presented by world renowned and upcoming invited speakers, oral abstract presentations, debates, roundtable discussions, and poster sessions. There are meet-the-expert sessions and research capacity-building meetings with ample time allocated to Q&A and discussion in order to foster an interactive conference.

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 conference in person or virtually. All plenary sessions will be livestreamed. Interactive platforms for real time Q&A sessions, chat rooms, and roundtables will provide an immersive experience to the virtual audience. In this way, we aim to deliver the much-needed program 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 hybrid conference is anticipated to attract a broader audience, far beyond the conference walls, and thus increase the reach and educational impact of the program.

Format

- Keynote lectures
- Symposia
- (Mini-)Oral abstract presentations
- Grantspersonship
- Poster presentations
- Themed poster discussions
- Meet-the-expert
- Debates
- Joep Lange career guidance

Topics Highlights

- Bidirectional linkages between HIV and the climate crisis
- What's next on contraception and HIV: policy, practice, and research?
- Public-health licensing and access to medicines in Africa.
- The latest on new antiretroviral formulations and monoclonal antibodies for HIV prevention
- Challenges in HIV management
- Implementation Science to inform policy and programming
- Innovative clinical outreach for community health care (ECHO)
- Implementation Science: An African Perspective
- Neglected hepatitis in Africa
- Tuberculosis state-of-the-art
- Incarceration, human rights, and HIV
- User perspectives for HIV prevention and contraception
- What's new on Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV

Enduring Materials

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

Professionals will be able to watch videos of the presentations given and download slide decks from the conference website www.interestconference.org.

Visitors of the website will have full access to:

- Abstract Books
- Meeting Reports
- Conference Presentations
- Webcasts



OUTCOME EVALUATION

To assess and evaluate the outcomes of this conference, **the INTEREST organisers**, provide 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 organisation of the conference, 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 programme and ensure that it matches the needs of participants.

All the questions are then analyzed and a comprehensive report is created and shared with the ICC members. These reports help us to better understand the needs of our delegates and how to further improve the conference. 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 conference, we also evaluate the registration and abstract submission processes. We ask delegates to fill in short questionnaires that help us to improve all processes, including registration, and abstract submission. We are committed to continuously improving the overall conference experience and the scientific and clinical impact of the conference.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In the last edition of this conference, **96%** of participants reported they intend to incorporate the new information into their clinical practice.

We aim to measure and enhance the impact of this conference 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.)



This meeting has been previously supported by:



GILEAD

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ViiV HEALTHCARE IN HIV



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Previous endorsers include:





SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Hybrid conferences such as [INTEREST](#) 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 [INTEREST](#), you can connect with clinicians and researchers from academia, research institutes, and GOs/NGOs, 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 organisation:

- 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 1on1 conversations with participants using our virtual exhibition platform.

Scholarships

To make it possible for healthcare professionals from different regions, levels and backgrounds to be able to attend our conferences, we have developed a grant-based system through which we can independently support delegates. Through supporting our scholarship system, you and other pharmaceutical industry partners help us to ensure the selection of healthcare professionals that will most benefit from attending our conferences, and thereby guarantee a relevant audience and a higher impact of our conferences.

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.

* Dependent on the sponsorship level

Other benefits are described under various sponsorship levels

AIGHD



The **Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD)** is an interdisciplinary research institute focused on global health research, education, and policy. To realise its vision of 'access to high quality health care for all', AIGHD closely collaborates with its global network of public and private sector implementing partners and organisations. AIGHD links the expertise, resources, and programmes of organisations involved in health-related research, education, capacity building, and policy-making to bring a delivery perspective to health research and a quality aspect to health care services. With its partners, AIGHD is pioneering innovative approaches to the delivery, financing, and improvement of health care in resource-limited settings.

VIROLOGY EDUCATION



With over 20 years of experience, **Virology Education** is a leading provider of innovative scientific and educational programmes worldwide. Our programmes 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 organisation 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 programmes and to provide top quality scientific content. Our programmes range from international abstract-driven workshops to small- and large-scale educational series, masterclasses, advisory boards, expert roundtables, satellite symposia, and more.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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