HIV Cure in 2025 and Beyond

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Thanks to Steve Deeks and Rachel Rutishauser for sharing slides

Where we are

Antiretroviral therapy for treatment and prevention works great, and long-acting ART in some ways approximates a cure



THE LANCET Infectious Diseases

Switch to long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine in virologically suppressed adults with HIV in Africa (CARES): week 48 results from a randomised, multicentre, open-label, non-inferiority trial

Cissy Kityo, Ivan K Mambule, Joseph Musaazi, Simiso Sokhela, Henry Mugerwa, Gilbert Ategeka, Fiona Cresswell, Abraham Siika, Josphat Kosgei, Reena Shah, Logashvari Naidoo, Kimton Opiyo, Caroline Otike, Karlien Möller, Arvind Kaimal, Charity Wambui, Veerle Van Eygen, Perry Mohammed, Fafa Addo Boateng, Nicholas I Paton, for the CARES trial team*

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Twice-Yearly Lenacapavir or Daily F/TAF for HIV Prevention in Cisgender Women

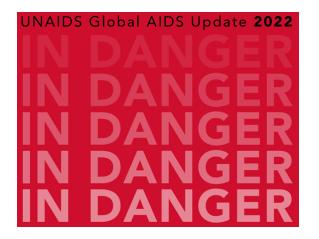
L.-G. Bekker, M. Das, Q. Abdool Karim, K. Ahmed, J. Batting, W. Brumskine,
K. Gill, I. Harkoo, M. Jaggernath, G. Kigozi, N. Kiwanuka, P. Kotze, L. Lebina,
C.E. Louw, M. Malahleha, M. Manentsa, L.E. Mansoor, D. Moodley, V. Naicker,
L. Naidoo, M. Naidoo, G. Nair, N. Ndlovu, T. Palanee-Phillips, R. Panchia,
S. Pillay, D. Potloane, P. Selepe, N. Singh, Y. Singh, E. Spooner, A.M. Ward,
Z. Zwane, R. Ebrahimi, Y. Zhao, A. Kintu, C. Deaton, C.C. Carter, J.M. Baeten,
and F. Matovu Kiweewa, for the PURPOSE 1 Study Team*

Cabotegravir/rilpivirine maintenance therapy: ~100% effective

Lenacapavir PrEP: 100% effective

Why do we need a cure in an era of effective ART?

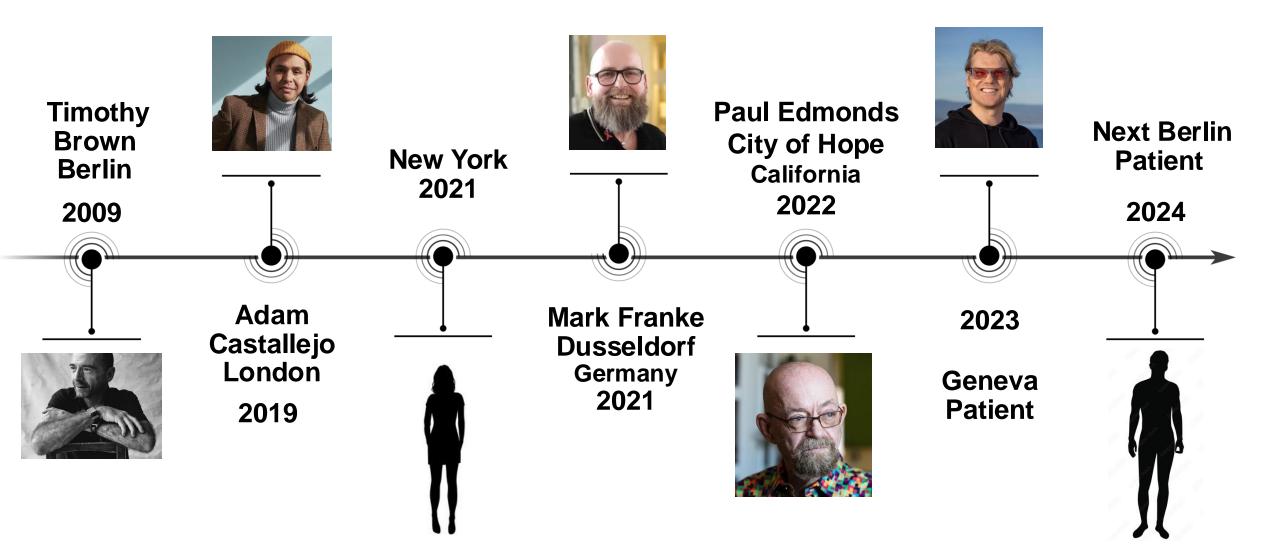
- Human costs
 - Stigma/discrimination
 - Long-term health: Co-morbidities, polypharmacy
 - Multi-drug resistance
 - Life-long adherence is challenging
 - Despite massive investments, many not on effective ART (~30% adults, ~50% children)
- Public health concerns: <u>have shifted theoretical \rightarrow real</u>
 - Disruptions affect access (COVID, PEPFAR, USAID)



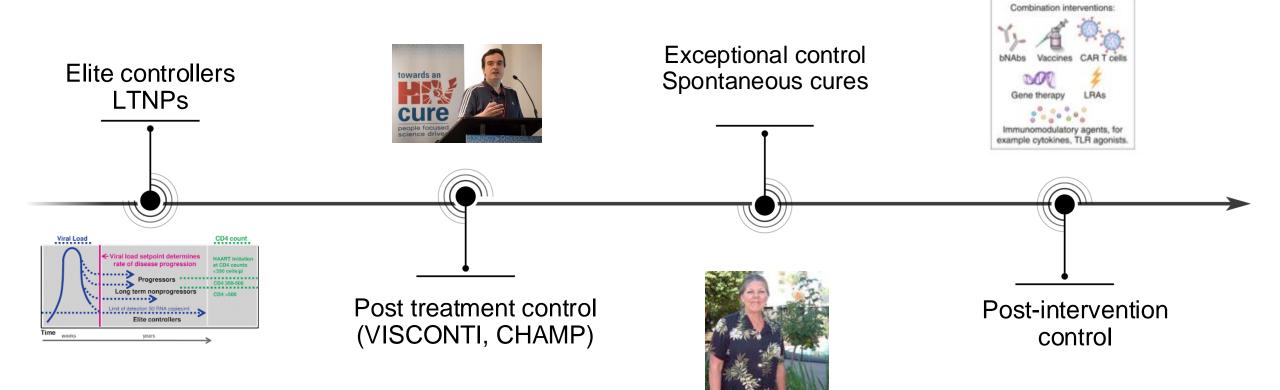
We have a deep understanding of the challenges that need to be overcome

