Meeting the Challenge of HIV/AIDS in South Africa: Exploring Strategy and Tactics to Expand the National Response

Director: Peter Navario, Fellow for Global Health

January 21, 2010
Cape Town, South Africa

This roundtable was made possible by the generous support of MSD.

Speakers' Biographies

SALIM S. ABDOOL KARIM

Salim S. Abdool Karim is an infectious diseases epidemiologist and pro vice-chancellor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. He is director of the Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA). He is also professor of Clinical Epidemiology at Columbia University and adjunct professor of Medicine at Cornell University. Dr. Abdool Karim's research focuses on HIV epidemiology, HIV prevention through microbicides and vaccines as well as treatment of HIV-TB co-infection. In the field of HIV vaccines, his contributions include addressing the critical design challenges in HIV vaccine trials and co-inventor of two patents which are part of three candidate HIV vaccines. He serves in the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, the Scientific Advisory Board of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, the Gates Foundation's Global HIV Prevention Working Group, UNAIDS Prevention Reference Group and the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV. He is chair of the WHO Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for Reproductive Health. He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and a fellow of the Royal Society of Science in South Africa.

LINDA-GAIL BEKKER

Linda-Gail Bekker is deputy director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town and chief operating officer of the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. Her doctoral work focused on the host response to TB both with and
in the absence of HIV co-infection. Subsequently her research interests have expanded to include programmatic and action research around antiretroviral roll out, TB integration and prevention of HIV.

**MITCHELL BESSER**

Mitchell Besser is an obstetrician and gynecologist, his professional career has been dedicated to the public health needs of women. In 1999, Dr. Besser joined the University of Cape Town’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, assisting with the development of services to meet the needs of pregnant women living with HIV and to prevent the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children. Dr. Besser founded mothers2mothers, a program in which mothers with HIV are employed to work in health centers, educating and supporting pregnant women and new mothers with HIV. Since its inception in 2001, the program has grown to provide services in more than 590 health care facilities in seven countries in Africa, with more than 2 million contacts with woman each year, reaching 20% of the HIV-positive pregnant women in the world. Dr. Besser has received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, the Presidential Citizens Award of the United States Government and is an Ashoka and Schwab Fellow. Mitchell Besser is a graduate of Harvard Medical School.

**KEITH CLOETE**

**ERNEST DARKOH**

Ernest Darkoh is chairman and founding partner of BroadReach. He formerly served as operations manager of Botswana’s Treatment Program for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Darkoh has been at the forefront of what has been called the most important public health experiment on the African continent today, leading the charge to fight AIDS in the African nation of Botswana and building a nationwide health system from the ground up in the process.

**LAURIE GARRETT**

Laurie Garrett has been a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in New York since 2004. Ms. Garrett is the only writer ever to have been awarded all three of the Big “Ps” of journalism: the Peabody, the Polk, and the Pulitzer. Her expertise includes global health systems, chronic and infectious diseases, and bioterrorism. Ms. Garrett is the best-selling author of *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance*, and *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*. Over the years, she has also contributed chapters to numerous books, including *AIDS in the World*, edited by Jonathan Mann, Daniel Tarantola, and Thomas Netter, and *Disease in Evolution: Global Changes and Emergence of Infectious Diseases*, edited by Mary E. Wilson. She is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, attended graduate school at University of California, Berkeley, and did laboratory research at Stanford University with Dr. Leonard Herzenberg. Ms. Garrett is a member of the National Association of Science Writers and served as the organization’s president during the mid-1990s. She lives in Brooklyn Heights, New York.
**JAMES McINTYRE**

