

Poster presentation

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## PI5-20. Developing a national policy agenda for the Canadian HIV vaccine initiative

V Sarazin\*<sup>1</sup>, L Jonsdottir<sup>1</sup>, S Sternthal<sup>1</sup>, K Roblin<sup>2</sup> and S Grundy<sup>2</sup>

Address: <sup>1</sup>Public Health Agency of Canada, Office of HIV Vaccines, Ottawa, Canada and <sup>2</sup>TDV Global Inc., Winnipeg, Canada

\* Corresponding author

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### Background

The Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative (CHVI) is a five-year initiative between the Government of Canada and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and it represents a significant Canadian contribution to the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise that seeks to accelerate the development of safe, effective, affordable and globally accessible HIV vaccines. A national HIV vaccines policy agenda is currently being developed as one measure to contribute to domestic and international HIV vaccines policy-related efforts.

### Methods

To ensure alignment with global HIV vaccines efforts, a consultation process with international experts was undertaken in fall 2008 – winter 2009 to seek input on key policy issues and potential areas of focus for a Canadian HIV vaccines policy agenda.

### Results

The consultations identified several key policy issues that need to be resolved domestically and globally on the policy front. These include: focussing on the science to develop an effective vaccine; assist low- and middle-income countries in developing regulatory systems and processes to enable approval and implementation of clinical trials, and; positioning HIV vaccines as part of a comprehensive prevention approach. The consultations also identified areas of focus for the CHVI policy agenda: share Canada's unique approach to HIV prevention; initiate and supporting ongoing global policy dialogue; engage global partners to raise profile of HIV/AIDS issues, and; provide

support to global approaches to address regulatory barriers in HIV vaccine development and delivery.

### Conclusion

The consultation process was very valuable in identifying current global policy issues and proposed areas for inclusion in a CHVI Policy Agenda. The consultations also demonstrated the interest and support for a more formalized global policy network under the leadership of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise. Canada is well positioned to develop a sound policy agenda, one that will contribute to both domestic and global goals to advance the development of an HIV vaccine.