- <u>Reservoir cells</u>: Heterogenous; increasingly clonal and resilient over time; location matters (genic/non-genic); low protein production
- <u>Reservoir size</u>: Goes down in some studies, up in others; likely heterogenous
- <u>Source of rebound</u>: Gut, mesenteric lymph nodes, deep tissues
- <u>Reservoir clearance (ART)</u>: Innate immunity
- <u>Virus control (set-point)</u>: CD8+ T cells (cytotoxic or not, proliferative potential)

At least 7 people have been cured with allogenic stem cell transplants... inspiring proof-of-concept but not scalable

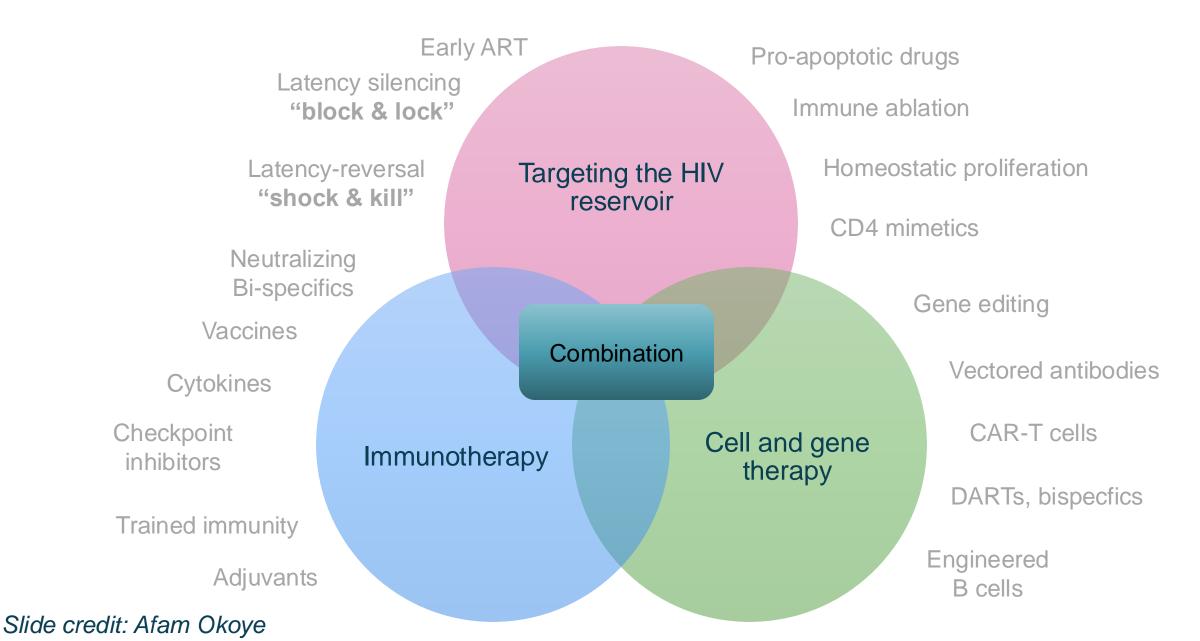


Sustained HIV control in absence of HIV medications ("remission") is becoming more common



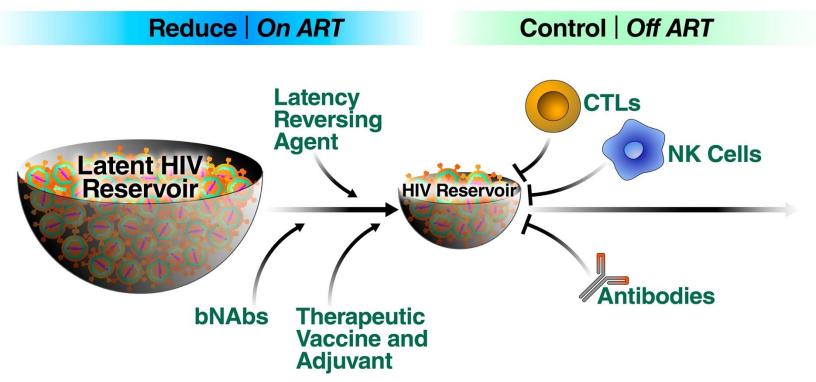
Sustained HIV-specific T cell responses are likely required for post-ART control at set-point

Multiple viable strategies have been identified



Reduce and Control:

low reservoir and a sustained host response

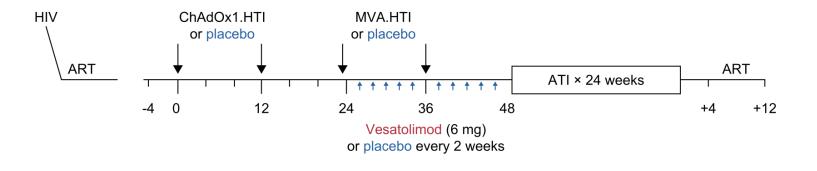


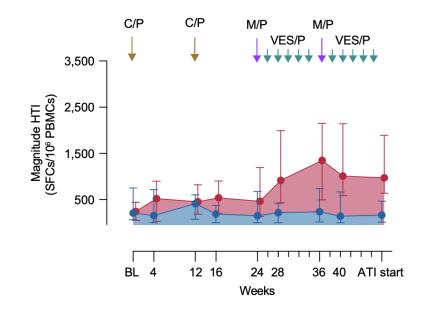
Recent progress with immune therapy

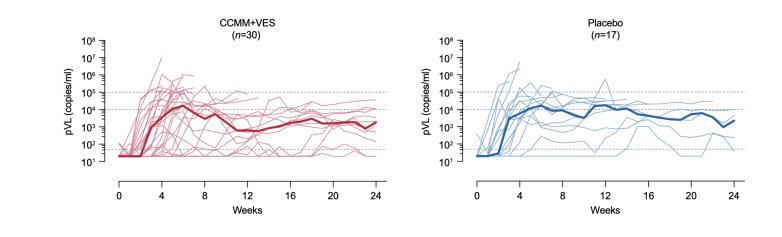
AELIX 003: Highly immunogenic vaccine (ChAd/MVA) + TLR7 agonist had no effect on post-ART rebound A higher magnitude response was associated with a lower VL

