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## Towards an HIV Cure



**MISSION:** To drive concerted efforts to accelerate global scientific research and engagement towards a cure for HIV.

The toolbox of interventions for fighting the global HIV pandemic has grown exponentially since the discovery of the virus, but a cure has remained beyond our grasp. In recent years, however, research to develop a cure for HIV or long-term remission has made promising progress, galvanizing researchers, advocates and community members alike. To that end, the mission of the IAS Towards an HIV Cure initiative is to drive concerted efforts to accelerate global scientific research and engagement towards a cure for HIV.

Learn more about the Stakeholder's Advisory Board and the Working Groups

## POLICY

### Engaging key stakeholders to address the barriers to an HIV cure

The Towards an HIV Cure initiative is committed to leveraging a well-informed, multidisciplinary network of stakeholders to advocate for and ensure the prioritization of HIV cure in the global health agenda. In support of this vision, the initiative is overseen by an Towards an HIV Cure Advisory Board of experts representing governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and foundations. The advisory board provides strategic advice and engages stakeholders in the initiative's long-term strategy to inform global policy, programmes and funding.

An important component of the initiative's efforts to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders is the Industry Collaboration Group (ICG). The ICG works to bring together private sector partners and cure researchers to facilitate collaboration.

Towards and HIV Cure also frequently works with thought leaders in the field to coordinate and co-author the publication of articles, policy papers and opinion pieces on issues ranging from ethics in cure research to the role of public-private partnerships.

### Advocating for increased investment and resource optimization

It is clear that success in the search for a cure for HIV will require sustained and predictable funding over a number of years. The Towards an HIV Cure initiative has partnered with the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) to estimate global investments in HIV cure research through the Resource Tracking for HIV Prevention R&D Working Group. This work culminates in the publication of an annual resource tracking paper, *Global Investment in HIV Cure Research and Development*, which identifies trends and monitors global investments in HIV cure research funding.

#### Featured work:

##### **Fostering public-private partnerships to accelerate research**

A major achievement to accelerate HIV cure research and lighten the red-tape burden for pre-clinical studies was the development of a Common Material Transfer Agreement (cMTA) by the IAS ICG for combinational use of marketed compound in antiretroviral therapy. The finalization of the agreement, approved by ViiV Healthcare, Gilead, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Johnson & Johnson and Merck, was announced in January 2016. To find out more about the role of the cMTA and its anticipated impact in the field, please read the IAS blog article, co-authored by members of the Towards an HIV Cure ICG.

[Learn more](#)

##### **Advocating for increased funding for HIV cure research**

The most recent edition of the resource tracking paper, *Global Investment in HIV Cure Research and Development in 2016*, shows that global investments in HIV cure funding grew again last year, to a record \$268 million.

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## RESEARCH



### Stimulating innovative and original research

The rapid advancement of HIV cure research has presented clear opportunities for increased engagement between HIV researchers and their counterparts in other specializations. To foster this exchange, the initiative leverages the facilitating power of the IAS to merge the HIV cure and cancer disciplines to accelerate the pace of discovery in HIV cure research.

The IAS also organizes a number of educational workshops with strong interactive elements and input from community members in the presentations and discussion to increase the knowledge and expertise of junior investigators and local peer educators. Workshops have been organized in India, Australia, Canada and South Africa; for workshop materials and programmes, please visit our past events .

## Featured work:

### Advancing the HIV cure field in resource-constrained settings

The IAS and AVAC partnered to host the inaugural Advocacy-for-Cure Academy in Uganda, May 2018. The academy awarded fellowships for 29 talented advocates working in resource-limited settings to participate in a three-day training and development course on HIV cure advocacy.

[Meet the fellows](#)

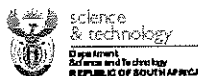
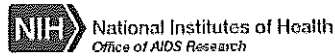
### Translating science to inform advocacy for an HIV cure

The Towards an HIV Cure initiative is partnering with international and local civil society organizations to host an interactive HIV cure research literacy workshop on 21 July 2018 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

[Read more](#)

## Sponsors

The Towards an HIV Cure initiative would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support in 2017:



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