



The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) Teleconference Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2017, 12-1:00 PM EDT

PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board Members in Attendance

Judith Auerbach—Independent Science and Policy Consultant; Professor, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California San Francisco School of Medicine

Peter Berman—Professor, Global Health Systems and Economics, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University
Connie Celum—Director, International Clinical Research Center, Department of Global Health, University of Washington School of Medicine

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Judith Currier—Division Chief, Infectious Diseases and Associate Director, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Clinical AIDS Research and Education (CARE); Professor of Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine

Carlos del Rio—Chair, Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health and Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Emory University School of Medicine

Emilio Emini—Director, HIV Program, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Sofia Gruskin—Director, Program on Global Health and Human Rights, Institute for Global Health, University of Southern California; Harvard School of Public Health

Mark Harrington—Executive Director, Treatment Action Group (TAG)

Musimbi Kanyoro—President and CEO, Global Fund for Women

Jennifer Kates—Vice President and Director, Global Health and HIV Policy, Kaiser Family Foundation

Lejeune Lockett—Operations and Program Manager, Global Health, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science; Angola Military HIV Prevention Program, Drew Cares International

Ruth Macklin—Professor of Bioethics, Einstein School of Medicine

Celia Maxwell—Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Research, Howard University College of Medicine; Infectious Disease Specialist, Howard University Hospital

Kenneth Mayer—Co-Chair and Medical Research Director, Fenway Health; Director, HIV Prevention Research and Attending Physician, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Professor, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health

Jesse Milan Jr.—Interim President, AIDS United

Christine Nabiryo—Public Health Consultant, Uganda

Nyambura Njoroge—Project Coordinator, Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy, World Council of Churches

Jean William Pape—Professor, Weill Medical Cornell College; Director, GHESKIO (Haiti)

Robert Redfield—Professor, Translational Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Rev. Edwin Sanders—Senior Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church of Nashville; Chair, The Legacy Project, a collaboration with the HIV Vaccine Trials Network; Member, Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)

Fredrick Sawe—Director, HIV/AIDS Research, Walter Reed Project, Kenya Medical Research Institute

Albert Siemens—Chair, FHI Foundation

Carole Treston—Chief Nursing Officer, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Mitchell Warren—Executive Director, AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention

PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

Mark Heywood—Executive Director, SECTION27, O’Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law; Chairperson, UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

Etienne Karita—Site Leader, Project San Francisco, Rwanda Zambia HIV Research Group

Angela Mushavi—Coordinator, Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission Prevention and Pediatric HIV Care and Treatment, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Zimbabwe

Nyambura Njoroge—Project Coordinator, Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy, World Council of Churches

David Peters—Chair, International Health, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health

PEPFAR Implementation Team

Ambassador Deborah L. Birx—Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy (S/GAC)

Ebony Coleman —SAB Designated Federal Officer/Office of Research and Science, S/GAC

Andrew Forsyth—Director, Office of Research and Science, S/GAC

OPENING REMARKS

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Ebony Coleman & Carlos del Rio

On behalf of Ambassador Birx and SAB Chair, Dr. Carlos del Rio, Dr. Coleman welcomed all in attendance and shared that the PEPFAR SAB Charter and Membership have been renewed for another 2-year term. Dr. Coleman thanked SAB members and S/GAC staff for their preparation for the meeting. She noted that the SAB adheres to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), serves the Ambassador in an advisory capacity, and seeks relevant and objective advice that can shape PEPFAR programming within the global HIV/AIDS response. The meeting was open to the public for observation and comment, and minutes will be made available at www.pepfar.gov.

Dr. del Rio welcomed Board members and presented an overview of the meeting agenda. He also acknowledged public participation while noting that the public would have an opportunity for comment.

KEY PEFAR 2017 UPDATES

Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator & U.S Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy

Ambassador Birx thanked the Board for their participation and welcomed two new members: Dr. Robert Redfield and Dr. Emilio Emini. She subsequently reported results from the Population HIV Impact Assessments (PHIAs) for Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi, which show that less than 50% of males under age 30 know their HIV serostatus. PEPFAR now requests that supported countries and regions analyze HIV diagnosis rates using 5-year age bands for men and women up to age 25 and to use the data to optimize strategies for HIV testing and enrolment into prevention or treatment services. Available evidence shows low HIV diagnosis rates among men. For example, less than a third of HIV positive men in Swaziland have been diagnosed, and in Namibia, only 40% have been diagnosed. Similarly, HIV positive women under age 25 are under diagnosed. PHIAs for Swaziland, Lesotho, Uganda, and Tanzania are near completion.

An important challenge for increased focus is strategies to identify HIV positive men, especially young men. Despite increased funding in prevention, including VMMC, performance among all partners has decreased. An in-depth quarterly analysis in Democratic Republic of Congo enabled a snapshot visualization of each partner by capturing individual site volume and performance. Examples of partner performance analyses and PEPFAR country PHIAs are available on pepfar.gov.

The Board's discussion following the Ambassador's updates primarily focused on identifying HIV-positive men. For the next SAB convening, additional recommendations from the Board will be sought in addressing male-centered goals, not limited to testing young men, workplace outreach, flexible clinic hours, and self-testing. Data highlighted by Ambassador Birx can be found on PEPFAR's website at <https://data.pepfar.net>.

NEW BUSINESS

Prevention Cascade(s) Working Group

Irum Zaidi, Deputy Coordinator for Program Results and Impact Monitoring for Epidemic Control

Ms. Zaidi provided context for the development of a new Prevention Cascade Expert Working Group, acknowledging that prevention cascades should be viewed in tandem with existing clinical cascades. PEPFAR's Front Office requests the expertise of the Board in leading and facilitating the development of an HIV prevention cascade based on current PEPFAR program data.

There is an abundance of literature to support interventions as part of a cascade, but the development of a prevention cascade(s) is complex and therefore, a linear approach, similar to the clinical cascade, may not be suitable. For example, differential risks are associated with different age and sex bands, indicating that cascades need to be tailored to target specific populations. Prevention cascades for consideration may include men age 25-34 and transmission from HIV-infected men. The expectation is that the working group will propose additional cascades for consideration.

The SAB voted to approve the development of a Prevention Cascade Expert Working Group. S/GAC is eager to share prevention cascade tools to country teams for monitoring prevention services as part of COP17 implementation.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. del Rio opened the line for public comments; there were none.

Dr. del Rio and Ambassador Birx thanked the Board for their participation and discussion. Board members interested in serving on the Prevention Cascade Expert Working Group will email their interest to Dr. Coleman or Steven Towers.

Dr. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM EDT.