James McIntyre is the executive director of the Anova Health Institute, an independent non-profit research and technical assistance organization, established to improve health through its focus on people infected with or affected by HIV, particularly in developing countries. Dr. McIntyre serves as international vice-chair of the International Maternal Pediatric and Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Network, the leading global collaborative network on HIV in women and children, and leads the NIH-funded CIPRA-SA collaborative South African research program, one of the largest directly funded NIH research international efforts. Dr. McIntyre is cofounder and previously served as executive director of the Perinatal HIV Research Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand, one of Africa’s largest AIDS research centers working in HIV prevention, treatment and care, and HIV vaccines. He also serves as associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University. Dr. McIntyre is an internationally recognized expert on mother-to-child transmission of HIV and on HIV in women and has published widely in this field. He has served as a consultant to the WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, advising on HIV in pregnancy, and has chaired the WHO’s Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Guideline Committee (PMTCT) since 2004. He chairs the Proposal Review Committee for UNTAID. He was jointly awarded the 2002 Nelson Mandela Award for Health And Human Rights with Prof. Glenda Gray. In 2003, he was awarded a “Heroes in Medicine” award from the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, and the 2009 N’galy Mann Award of the Foundation for Retrovirology and Human Health for their work in the PMTCT.

**NICOLI NATTRASS**

Nicoli Nattrass is professor of economics and director of the AIDS and Society Research Unit at the University of Cape Town. She has published books and articles on South African AIDS policy, the political economy of the antiretroviral treatment rollout, poverty and inequality.

**PETER NAVARIO**

Peter Navario is fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Navario has over six years of HIV program management experience across the African continent, working extensively in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and South Africa. He has been a consultant for UNAIDS, BroadReach Healthcare, and the Yale School of Public Health. Mr. Navario holds a BA with honors from Lehigh University, an MA in global health from Yale University, and will complete a PhD in health economics from the University of Cape Town’s School of Economics in December 2009.

**YOGAN PILLAY**

Yogan Pillay is deputy director general of Strategic Health Programmes at the National Department of Health. He is managing five cluster managers and their support staff: HIV/AIDS & STI; Mother, Child and Women’s Health; Tuberculosis; Non-Communicable Diseases; Communicable Diseases.
**Gita Ramjee**

Gita Ramjee is a world-renowned scientist specializing in HIV prevention, treatment, and care among women and men in communities around the greater Durban area in South Africa. Dr. Ramjee is chief specialist scientist and the director of the South African Medical Research Council's HIV prevention program. She has been involved in the clinical trials of microbicides for over a decade. She has brought South Africa and her research unit to the forefront of microbicide research by being the only institution to be testing five out of the six microbicide products in clinical trials. As an international expert in HIV prevention trials, one of Prof. Ramjee's microbicide trial sites was chosen as the venue for a visit by Bill and Melinda Gates as well as former U.S. President Bill Clinton. She has been awarded one of the largest National Institute of Health's grants outside of the United States to conduct HIV prevention research. Prof. Ramjee has published numerous papers and is a member of several international committees and advisory groups on HIV prevention research.

**Olive Shisana**

Olive Shisana is executive director of the South African national research program on Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health at the Human Sciences Research Council. She was previously professor of health systems at the National School of Public Health, Medical University of Southern Africa, where she was a leading founder of a post-graduate diploma on the management of HIV/AIDS in the world of work, launched by the South African deputy president in 2001. Prior to that, Dr. Shisana served as executive director of Family and Community Health at the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. In that position, she established the HIV/AIDS initiative and became a founding member of the Partnership on AIDS in Africa. From 1995 to 1998, Dr. Shisana was director general of the South African Department of Health. She is a member of the Nelson Mandela Advisory Board on HIV/AIDS. She received an M.A. in clinical psychology from Loyola College, Baltimore, and a doctorate in social epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

**Nono Simelela**

Nono Simelela is chief executive officer of the South African National AIDS Council.

