



April 6, 2009

**2009 National HIV  
Prevention Conference**

August 23–26, 2009  
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel  
and  
Atlanta Marriott Marquis  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Conference Co-Chairs**

Kevin A. Fenton, MD, PhD  
Beverly Watts Davis  
Richard J. Wolitski, PhD

**Track Chairs**

Chris Cagle, PhD  
Carlos Del Rio, MD  
Susan DeLisle, ARNP, MPH  
Kimberley Dobson, PhD  
Isa Fernandez, PhD  
Andrew Forsyth, PhD  
Matthew Golden, MD, MPH  
Ernest Hopkins  
Peter Kilmarx, MD  
Cindy Lyles, PhD  
Eve Mokotoff, MPH  
Dawn Smith, MD, MS, MPH  
Dale Stratford, PhD  
Peter Whiticar, MA

**Cross-Cutting Theme Chairs**

Ada Adimora, MD, MPH  
Sevgi Aral, PhD, MS, MA  
Renee Austin  
Rashad Burgess, MA  
Dennis DeLeon, JD  
Hazel Dean, ScD, MPH  
Shannon Hader, MD, MPH  
ManChui Leung  
Jesse Milan Jr., JD  
Janet Moore, PhD  
Ann O'Leary, PhD  
Scott Rhodes, PhD, MPH, CHES

**Conference Coordinator**

Robert Kohmescher, MS

Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
SisterLove

And 223 organizations and 423 individuals from 39 states;  
Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; and the US Virgin Islands

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2009. CDC values the input, perspectives, and partnership we enjoy with community-based HIV prevention advocates and providers who are essential to achieving our shared vision of stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS in the United States. We were pleased to see that so many individuals and organizations have voiced their support of President Obama's renewed commitment to efficient government and the development of a National AIDS Strategy (NAS). This is an exciting time for our country and our efforts to fight HIV/AIDS.

We have reviewed and discussed your requests and would like to take this opportunity to share with you additional information about our plans for the 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference. Much of our vision for the conference is consistent with yours. For example, we agree that this is an important opportunity to bring diverse federal agencies together to address the future directions of HIV/AIDS prevention in the United States and to further meaningful collaborative efforts.

As Co-Chairs for this biennial conference, we are charged with identifying and sharing effective prevention approaches and research findings among governmental, community, and academic partners in HIV prevention. We are also responsible for creating opportunities that strengthen collaborations between program practitioners and researchers in areas including: behavioral interventions, biomedical interventions, monitoring the epidemic, implementing rapid and reliable tests for early HIV diagnosis, and improving access to early treatment and prevention services for persons with HIV.

We have provided specific responses to each of your recommendations.

**1. Include sessions and discussions from a broad array of federal agencies/emphasize cross-governmental collaboration for HIV prevention**

We have planned a plenary that examines the Future of HIV Prevention over the course of the next four years. This session will be an opportunity for the new Administration to share their thoughts with the conference participants. Invited guests will include representatives from a number of federal agencies. This plenary will be moderated by an individual who can represent a policy advocacy and community perspective.



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Our plenary sessions were developed with a watchful eye on the future and a keen sense of the past, lest we forget the barriers and struggles that this epidemic has forged. One plenary session will highlight how federal agencies can better collaborate. We will invite representatives from a number of federal agencies.

In addition, we plan to close the conference with a Town Hall Meeting consisting of congressional representatives and/or their committee members who play vital leadership roles in addressing health issues and HIV prevention.

Since we are still planning these sessions, we are not able to provide a specific list of invitees.

## 2. Include officials from government agencies in conference planning/ensure a meaningful role

There was considerable federal agency involvement on the conference planning committee and as part of the track co-chairs. The planning committee provided overall suggestions for the conference and the track co-chairs reviewed the submitted abstracts and selected ones for presentation and assigned them to sessions, roundtables, and posters.

The following federal agencies have already joined our ranks as Co-Sponsors: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Women's Health (OWH), Office of Minority Health (OMH), National Institutes of Health (NIH). A complete list of co-sponsors is listed at <http://www.2009nhpc.org/cosponsor.asp>. We also plan to reach out to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Labor (DOL).

## 3. Provision of Cross-Cutting Theme – intergovernmental coordination in HIV prevention

The planning committee has already publicized the following categories for the 2009 Conference: **Health Disparities** highlights efforts to better understand, address, and prevent health disparities; **Intersecting Epidemics** focuses on the role that these interconnections play in HIV transmission and the role that prevention should have in addressing these health threats; **HIV Stigma and Discrimination** examines the effects of HIV stigma and discrimination on the lives of people living with HIV, its effects on HIV prevention and linkage to care, and innovative ways to combat the effects of HIV stigma and discrimination; **Social and Structural Factors** ties together work to better understand these important influences and how they can be used to prevent the transmission of HIV; **Community Mobilization** highlights the critical roles of activism and community mobilization in current HIV prevention efforts; and **Global Influence** emphasizes strategies for learning from lessons around the globe and creating global synergies.



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Unfortunately, it is too late for us to incorporate any additional major change for the 2009 conference but, we do have a track on Program Collaboration and Service Integration which focuses not only on collaboration across CDC programs but also across federal agencies. We are planning a number of cross-federal agency coordination and collaboration sessions throughout the conference.

4. **Provide an open meeting with officials from government agencies**  
Our plans for the conference include multiple opportunities for community members, advocates, and researchers to discuss their thoughts and concerns about HIV/AIDS prevention in the United States with CDC leaders. These meetings will provide conference participants an opportunity to meet the new Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and will be focused on the impact of the epidemic in disproportionately affected communities. These meetings will be open to all conference participants, and the dates and times of the meetings will be published in the conference schedule. We are also exploring the possibility of creating an additional opportunity for conference participants to have an open discussion with leaders from multiple federal agencies so that they might benefit from the discussion and interaction, and meet key prevention partners.

Robert Kohmescher ([RNK1@cdc.gov](mailto:RNK1@cdc.gov)), Coordinator for the 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference, can provide you with additional information about these meetings.

Thank you again for your letter and your efforts to improve the quality of HIV prevention in the United States.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Kevin A. Fenton, M.D., Ph.D.  
Conference Co-Chair

/s/  
Beverly Watts Davis  
Conference Co-Chair

/s/  
Richard J. Wolitski, Ph.D.  
Conference Co-Chair

cc: Robert Kohmescher, Conference Coordinator