nature COMMUNICATIONS

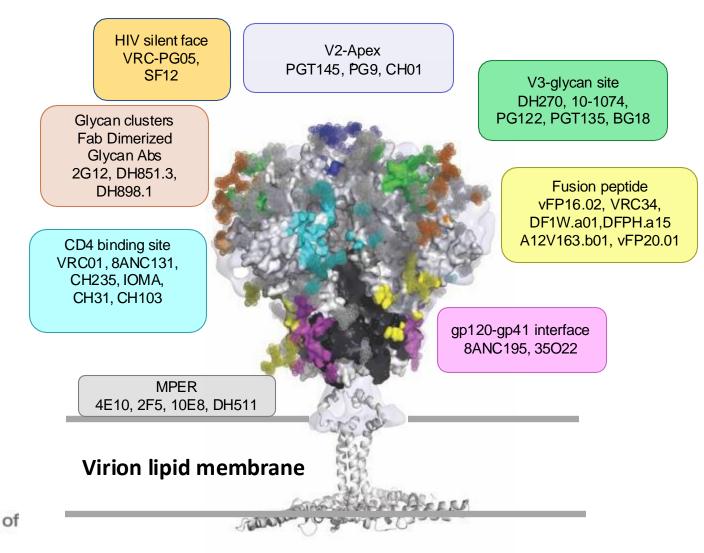
Safety, immunogenicity and effect on viral rebound of HTI vaccines combined with a TLR7 agonist in early-treated HIV-1 infection: a randomized, placebo-controlled phase 2a trial



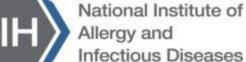




Broad Neutralizing Antibody Binding Sites on HIV-1 Env

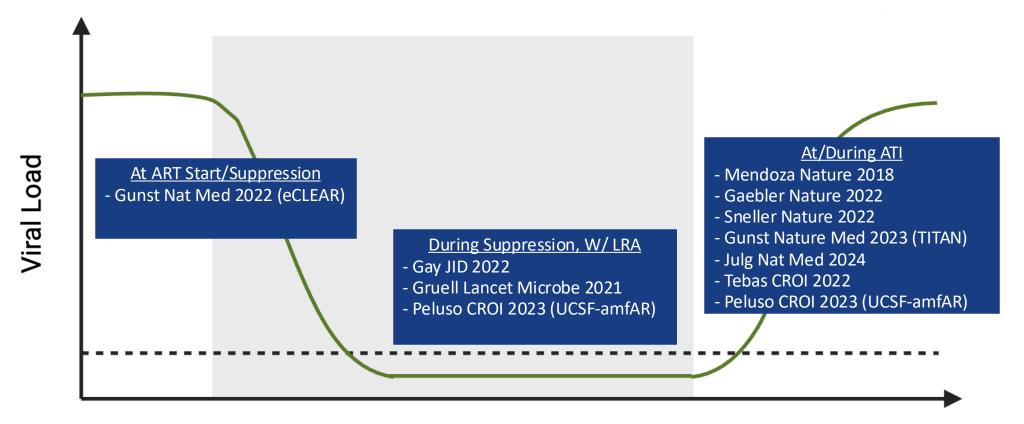






Promising data are emerging when bNAbs are used during early ART and post-ART

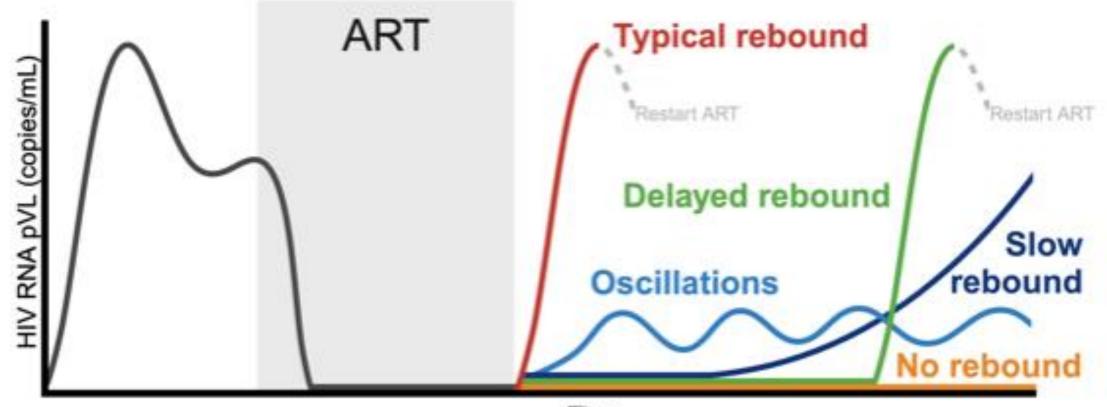
Antibody binds to HIV protein forming immune-stimulating complexes that induce an immune response ("vaccinal effect")



Time

Post-bNAb/Post-Intervention Control:

Some people exhibit delay in rebound (not surprising), slower rates of increase (lower doubling times), lower peak viral loads and lower set-points; some people do not rebound at all