**Francois Venter**

Francois Venter is currently head of the HIV Management Cluster, Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit, and an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand. He is the head of Infectious Diseases at the Johannesburg Academic Hospital. Dr. Venter is currently President of the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society, which has over 15,000 members throughout Africa.
**ALAN WHITESIDE**

Alan Whiteside is the director and professor, Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) which he established in 1998, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. He has been involved in researching HIV/AIDS for over twenty years, based in Southern Africa, but has made his mark internationally. The economic and development impact of HIV/AIDS is his particular field of interest. He has published extensively, and has been called upon to engage on the subject with donors and governments. He is the author and co-author of *HIV/AIDS: A Very Short Introduction*, and *AIDS in the twenty-first century: disease and globalization* with Tony Barnett. In 2000, with Clem Sunter, he wrote *AIDS: the challenge for South Africa*. He has held fellowships internationally, most recently as distinguished visiting fellow at Carleton University. He was appointed a commissioner on the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa between 2003 and 2006. He is a member of the editorial boards of *African Journal of AIDS Research; Development Policy Review; Globalisation and Health and Journal of the International AIDS Society*. He is a board member of Young Hero’s Swaziland, an elected member of Governing Council International AIDS Society and is the treasurer; a member of the Waterford Kamhlaba United World College Governing Council; and a member of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative Policy Advisory Committee. He is a patron of the Themba Trust based in London.

**GUSTAAF WOLVAARDT**

Gustaf Wolvaartd the founding managing director of the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD), a private institution of higher education focusing on promoting transformation through education research and community development (www.foundation.co.za). Dr. Wolvaardt holds a bachelors degree in Medicine and Surgery, a masters in Internal Medicine, and a post graduate qualification in Higher Education from the University of Pretoria. He is also a fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa. In 1991 he served as South Africa’s first Health Attaché based at the South African Permanent Mission in Geneva. His mandate was to re-establishing technical cooperation between the South African health sector and the international community in Europe as South Africa moved to democracy. In this position he represented South Africa at the WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO and other United Nations Organizations. During this period he was elected as the interim chairman of the UNAIDS Governing Board for its third session and as chairman of the African Health Liaison Committee in Geneva. In 1996, he initiated an international campaign on behalf of the South African Ministry of Health that resulted in violence being declared a public health priority by WHO. On returning to SA in 1996 he joined the South African Medical Association as healthcare executive, where he initiated a number of public health projects and successfully secured the bid to host the XIII International AIDS Conference in South Africa in 2000. He also chaired the Conference Organizing Committee acting as project manager for this 13,000 delegate conference which at that time was the largest health conference held in Africa. Since then he has initiated a number of health related conferences in South Africa. Dr Wolvaardt serves on the Board of Directors of the South African Institute for Health Care Managers, Dira Sengwe Conferences, Right to Care and Aids Accountability International. He has published a number of articles on international health and health management issues and advises a number of international clients on international health issues from time to time.
Robin Wood is a leading physician in the field of HIV treatment and infectious disease research. He is the director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre (DTHC) at the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town. He is presently a member of the governing council of the International AIDS Society and was a founding member of the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society. He has been a technical adviser to the World Health Organization and helped develop new research and clinical trial protocols for five National Institutes of Health networks, including the Comprehensive International Program of Research on AIDS. He has been principal investigator and co-investigator of funding grants from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and a recipient of a research funding grant from “Secure the Future” Bristol Myers Squibb. He has authored or co-authored 10 book chapters, has published 220 scientific letters, papers and reviews in peer-reviewed journals, had been a member of the editorial boards of the South African Journal of Epidemiology & Infection and the South African Journal of HIV Medicine. Professor Wood is co-chair of the Clinical Science Track for the 5th IAS Pathogenesis Treatment & Prevention Conference, has been a member of Scientific Advisory Board for the IAS Pathogenesis and Treatment Conference and member of the Scientific Advisory Boards for International AIDS Conferences. Professor Wood is a visiting scientist at Harvard Medical School; a member of the scientific advisory board of the Global AIDS Prevention Model and TB/HIV modeling projects at Harvard University; and a clinical collaborator of the microsimulation modelling of HIV and TB epidemics at the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis at Stellenbosch University.