

Prevention Session Bios

Moderators: Betsy Herold & Janet McGrath

Invited Presenters:

Ashley Haase, MD is a Professor and Head of the Department Microbiology at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Dr. Haase has devoted the past 25 years of his career to investigating human (HIV-1/AIDS) and non-human primate (SIV) lentivirus infections, and his laboratory is currently investigating the globally predominant sexual route of HIV transmission in the SIV rhesus macaque model with the goal of developing effective vaccines and microbicides. Dr. Haase is an NIH NINDS Javits Awardee and two-time recipient of an NIH MERIT Award for his work on HIV, and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Connie Celum, MD, MPH is a Professor of Medicine and Global Health at the University of Washington and the Director of the International Clinical Research Center. Dr. Celum's research currently focuses on clinical trials of biomedical HIV prevention and combination HIV prevention strategies with the objective to find effective strategies to reduce HIV acquisition and transmission. Dr. Celum's recently completed international, multi-center HIV prevention trials include genital herpes suppression for prevention of HIV acquisition among heterosexual women in Africa and men who have sex with men in the Americas (HPTN 039) and among HIV infected persons in African serodiscordant couples to reduce HIV transmission and disease progression (Partners in Prevention). Dr. Celum is the Principal Investigator of a phase 3 randomized, placebo-controlled trial of pre-exposure antiretroviral prophylaxis, of oral tenofovir and Truvada for prevention of HIV acquisition in serodiscordant couples in Kenya and Uganda. She is a co-investigator in the NIH-funded Microbicides Trials Network. Dr. Celum is PI of a NIH grant on combination HIV prevention strategies for the heterosexual HIV epidemic in Africa. Most of her research is conducted through international collaborations, including with colleagues and sites in Peru, Kenya, and Uganda.

Julie Overbaugh, PhD is a Member and Associate Program Head at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. Her work focuses on various aspects of HIV-1 transmission and pathogenesis, and is noted for its emphasis on translational research. She has worked closely with investigators in Kenya for the past 2 decades to address questions that are central to understanding and preventing the devastating spread of HIV in Africa. Studies in her lab are focused on understanding the biology of HIV transmission, particularly transmission to women and to infants. She has served as the Chair of the NIH grant review panel on the molecular biology of HIV-1, as Editor for Journal of Virology, as organizer of several international meetings, as a member of the Office of AIDS Research advisory committee. She was awarded two NIH MERIT grants for her studies of high-risk women and an Elizabeth Glazer Scientist award for her pediatric studies as well as the 2007 University of Washington School of Medicine award for mentoring minority and women faculty, and the 2008 FHCRF McDougall award for her efforts in mentoring students and fellows. Her former trainees hold faculty positions at Harvard, Stanford, Baylor, University of Washington as well as several other Universities and the NIH and CDC.

Oral Presenters:

Niall Buckley, BS

Mr. Buckley received his B.S. in Biochemistry from Lehigh University and now works in the Herold laboratory at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His primary research focus is biological synergy between HIV and HPV infections in the female genital tract. His other projects include studies investigating the immunological effects of sexual intercourse on the female genital tract and optimizing laboratory techniques for assessing adherence to vaginal microbicide use in clinical trials.

Jenell Coleman, BS, MD, MPH

Dr. Coleman is a specialist in Reproductive Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She has provided clinical care to HIV-infected women for over 10 years and her research focus is the interaction between hormonal contraception and HIV acquisition. Dr. Coleman is funded by a Robert Wood Johnson career development award and the microbicides trial network. She holds joint appointments in the Department of Medicine, Division of Clinical Pharmacology and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Velda Mushangwe-Mtisi, MB, CHB, MMed

Dr Velda Mushangwe-Mtisi is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist currently practicing at Parirenyatwa Hospital, a referral hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe. She is also a lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences. She helped establish the first Adult Rape Clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2009 where she also currently works as the Research and Training Officer. As a clinician in the clinic, she is directly involved in the care and support of sexually assaulted women, including forensic examination and medical management. She has a Diploma in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and is also actively involved in Post Abortion Care issues in the country.

Marta Rodriguez-Garcia, MD, PhD

Marta Rodriguez-Garcia (MD, PhD) completed her MD, PhD studies and clinical training in Barcelona (Spain). After that she moved to Boston where she did a first postdoc in the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard. She is currently a Research Associate in Dr. Wira's lab in the Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth studying the influence of sex hormones on HIV infection in women.