



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UCSF SYMPOSIUM CONSIDERS BIOMEDICAL APPROACHES TO HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

New and emerging biomedical approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention will be the focus of a daylong symposium on February 24 sponsored by the UCSF-Gladstone Institute for Virology and Immunology Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

"Defining new biomedical approaches capable of curbing the global HIV epidemic is a high priority. This symposium will provide a timely overview of the most promising advances," said Warner C. Greene, MD, PhD, director of the Gladstone Institute for Virology and Immunology (GIVI) and co-director of the UCSF-GIVI CFAR.

Use of antiretrovirals for HIV prevention in uninfected individuals at high risk for infection, herpes suppression, male circumcision and the successful treatment of HIV-infected individuals with antiretrovirals are some of the approaches that will be under discussion at the symposium.

"With the setbacks in HIV vaccine development and a still-expanding epidemic, we are forced to consider all options to prevent HIV transmission. Along with ongoing and critical efforts to understand and reduce behaviors of risk, we are deeply interested in how biologic barriers may be employed in effective prevention," said Paul A. Volberding, MD, UCSF-GIVI CFAR co-director and professor and vice-chair, UCSF Department of Medicine.

"Antiretroviral therapies are extremely potent and convenient in reducing HIV replication and might be part of a comprehensive effort to couple treatment with prevention. In selected situations, antiretroviral therapy may be used solely as prevention in persons otherwise unable to avoid potential exposure to infection. These and other topics promise to generate a lively and informative debate," added Volberding.

In addition to examining biomedical approaches, the symposium will address topics related to the conduct of clinical trials investigating these approaches and issues associated with implementation and scale-up of biomedical prevention interventions once they have been proven effective in clinical trials. "Understanding the impact of behavioral issues such as consistent pill-taking or proper product usage as well as the difficulties of measuring these through trial participants' self reporting is crucial to successfully conducting clinical trials of biomedical approaches," said Stephen F. Morin, professor of medicine and director of the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS).

"Moreover, the symposium will address the social science components involved in the implementation and scale-up of interventions following positive results in a clinical trial. For instance, male circumcision trials have shown success in preventing HIV acquisition but, as we will discuss, there are significant cultural, social and behavioral considerations that must be addressed if the intervention is going to be successfully implemented," said Morin.

The symposium will be held at UCSF's Mission Bay campus at the Mission Bay Conference Center beginning at 9 a.m. The full program can be found, along with information about parking, mass transit and

registration, online. The event is free, though registration is required.

UCSF-GIVI CFAR is a multi-disciplinary, multi-campus program focused on translational HIV/AIDS research. CFAR's mission is to support a multidisciplinary environment that promotes basic, clinical, epidemiologic, behavioral and translational research in the prevention, detection and treatment of HIV infection and AIDS, while expanding the intersections of research between those scientific disciplines.

UCSF CAPS is an interdisciplinary program focused on domestic and international research to prevent the acquisition of HIV and to optimize health outcomes among HIV-infected individuals. CAPS achieves this by the collaboration of cores built around methods, technology and information exchange, policy and ethics, as well as international work.

The J. David Gladstone Institutes, an independent, non-profit biomedical research organization affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), are dedicated to the health and welfare of humankind through research into the causes and prevention of some of the world's most devastating diseases. Gladstone is comprised of the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease, the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology and the Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease.

The UCSF-GIVI CFAR and UCSF CAPS are affiliated with the AIDS Research Institute (ARI) at UCSF. UCSF ARI houses hundreds of scientists and dozens of programs throughout UCSF and affiliated labs and institutions, making ARI one of the largest AIDS research entities in the world.

UCSF is a leading university dedicated to defining health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate level education in the life sciences and health professions and excellence in patient care.

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MEDIA WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE SYMPOSIUM SHOULD CONTACT JEFF SHEEHY AT JSHEEHY@ARI.UCSF.EDU OR (415) 597-8165.