Time

Historical rates of post-ART control without interventions are low

6

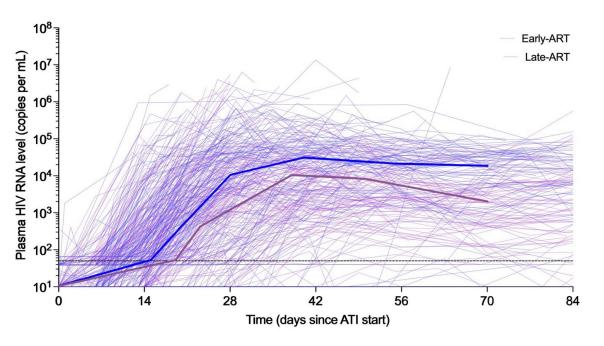
nature communications

Article

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-56116-1

Time to HIV viral rebound and frequency of post-treatment control after analytical interruption of antiretroviral therapy: an individual data-based meta-analysis of 24 prospective studies

Jesper D. Gunst ©^{1,2,29} \boxtimes , Jesal Gohil^{3,29}, Johanthan Z. Li ©⁴, Ronald J. Bosch⁵, Andrea White, Catherine Seamon⁶, Tae-Wook Chun ©⁷, Beatriz Mothe ©^{8,9,10,11}, Kathleen Gittens¹², Lauren Praiss⁷, Marie-Angélique De Scheerder¹³, Linos Vandekerckhove¹⁴, Kevin Escandón^{15,16}, Ann Thorkelson¹⁶, Timothy Schacker ©^{15,16}, Devi SenGupta¹⁷, Christian Brander ©^{8,10,11,18,19}, Emmanouil Papasavvas²⁰, Luis J. Montaner ©²⁰, Javier Martinez-Picado ©^{8,10,11,19}, Ruxandra Calin²¹, Antonella Castagna^{22,23}, Camilla Muccini²², Wesley de Jong ©²⁴, Lorna Leal^{25,26,27}, Felipe Garcia ©^{25,26,27}, Rob A. Gruters ©²⁴, Timothy Tipoe²⁸, John Frater ©²⁸, Ole S. Søgaard ©^{1,2,29} & Sarah Fidler ©^{3,29}



- Placebo groups from multiple studies
- 176 early-treated, 195 late-treated
- Overall 8% had viral load <1000 at day 84
- 24/176 early treated (<u>13.6%</u>) and n=5/195 (<u>2.6%</u>) of late treated meet the 1,000 c/mL threshold

Administration of bNAbs during antigenemia (ART initiation or at ART pause) induces sustained virus control in some



Early intervention with 3BNC117 and romidepsin at antiretroviral treatment initiation in people with HIV-1: a phase 1b/2a, randomized trial

medicine 4/11

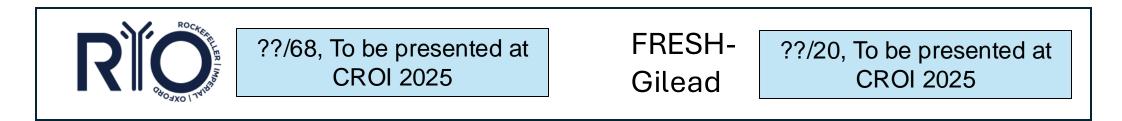
Impact of a TLR9 agonist and broadly neutralizing antibodies on HIV-1 persistence: the randomized phase 2a TITAN trial



Safety and antiviral effect of a triple combination of HIV-1 broadly neutralizing antibodies: a phase 1/2a trial



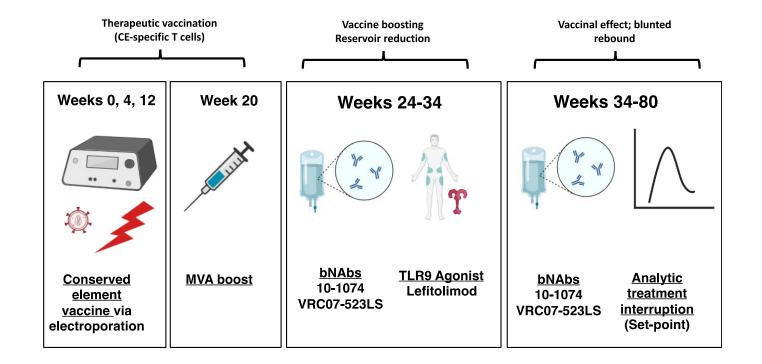
Combination therapy with anti-HIV-1 antibodies maintains viral suppression

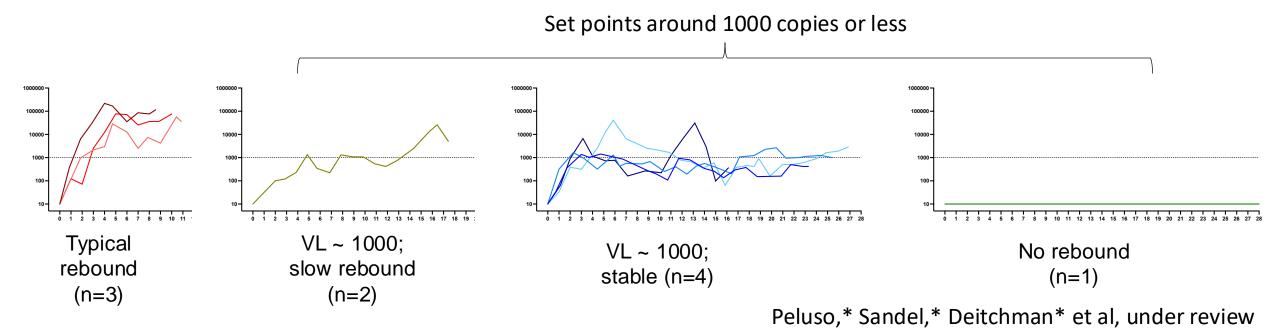


See also: Sandel, Rutishauser, Peluso, "Post-intervention control in HIV immunotherapy studies," Curr Opin HIV/AIDS, Oct 2024.

