



**15<sup>ème</sup> ICASA**

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**ICASA 2008**  
**Summary report of Track C**

**Epidemiology of HIV and Prevention  
research**

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**du 3 au 7 Décembre 2008**



# Track C: Epidemiology, prevention and prevention research

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- **Objectives**

- HIV/AIDS prevention research
  - Design, implementation and evaluation of prevention programs.
- Methodology and programmatic advances in the continuum of prevention research,
  - particularly best practices in HIV prevention for vulnerable populations in resource-limited settings.
- From research to practice: how do we integrate both
- New prevention approaches including microbicides, vaccines, pre- and post exposure prophylaxis, circumcision and other methods

- **95% of expected presentations achieved**

# Main sessions

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- Behavior and HIV
  - PMTCT and Infant feeding
  - High risk behaviors
- Synergy of HIV and STI
- Ethic and HIV
- Community based interventions

- PMTCT and Infant Feeding:
  - mixed msg due to counseling issue; what is the most appropriate counseling approach to prevent from mixed msg? clear, concise, skills set required
- Seroconversion among pregnant women in Swaziland
  - High seroconversion rate
  - Weak prevention efforts- further research needed



# Behavior and HIV

- Tobacco and alcohol use within HIV infected treated cohorts
  - Need to develop prevention strategies and integrates interventions in adult HIV care programs
  
- High sexual risk and increasing trends of HIV-1 among military in Guinea Bissau- Richard Toll
  - Increase of HIV-1 and decrease of HIV-2 between 1992-95 and 2005 among military personnel in Guinea-Bissau.
  - **Unprotected sex remain the highest risk factor**



# PMTCT and Infant feeding

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- EBF remains the most suitable option
  - in the context of socio-cultural barriers
- Mixed feeding still a key challenges
  - associated with several cultural and social barriers
- HAART reduces the risk of MTCT while preserving breastfeeding
  - Low HIV-1 transmission rate associated with HAART (ZDV + 3TC + NVP) in late pregnancy and during six months of breastfeeding.
  - Strategy to consider in developing countries for breast-feeding mothers



# Synergy of HIV and STI

- **Critical issue in prevention- with weak focus**
  - Challenges to effective STI control for HIV prevention
    - Generic drugs – fuel for antimicrobial resistance?
  - Irregular microbiological surveillance exercises to inform treatment changes in STI management
  - Inadequate partner notification rates and poor monitoring systems
  - HIV testing of STI patients – most remain unaware of their HIV status

# Ethics and HIV

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- **Respect-Justice- Beneficence (Belmont report)**
- Communication- Information
  - Continuous training
  - Comprehensive research literacy
- Ethical norms for research
  - Developing countries/ developed countries



# Community-based intervention in Prevention

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- Engaging more CBOs in the response to HIV/AIDS
  - Increasing CSO advocacy and analytical capacities
  - Capacity building and availability of resources to ensure sustainability
- HBC – Primary Caregivers
  - Proper training, psychosocial support, and regular supervision the quality of care given to patients at the community level.
  - Volunteer work in HIV prevention: how do we measure committment

# CONCLUSIONS

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- **Overall observations**

- Making progress in PMTCT
  - Challenges with Infant feeding options
- Making progress in HIV research
  - (treatment regimens, ethics, vulnerability..)
- **NOT** making progress in integrating Prevention into CARE (**Prevention with Positive**)
- **NOT** making progress in recognizing sexual practices
- **NOT** making progress in management of HIV and STI

# What is the future of HIV/AIDS spread without prevention and research efforts???

Right to be HIV- free

Best of prevention methods  
**(VACCINE)**

Best prophylactic regimen

Right to access to the best of  
care (**research**) through a family  
centered approach

Best of support services with a  
great involvement of  
communities



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