

# HIV and Aging in the Era of ART and COVID-19

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**Abstract:** Our understanding of HIV/AIDS has been reframed during the recent past because the use of novel antiretroviral therapy has enabled clinicians and patients to control the progression of the disease. This supplement provides an overview of the HIV and Aging in the Era of ART and COVID-19, a virtual symposium held on February 8–9, 2021, organized by the Miami Center for AIDS Research along with articles contributed by some of the speakers and members of the organizing committee and presentations by junior investigators.

**Key Words:** HIV and aging, HIV and COVID19, aging and immunity

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Our understanding of HIV/AIDS has been reframed during the recent past because the use of novel antiretroviral therapy (ART) has enabled clinicians and patients to control the progression of the disease. As a consequence, the number of older people living with HIV (PLWH) has grown dramatically. Indeed, between 2005 and 2012, the percentage of HIV-infected Americans older than 50 years jumped from 29% to 42%, and, even more impressively, the rate has continued to increase: today, nearly 70% fall into this age cohort.<sup>1,2</sup> These epidemiological changes underscore the need for a better understanding of the relationship between aging and HIV. The COVID-19 pandemic starting in January of 2020 has had a significant impact on PLWH. This is especially important for those aging with HIV given the more significant clinical impact in older individuals.

Seeking to expand the purview of medical research into the nexus between HIV and aging, this 2-day virtual symposium explored a range of topics not typically addressed in conferences devoted to these conditions. Focusing on the translational scientific research implicated in the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of HIV and its presentation in older individuals, the presenters addressed 3 areas of increasing investigational interest and concern:

- Basic science of inflammation, metabolism, and epigenetics in aging and defining the effect of HIV
- Geroscience and senolytics and the potential for clinical trials in aging PLWH
- COVID-19 research in aging and chronic diseases and delineating its impact on aging PLWH

In addition, the symposium had poster presentations relevant to the main theme. The Miami CFAR mentoring team conducted a mentoring session for junior investigators to offer advice on the path to independence. The symposium also had a dedicated community session led by 5 nationally renowned community advocates discussing the community perspective related to the issue of aging and HIV and the need for basic science research to address the issues of inflammation and frailty in aging HIV population. This Supplement provides an overview of the symposium and articles contributed by some of the speakers and members of the organizing committee and presentations by junior investigators.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Ahn, PhD), University of Central Florida (Shiridhar, PhD), Yale School of Medicine (Lauren Smith, PhD), TeleMed2U (Javeed Siddiqui, MD, MPH), and McGill University Health Centre (Stéphane Isnard, PhD). The Miami CFAR mentoring team consisted of Adam Carrico, PhD, Maria Alcaide, MD, and Enrique Mesri, PhD; they conducted the mentoring session associated with the symposium.

## REFERENCES

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