

Where does HIV prevention research happen and who sets the agenda?

Research Advocacy for HIV Prevention Training
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AVAC is a non-profit advocacy group based in New York and working internationally, dedicated to advancing ethical research on and implementation of new prevention technologies

Notes: How prevention trials are designed? We need to figure out the annual infection rate is in a community. The goal is to set a lower rate of infection as the outcome of the trial. Then randomly assign people to product or placebo. At the end of the study, we look at the number of infections. If the placebo arm has a lower than infection rate than what's in the community, we can say that is due to the prevention services provided as a part of the trial. If the product arm has an even lower number of new infections than the placebo arm, we can say the product being tested added additional protection.

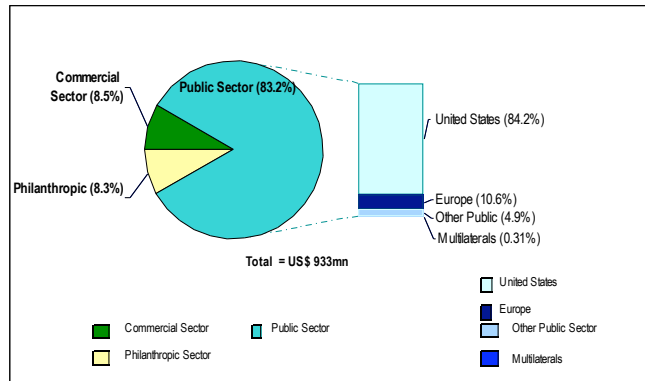
The pitfall of not having enough people or diversity in a trial - We need a group of trial participants that represents the groups who need the vaccine - If you don't have any African-American women in the trial, for example, you can't say if the intervention works in that group or if it's safe. Low numbers of a population are not representative enough, we need large numbers to make sure the result is not a coincidence. Diversity also means age, geography, city and rural areas, etc. One trial may not be able to do that, but you can have several trials that piece it together.

Who funds prevention research?

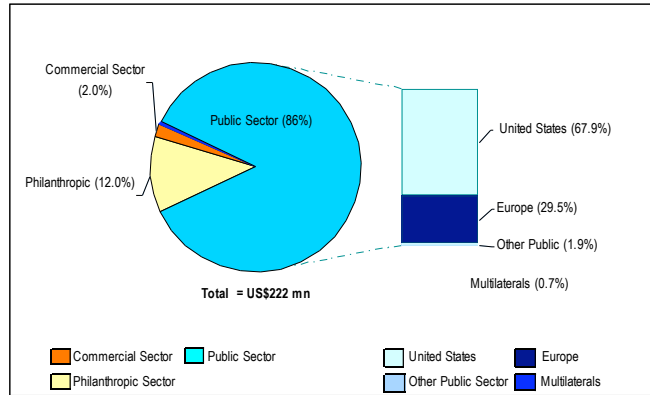
- ❖ Public sector – academic institutions, national government-sponsored research entities, such as the US National Institutes of Health
- ❖ Private sector – pharmaceutical industry, biotechs, for example
- ❖ Philanthropic organizations – Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for example

Notes: U.S. funds vast majority of biomedical HIV prevention research. The total pot of money is about 1 Billion dollars. I think that's something we can be proud of. Even if the trials are not happening here in the U.S. We are paying for it one way or another, it is relevant to us.