UCSF-amfAR Combination Study

- 3 stage combination regimen
- Goal: feasibility and safety, proof-ofconcept to justify larger RCTs
- Resulted in sustained control(~1000 copies/mL or less) in 7/10 participants

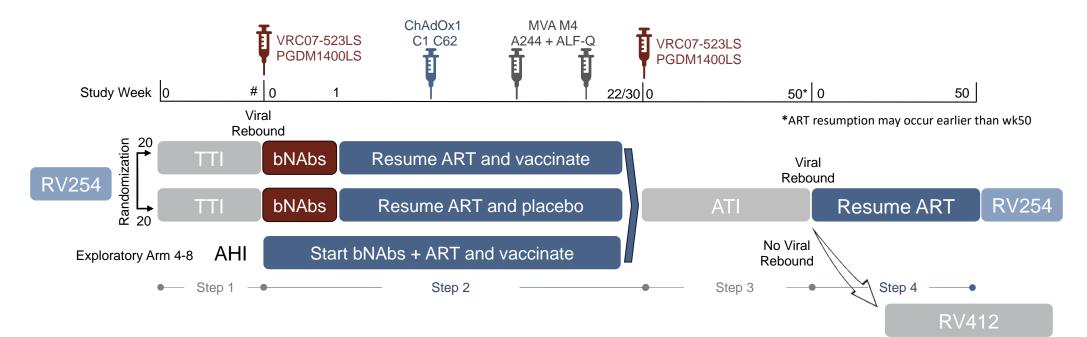




Multiple combination studies approaches now in the clinic, or in development, all including bNAbs and a vaccine *MHRP, ACTG, Gilead, others*

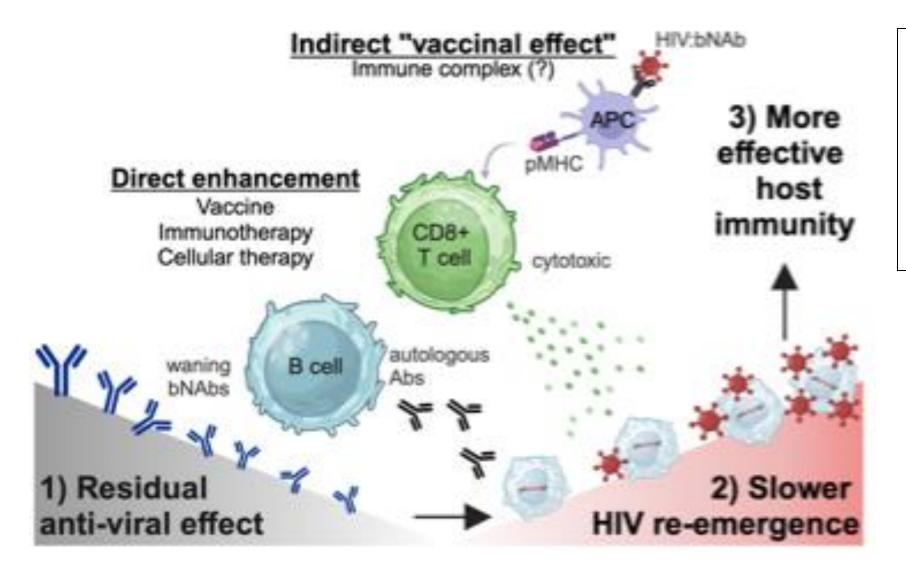


Lydie Trautmann





Potential mechanisms of post-intervention control

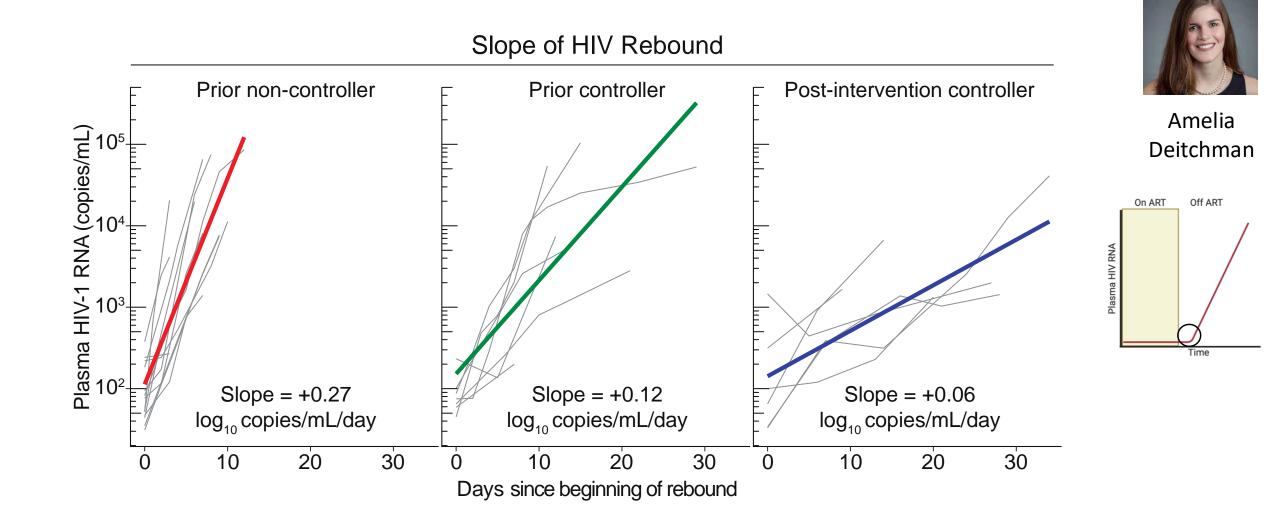


We still don't know:

- Which are most important?
- At which time point?
- Where (in tissue)?
- In whom?

See : Sandel, Rutishauser, Peluso, "Post-intervention control in HIV immunotherapy studies," Curr Opin HIV/AIDS, Oct 2024.

