

OPEN YOUR MIND



DAIG

Die Deutsche AIDS-Gesellschaft e.V.

Welcome



Prof. Dr. Georg Behrens
President

The German AIDS Society (DAIG) is happy to present to you an overview about its main activities and goals. Aiming at bringing together German HIV care providers, researchers and clinicians as well as HIV treatment activists, communities and other stakeholders in the HIV field, the German AIDS Society was founded to organize national HIV/AIDS meetings to enable exchange between

physicians and other groups interested in HIV/AIDS, support and initiate HIV related research and improve and assure quality controlled HIV clinical care. With the implementation of national guidelines, which range from antiretroviral treatment recommendations for HIV, recommendations for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis and care of HIV-infected pregnant women to counseling of discordant couples who wish to have a baby, the society has tried to offer guidance on many relevant HIV treatment associated topics. The German AIDS Society is on its way to become involved as a partner in HIV projects in Eastern Europe, Africa and India. The Society clearly wishes to become active in those parts of the world where the HIV-endemic has taken its biggest toll. In Germany currently about 73.000 people are living with HIV/AIDS.

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During the last years there has been a stable number of new infections, about 3.000 per year, underlying the need for continued efforts in HIV prevention strategies.

OPEN YOUR MIND

The German AIDS Society asks you to open your mind, participate in spreading the message of HIV prevention and to join in the efforts and fight against HIV and AIDS. We are open for any questions and collaborations, national and international meetings such as the International World AIDS Conferences are platforms to easily get in touch with steering committee members and our partners. So please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any remaining questions or if we can be of any help in your projects or efforts to combat the HIV epidemic.



Background information and organizational structure

The German AIDS Society is headed by a steering committee which consists of five members:

Dr. Georg Behrens (Hannover), Dr. Stefan Esser (Essen), Dr. Annette Haberl (Frankfurt), Dr. Dr. Christoph Königs (Frankfurt), and Dr. Hans-Jürgen Stellbrink (Hamburg).

There are also working groups which are responsible for specific topics. The German AIDS Clinical Working Group (KAAD) is the group which coordinates and runs clinical trials within the HIV area. The KAAD is headed by Dr. Jan Thoden (Freiburg), the treasurer is Dr. Anja Potthoff, (Bochum). The PsySoc Working Group works on Psycho-

logical and Social Science related HIV issues.

PsySoz is headed by Dr. Armin Bader (Bochum).

The All Around Women Special Working Group (AAWS) deals with all important issues related to women living with HIV and AIDS. AAWS is headed by Dipl. Psych. Ulrike Sonnenberg-

Schwan (München) and

Dr. Gabriele Arendt (Düsseldorf). In 2010, additional groups were founded under the umbrella of the German AIDS Society: the Working Group Clinical Pharmacology, headed by Dr. Nils von Hentig (Frankfurt) and Dr. Hartwig Klinker (Würzburg) aims to improve quality control and to standardize drug monitoring protocols. The group members will also collaborate in order to

establish a comprehensive data base of drug level measurements for research.

The Universal Access Group is headed by Dr. Florian Neuhann (Heidelberg) and Dr. med. Jan van Lunzen (Hamburg). This group is encouraged in national and international networking in order to improve standards of HIV clinical care in resource limited areas and countries with a high HIV prevalence. Moreover, it is involved in collaborative efforts such as ESTHER (Ensemble pour une solidarité thérapeutique hospitalière en réseau) and others, which aim to enable access to HIV therapy and to provide partnerships for educational training by experts in all fields of HIV medicine in African countries and Eastern Europe, especially the Ukraine.

The German Pediatric AIDS Working Group (PAAD) is headed by Dr. Cornelia Feiterna-Sperling (Berlin) and comprises national experts for HIV-infection in infants and adolescents. One of the many aims of PAAD is to improve HIV-therapy for children infected with HIV. Moreover, the PAAD trains junior physicians and promotes collaborative research in national and European collaborative cohorts.

The Dermatology Group is headed by Dr. Martin Hartmann (Heidelberg) and was established to further advance clinical care and research in patients with HIV-infection and skin diseases and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD). In Germany,

i If you are interested or willing to support the DAIG and its activities please visit our homepage www.daignet.de for more information. The German AIDS Society is a non-profit organisation which is dependent on donations and support by its members and friends.

dermatologists often take care of patients with STD or HIV-infection and provide important expertise for guideline development in therapy, prophylaxis and prevention.

Most recently a DAIG group of Gynecologists and Obstetricians has been established to improve the specific care of women living with HIV. The group is headed by Dr. Andrea Gingelmaier (München) and Dr. Anke Reitter (Frankfurt).

