



PRESS RELEASE

Quest for new treatment options for AIDS must continue, says ISCR

Mumbai, November 27, 2015: “Getting to Zero” was the theme selected in 2011 through to the end of 2015 by the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) to commemorate World AIDS Day on 1st December, echoing the UNAIDS vision of achieving “Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths.” Surrounding this larger theme, this year’s World AIDS Day theme is **“Ending the AIDS epidemic as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.”** The focus is on raising awareness about the need to fast-track the AIDS response, and the targets that must be met by 2020, to end the epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. While there are several preventive measures in place to halt the AIDS epidemic, investments in the treatment and management of HIV have played a big role in managing its impact. The UN estimates that “already 15.8 million people are accessing life-saving HIV treatment; new HIV infections have been reduced by 35% since 2000 and AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by 42% since its peak in 2004.”



Dr XXX, speaking on recent clinical research in AIDS says, “While there still needs to be a lot done to reduce the incidence of AIDS, we have seen tremendous progress in the treatment and management of HIV since it was first labelled as an epidemic. Today, HIV patients are able to lead not just qualitatively better lives, but also live longer thanks to medical advancements. Anti-retroviral treatment can reduce HIV transmission by as much as 95%.”

“World AIDS Day is an important occasion for us to reflect on how clinical research has contributed to better and newer treatment for HIV patients. It is only through clinical research that more advanced treatment can be made possible and we must acknowledge the role of the HIV patients who through their participation in clinical trials have made new medicines possible,” said Suneela Thatte, President, and ISCR.

“India’s participation in clinical research for AIDS treatment and management is equally important given the high incidence of AIDS in India and we need to continue to invest in this area,” added Suneela. India has the third largest HIV epidemic in the world. In 2013, HIV prevalence in India was an estimated 0.3%.

Which is small compared to most other middle-income countries but large (2.1 million) in absolute terms. In the same year, an estimated 130,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses. India's HIV epidemic is slowing down, with a 19% decline in new HIV infections (130,000 in 2013), and a 38% decline in AIDS-related deaths between 2005 and 2013. Despite this, 51% of deaths in Asia are in India. (source: <http://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/asia-pacific/india>)

About ISCR

The **Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR)** is an association of clinical research professionals that aims to build awareness of clinical research as a specialty in India and to facilitate its growth in the country while helping to evolve the highest standards of quality and ethics. To that extent, we are fully supportive of the initiatives undertaken by regulatory authorities to create a more robust and regulated environment in India for the conduct of clinical research and will continue to work very closely with different stakeholders in the development of regulations that will safeguard and protect patients in a clinical trial.

About World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is held on the 1st December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who lost their life to the disease. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988.