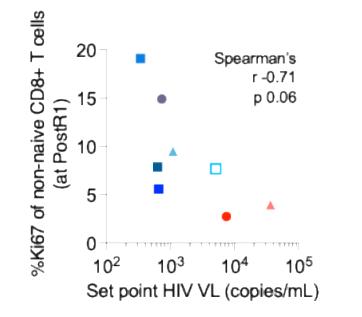
It is likely that the biology at the earliest timepoints matters



Peluso,* Sandel,* Deitchman* et al, under review

Post-bNAb HIV control linked to early *in vivo* CD8+ T cell proliferative and effector responses

Efforts underway to gene engineer such responses





Demi Rachel Sandel Rutishauser

medicine

Combination anti-HIV-1 antibody therapy is associated with increased virus-specific T cell immunity

Julia Niessl^{©12,3}, Amy E. Baxter^{12,3,9}, Pilar Mendoza⁴, Mila Jankovic⁴, Yehuda Z. Cohen⁴, Allison L. Butler⁴, Ching-Lan Lu^{4,10}, Mathieu Dubé¹, Irina Shimeliovich⁴, Henning Gruell^{5,6,7}, Florian Klein^{© 57,8}, Marina Caskey⁴, Michel C. Nussenzweig^{4,11*} and Daniel E. Kaufmann[©]^{12,3,11*}



Early antibody therapy can induce long-lasting immunity to SHIV

Yoshiaki Nishimura¹, Rajeev Gautam¹, Tae–Wook Chun², Reza Sadjadpour¹, Kathryn E. Foulds³, Masashi Shingai¹, Florian Klein^{4,5}, Anna Gazumyan⁶, Jovana Golijanin⁶, Mitzi Donaldson³, Olivia K. Donau¹, Ronald J. Plishka¹, Alicia Buckler–White¹, Michael S. Seaman⁷, Jeffrey D. Lifson⁸, Richard A. Koup³, Anthony S. Fauci², Michel C. Nussenzweig^{6,9} & Malcolm A. Martin¹



Administration of broadly neutralizing anti-HIV-1 antibodies at ART initiation maintains long-term CD8⁺ T cell immunity

Published online: 29 October 2022

Miriam Rosás-Umbert ©¹, Jesper D. Gunst ©¹², Marie H. Pahus ©¹, Rikke Olesen¹, Mariane Schleimann ©², Paul W. Denton ©³, Victor Ramos⁴, Adam Ward ©^{5,6}, Natalie N. Kinloch^{7,8}, Dennis C. Copertino ©^{5,6}, Tuixent Escribà®⁹, Anuska Llano ©⁹, Zabrina L. Brumme O^{7,8}, R. Brad Jones ©^{5,6}, Beatriz Mothe ©^{5,101}, Christian Brander ©^{3,11}, Julie Fox ©^{3,14}, Michel C. Nussenzweig ©^{4,15}, Sarah Fidler^{5,17}, Marina Caskey ©⁴, Martin Tolstrup^{1,2} & Ole S. Segaard ©^{1,2} Where we need to go

Post-intervention control: What we need to do now

- Define the mechanism
 - CD8+ T cells: Specificity (target epitopes), function (tissue homing)
 - Autologous antibodies: Neutralizing vs non-neutralizing function (vaccinal effect)
 - Innate immune responses
 - Intervention-mediated reservoir reduction
 - Blunting of the explosive rebound
- Combination therapy
 - Better bNAbs \rightarrow ongoing development and <u>access</u> to bNAbs
 - Better vaccines (mostly T cell based): immunogens, vectors, dosing, adjuvants
 - Safe and effective means to reduce the reservoir
- Conduct more definitive RCTs with optimal biospecimen collection

Review

Why and where an HIV cure is needed and how it might be achieved



Thumbi Ndung'u, Mike McCune, Steve Deeks

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1841-8 Thumbi Ndung'u^{12,3}, Joseph M. McCune⁴ & Steven G. Deeks⁵*

To address the unmet needs in prevention and treatment, a curative intervention will need to be <u>safe, affordable</u>, <u>scalable, effective</u> in those populations that are not currently doing well on ART (for any reason) and <u>protective against re-infection</u>

A <u>one-shot cure strategy</u> built on existing models that meets these criteria is becoming increasingly feasible

THE LANCET HIV

Multi-stakeholder consensus on a target product profile for an HIV cure

Sharon R Lewin^{*}, Timothy Attoye, Cathy Bansbach, Brian Doehle, Karine Dubé, Mark Dybul, Devi SenGupta, Adam Jiang, Rowena Johnston, Rosanne Lamplough, Joseph M McCune, Gary J Nabel, Thumbi Ndung'u, John Pottage, David Ripin, James F Rooney, Izukanji Sikazwe, Moses Nsubuga, Mitchell Warren, Steven G Deeks^{*}, on behalf of the Sunnylands 2019 Working Group THE LANCET

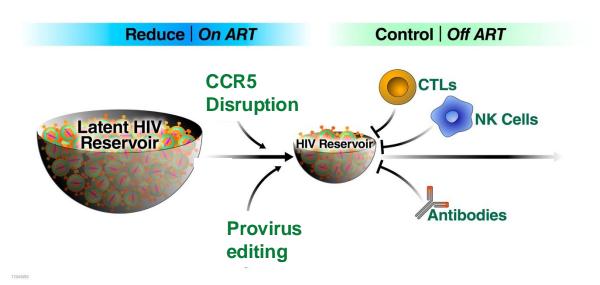
The risk of sexual transmission of HIV in individuals with low-level HIV viraemia: a systematic review

Laura N Broyles, Robert Luo, Debi Boeras, Lara Vojnov

- A combination therapy must <u>at a minimum</u> afford individuals a plasma HIV RNA below the level at which transmission occurs
 - Such a strategy would be useful only for those not able to access and respond to ART
- < 200 cpm was chosen to be conservative, recent data suggest that the threshold maybe < 1000 cpm for transmission (may still not be good enough for individual health)
- The <u>optimal goal</u> is straightforward: Complete suppression similar to that with ART. It may take lots of iteration to get there.