Where does the money come from? – The answer for AIDS vaccines

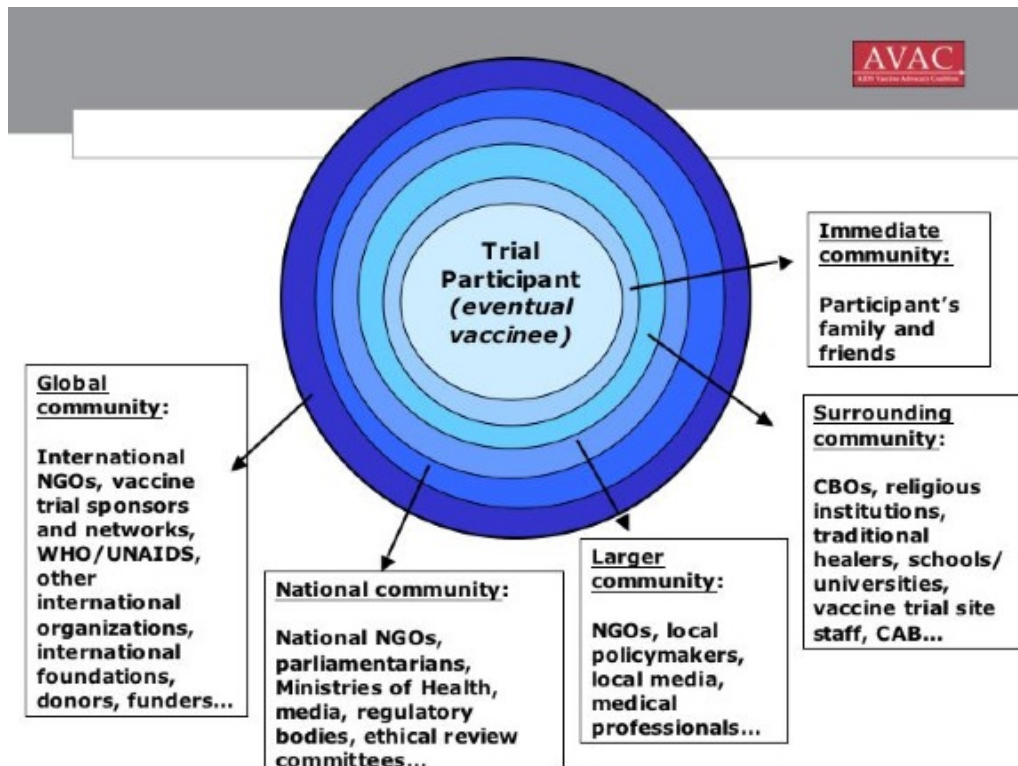


Where does the money come from? – The answer for microbicides



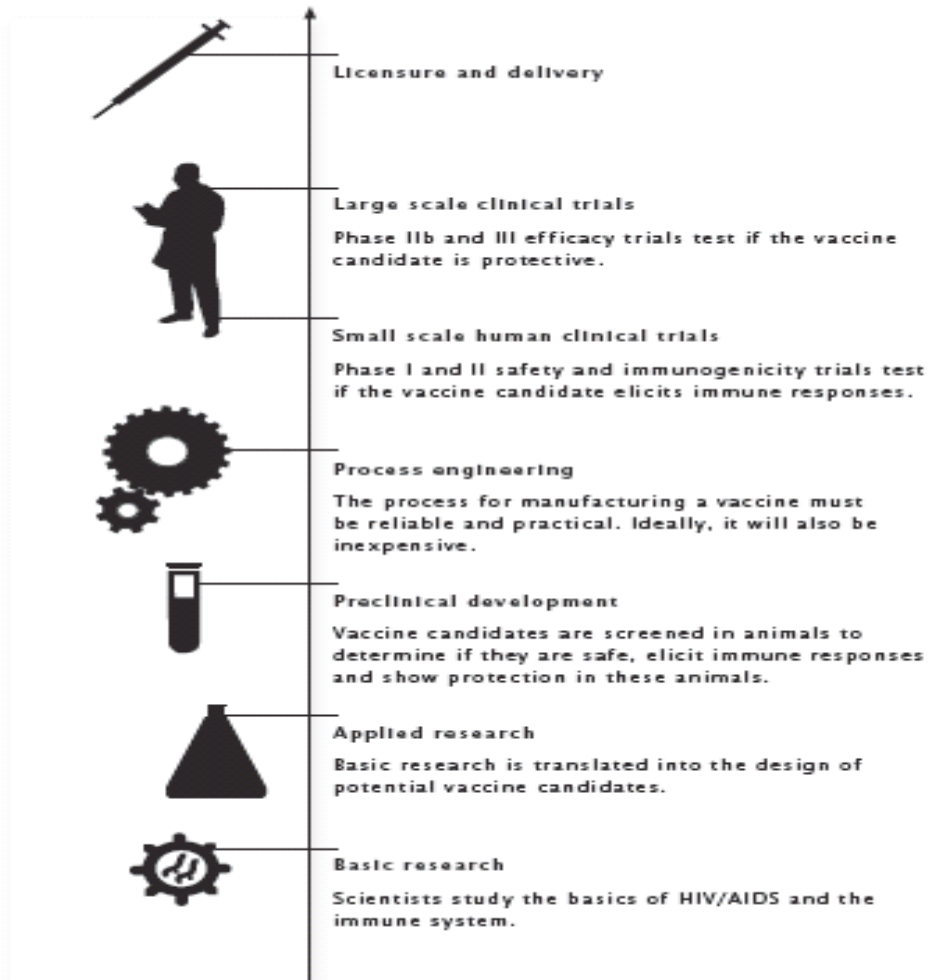
Question - Why the vaccine pie has a larger share of private funding than microbicides? No one makes money from vaccines. There is a pathway that the industry is familiar with in terms of a product category, such as the UN can purchase vaccines when they are developed. But it's not the same with microbicides, which doesn't yet have a product line, which the Global Campaign for Microbicides has been working on. Maybe next year when we meet again this picture can change.

Who does prevention research?



From idea to experiment – one way that the scientific agenda is set...

