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California's Linda Adams and Mary Nichols on how the Golden State is set to tackle climate change both at home and abroad

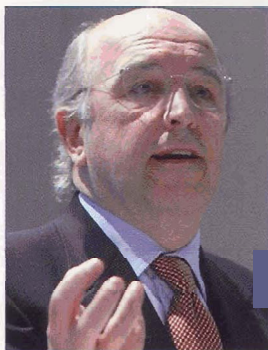
California dreaming

"FOR GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER JOINING ICAP IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING"

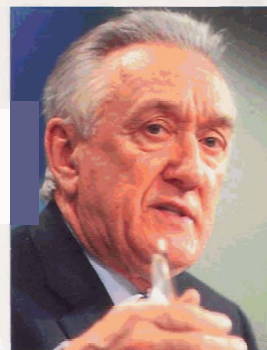
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Katerina Batzeli
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EU-India
Eurostar
Joaquín Almunia
on the global
credit squeeze



ALCOHOL:
László Kovács
Alessandro Foglietta
Richard Corbett
Alexander Stubb
Catherine Stihler



AIDS Vaccine Integrated project (AVIP): a Consortium funded by the FP-6 EU Program



Coordinator: Barbara Ensoli, National AIDS Center, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome (Italy)

The AVIP project is carried out by a Consortium - composed of 16 research centers and 3 Small and Medium Enterprises from 8 Countries (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, United Kingdom) – which comprehends worldwide acknowledged experts in the field of HIV research.

The original concept of AVIP is that HIV vaccines based on viral structural products alone have failed to prevent infection by HIV/SIV. More recently, vaccines based on gene products that possess the activity to regulate HIV replication and are expressed very early after the infection, have been shown to contain virus replication and to prevent disease onset. A vaccine combining both regulatory and structural viral proteins (combined vaccine) is likely to be superior to vaccines that include either a structural or a regulatory protein. In fact, such a combined vaccine should induce immune responses targeting both early and late viral products.

Major AVIP objectives are:

- To develop 4 vaccines combined with structural and regulatory proteins, to evaluate their immunogenicity and efficacy in animal models (mice and monkeys) and to start clinical trials in EU on both HIV-infected and uninfected individuals for evaluation of their safety (phase I trials).
- To perform studies in Developing Countries to evaluate the feasibility of advanced clinical testing of the AVIP developed vaccines.
- To carry out training of laboratory and clinical personnel in Developing Countries, transfer technology and build up the capacity of selected sites in these countries, in preparation for future advanced (phase II/III) clinical trials.
- To ensure community involvement both in EU countries and DC

Preclinical studies of safety, immunogenicity and efficacy have been concluded for the 4 vaccines. Vaccines have entered or are entering phase I studies in 5 European countries (Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom). At the same time, feasibility (epidemiological, virological and immunological) studies are being carried out in South Africa and Swaziland and are in an advanced state. An AVIP International School has been settled and it is fully active at implementing the training program.

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AVIP VACCINE CANDIDATES

Vaccine antigens (clade)	Participants contributing to the vaccine candidates
Tat ± Env (V2-deleted) (B,C)	ISS (Italy) Novartis (Italy/USA)
Nef ± Env (V2-deleted) (B,C)	GSF (Germany) Novartis (Italy/USA)
Multi HIV antigens/epitopes* (A,B,C,FGH)	FIT Biotech (Finland)
HIV multigene (Nef, Rev, Tat, Gag, RT, Env) (A, B, C)	Karolinska Institute (Sweden)

*Multi HIV A, B, C, or FGH clade antigens and epitopes = full length rev, tat, gag, pol, p17, p24 antigens full length and over antigens + >20 T cell epitopes from Pol, Protease, Env antigens

AVIP CONSORTIUM

P name	P #	Institution	P short name	Country	Sub-contractors
Ensoli	1	Istituto Superiore di Sanità	ISS	Italy	IRCCS (FO-San Galliano Hospital)
Wahren	2	Karolinska Institute	KI	Sweden	
Le Grand	3	Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique	CEA	France	
Gavioli	4	University of Ferrara	UNIFE	Italy	
Guzman	5	Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, GmbH	HZI	Germany	
Magnani	6	University of Urbino	UNIURB	Italy	
Stenescu	7	FIT Biotech Oyj Plc	FIT	Finland	University of Turku, Finland
Erlé	8	Centre for Environmental and Health Research	GSF	Germany	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich; Robert Koch Institute, Berlin
Rappuoli	9	Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics	NOVARTIS	Italy	
Gotch	10	Imperial College of Science, technology and Medicine	ICSTM	United Kingdom	
Vardas	11	University of the Witwatersrand	WRC	South Africa	
Glashoff	12	University of Stellenbosch	US	South Africa	University of Natal, Durban
Clerici	13	University of Milan	UNIMI	Italy	
Poli	14	Fondazione Centro San Raffaele del Monte Tabor	DIBIT	Italy	
Holmes	15	National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	NIBSC	United Kingdom	
Caputo	16	University of Padova	UNIPD	Italy	
Fiani	17	Terramatica Srl	Terramatica	Italy	
Tollman	18	Medical Research Council	MRC - Agincourt	South Africa	
Sukat	19	National HIV/AIDS Reference Laboratory	NRL - Mbabane	Swaziland	

AVIP VACCINE DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