How we will get there

<u>Gene therapy</u> provides the most likely strategy for developing an effective one-shot cure that will address current and future limitations of ART/PrEP



Reduce: Provirus editing, CCR5 disruption

Control: CAR-T cells, vectored antibodies

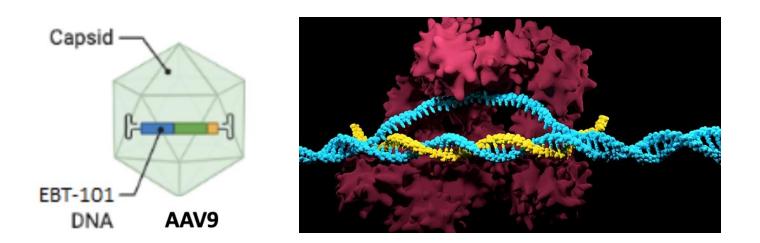
Combination Approaches: Reduce and control

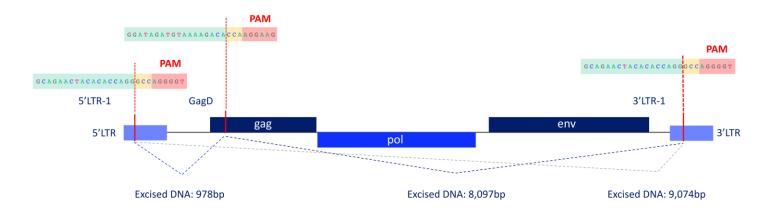
One-shot therapies that could achieve these outcomes are feasible with *in vivo* gene editing/delivery

Reduce

Immune control of HIV will be easier to achieve if the reservoir is low, or if virus spread is blunted

EBT-101: First-in-human phase I/2 study of an in vivo reservoir-targeting gene editing approach (ExcisionBio)





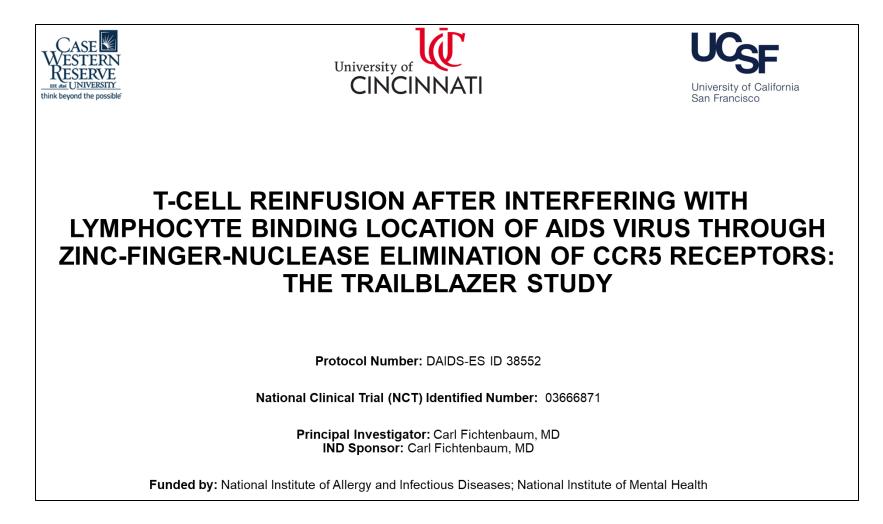
- AAV9-delivery of CRISPR nuclease with two guide RNAs to excise the HIV genome
- Safety: Mild complement activation
- Efficacy: One person had delayed rebound







Rafick Sekaly, Carl Fichtenbaum, Jeff Jacobson



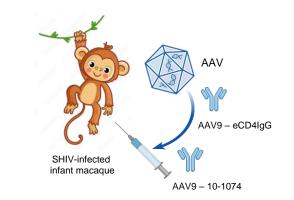
Control

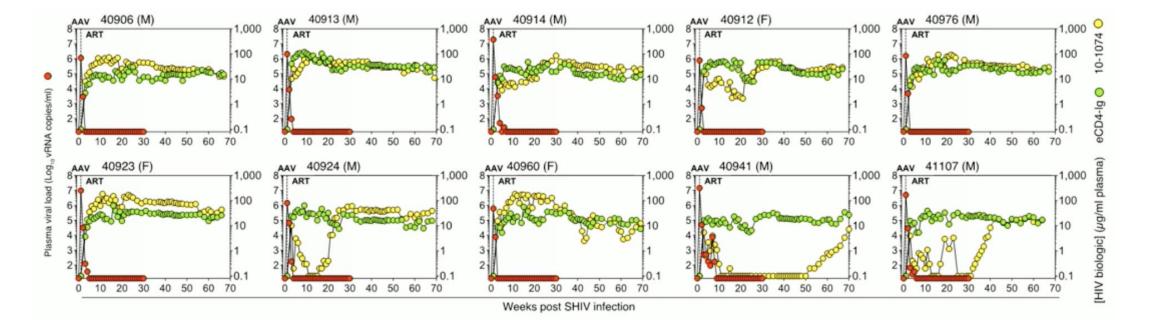
Vectored antibodies CAR-T cells



AAV-Expressed HIV IgG Biologics Enable Durable ART-Free Viral Control in Infant Macaques

Daniel O'Hagan¹, Tracy Ordonez², Lucas Costa¹, Shilpi Pandey², Siddhartha Shandilya¹, Jeremy Smedley², Diogo M. Magnani³, Deborah Persaud⁴, Ann Chahroudi⁵, Matthew R. Gardner⁵, Michael D. Alpert⁶, Ann J. Hessell², Michael Farzan⁷, Nancy L. Haigwood², Mauricio A. Martins¹





A single shot of a vector (AAV) that delivered to muscle cells the genes for two antibodies (eCD4, 10-1074) resulted in sustained production of antibodies (years/decades?) and post-ART control