Figure 2.1 Pipeline of vaccine research and development

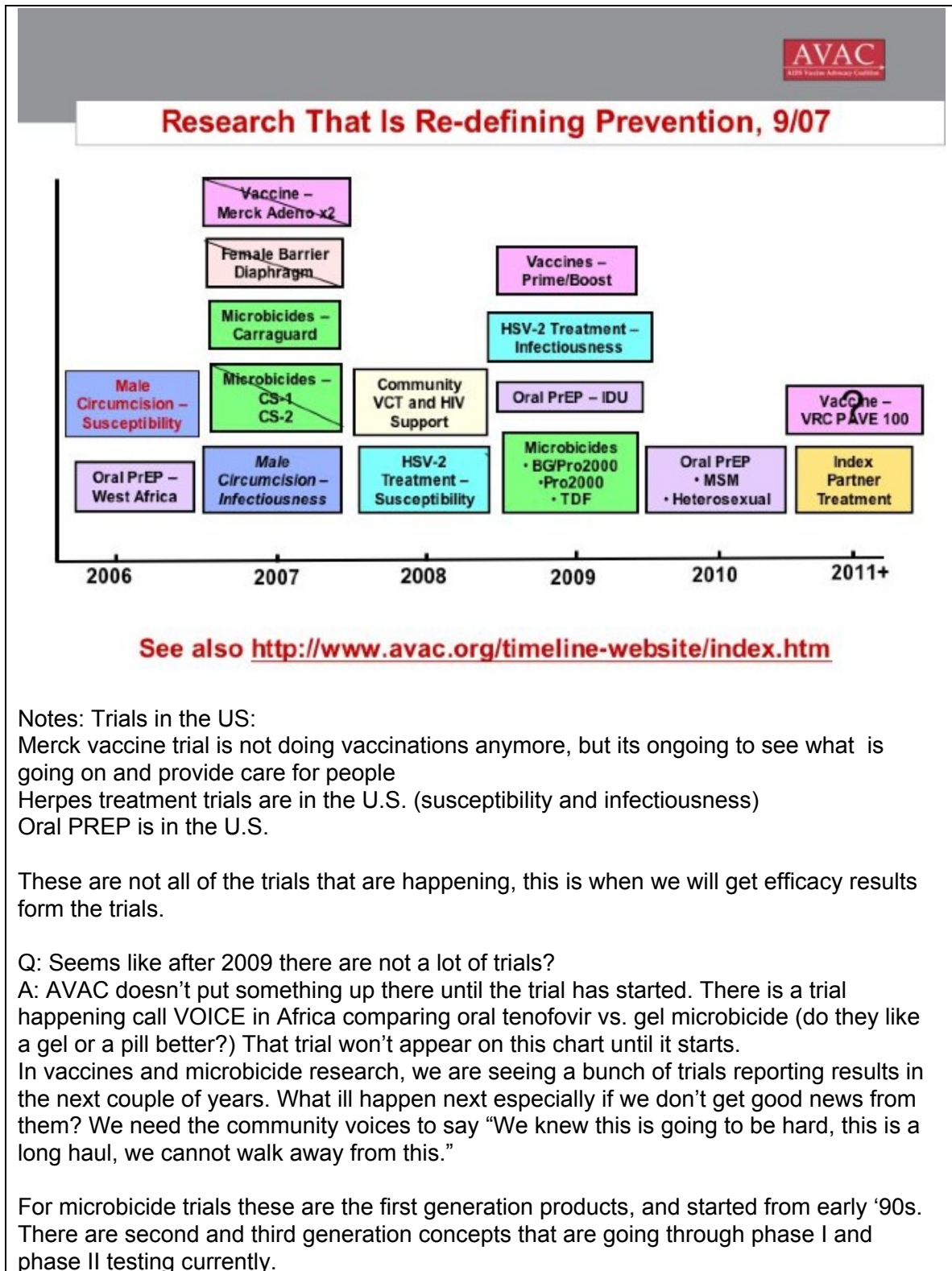


Notes: Who sets the agenda? Community input in prevention research is essential. But looking at this pipeline, there is a level of scientific discovery that community is often not involved. However community can pose initial research questions that can generate new research. Community advocates can also pressure the government to start research in needed areas. Once research starts, advocates keep track from the beginning of scientific research, but don't get involved in planning usually until later stages, such as planning trials.

Making sense of the alphabet soup (for biomedical prevention!)

- ❖ HVTN is the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, which is funded by the US National Institutes of Health
- ❖ MTN is the Microbicides Trial Network which is funded by the US National Institutes of Health
- ❖ CDC is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which funds pre-exposure prophylaxis trials and other research in the US and internationally
- ❖ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation also funds prevention research, primarily overseas

So what are they all doing?



How do I learn more?

Email AVAC at avac@avac.org

Visit our website at www.avac.org

Notes: AVAC has a advocates network that sends out information about trial results, I urge you to join us.

Thank you and please be in touch!