The head office of the DAIG, which is located at the University of Bonn, coordinates the different activities and is also responsible for all logistics as well as general member affairs. The office manager is Nicole Bentrup. The steering committee is elected every two years during the general assembly of the Society during the national biennial meeting. Currently about 250 members are actively engaged in the German AIDS Society.

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Scientific areas of interest and goals

One of the main goals of the Society is to convene a biennial national conference which now for many years has been organized and held in close cooperation with the Austrian AIDS Society. The next conference named DÖAK will take place from 12-15 June 2013 in Innsbruck, Austria. The website of the event is www.doeak2013.com. The president of the meeting is Dr.

i The aim of the guidelines is to ensure and ascertain a high level of quality within clinical care of HIV patients and give guidance in difficult and challenging clinical treatment questions. For further informations: www.daignet.de

Heribert Stoiber (Austria). The main focus of the congress will be to discuss newest research findings in the field of HIV. During this meeting the German AIDS Society is proud to announce the biannual winner of the 10.000 Euro German AIDS prize. Also during the conference,

guideline meetings are regularly scheduled to discuss up-dated versions of the guidelines and have them passed by the general assembly of the German AIDS Society. The current guidelines which are also available on the website are:

1. Antiretroviral treatment recommendations for HIV-infected adults
2. Recommendations for occupational and non-occupational HIV post-exposure prophylaxis
3. Management and care of HIV-infected pregnant women and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
4. Recommendations for diagnostics and management of discordant couples with HIV who have the desire to have children

5. Management of opportunistic infections
6. Recommendations for tropism testing in HIV patients

The German AIDS Society encourages and promotes scientific research within the HIV area and regularly funds start up projects for young researchers. In addition, the German AIDS Society has significantly contributed to establish a pregnancy register for Germany, which will allow improved follow up of pregnancies from mothers living with HIV and help to gain information on the safety of pregnancies under various antiretroviral treatment combinations. Moreover, all data will then be included in the international pregnancy register.

Original scientific research in the HIV area is encouraged by the German AIDS Society to be submitted and hopefully after peer review to be published in HIV Medicine, the official scientific journal of the German AIDS Society. In order to improve clinical HIV training scholarships are available to allow young physicians to spend a clinical training period in a different clinical institution. Clinical scholarship exchange programs have been developed in collaboration with the Austrian AIDS Society.

Projects of the DAIG

ENGAGEMENT OF THE DAIG IN HIV-ENDEMIC AREAS

Steering committee members of the German AIDS Society have visited HIV treatment centers in the Ukraine and are currently in the process of building clinical partnerships. Next to clinical training and support in establishing treatment guidelines the German AIDS Society wants to help and reach out to existing endeavours in Eastern Europe. Regular meetings are conducted for all stakeholders involved in HIV projects in Eastern Europe to present their projects and to initiate discussion of how the German AIDS Society may be of help in this region. Clearly there is great interest from our members and corresponding institutions to reach out and establish clinical partnerships where needed and useful. Clinical co-operations and partnerships have been established for Africa and so far members of the DAIG are involved or are in the process of establishing or continuing HIV-projects in South Africa, Lesotho, Lilongwe and Malawi. Finally, regular visits on conferences for scientific advice and support have been established with partners of the AIDS Society of India, where members of the DAIG steering committee served as speakers at the biannual Indian AIDS Conference.

PREVENTION EFFORTS

Considering the recent increase in newly diagnosed HIV infections as well as the recent outbreak of sexually transmitted hepatitis C in MSM in major cities in Germany the German AIDS Society is strongly interested in participating in a discussion on current prevention efforts and to engage in the discussion and how to develop new prevention strategies. For this reason a close cooperation and discussion is being held with the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), Robert Koch Institute (RKI) and German AIDS-Hilfe (DAH) and the German HIV clinical care physicians (DAGNÄ). An interdisciplinary Workshop on HIV Testing and Prevention was held in Hannover as a national initiative in order to bring together policy makers and care providers for an open discussion of the possibilities for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on HIV therapy and prevention in Germany. Topics of discussion included the implementation of HIV policies and programs to improve early diagnosis and care of HIV patients and a consensus statement was subsequently published.

Open your mind

The German AIDS Society brings together scientists and physicians from all disciplines with strong expertise in HIV-medicine. We invite you to join our efforts and to facilitate access to affordable antiretroviral medication, funding of prevention programs, investment in research and close cooperation between partners. Open your mind and help to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Contact information

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

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