AAV9 delivery of SIV bNAbs effective in adult macaques

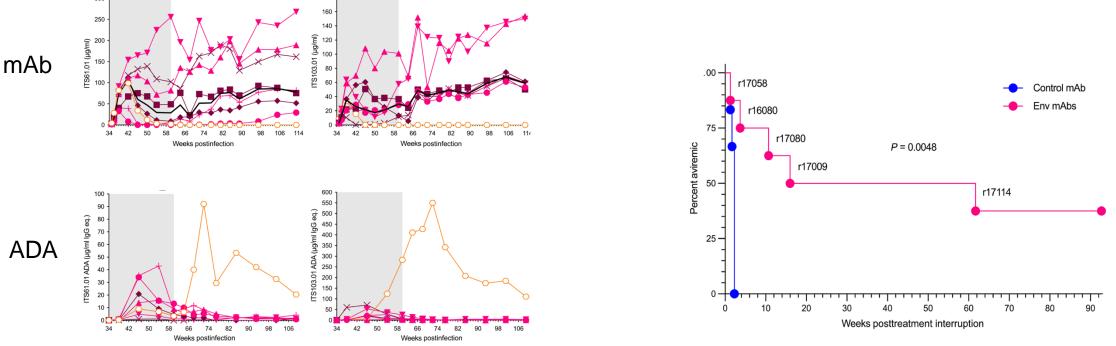
itS61.01

300



Adeno-associated viral delivery of Env-specific antibodies prevents SIV rebound after discontinuing antiretroviral therapy

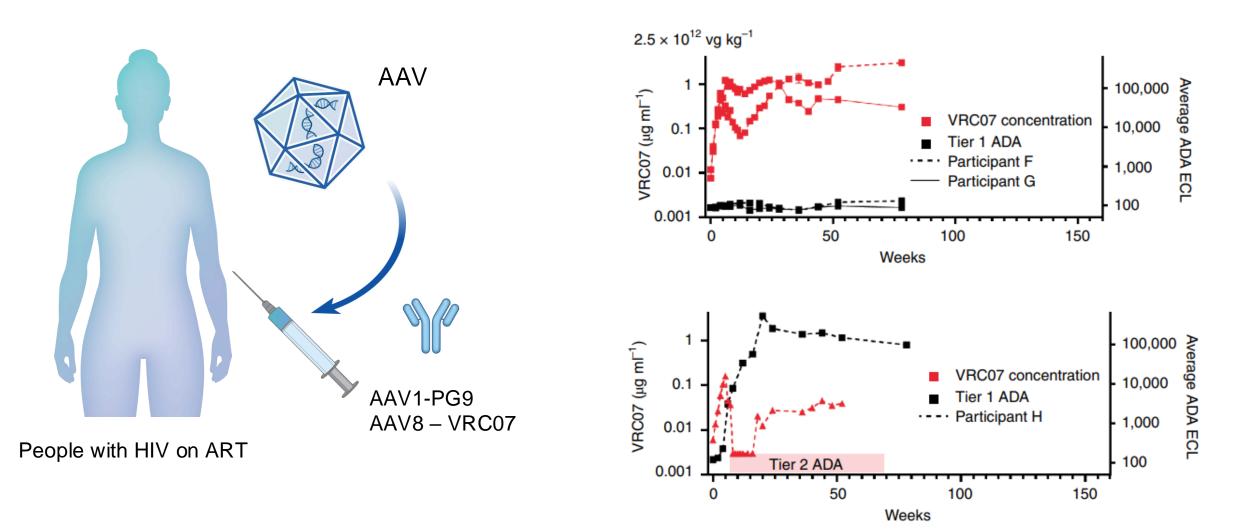
Vadim A. Klenchin¹, Natasha M. Clark¹, Nida K. Keles¹, Saverio Capuano III², Rosemarie Mason³, Guangping Gao⁴, Aimee Broman⁵, Emek Kose⁶, Taina T. Immonen⁶, Christine M. Fennessey⁶, Brandon F. Keele⁶, Jeffrey D. Lifson⁶, Mario Roederer³, Matthew R. Gardner^{7,8}, David T. Evans^{1,2}*



itS103.01

Vector: AAV9 carrying transgenes for 2 SIV env-specific antibodies (TS61.01 and ITS103.01) Animals: SIV infection of <u>adult</u> macaques; treatment started at day 9 (n=14) PK: <u>ADA with limited mAb production in 1/8 animals, sustained mAb production in others for > 1.5 yrs</u> Efficacy: Rapid rebound in animal with ADA; delayed rebound with resistance in 3; no rebound in 4

Gene therapy delivery of bNAbs in people is safe but limited in its ability to achieve adequate levels



ADA=anti-drug antibodies

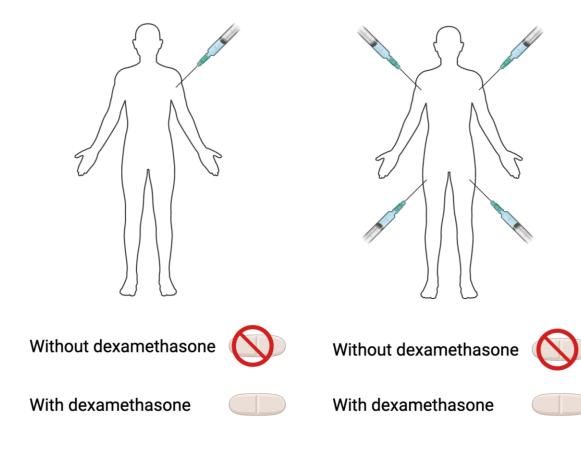
Priddy et al., Lancet HIV 2019; Casazza Nat Med 2022

A5430: "Administration of AAV8-VRC07 as Vectored ImmunoTherapy against HIV"

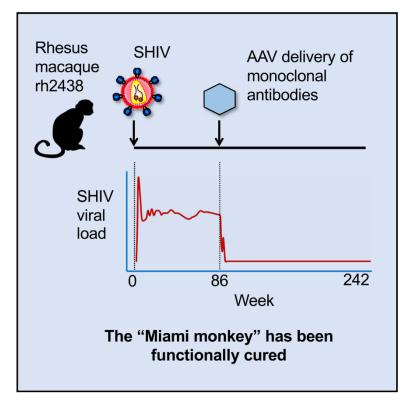


Michael Peluso, Kara Chew, Alex Balazs

- ACTG Small Trials RFA (n=30)
- Identify strategies to
 - <u>Enhance expression</u> (single vs. split dose)
 - <u>Prevent ADA</u> (w/wo brief immune suppression)
- Explore impact of bNAbs on size and distribution of intact reservoir
- Planned launch Fall 2025







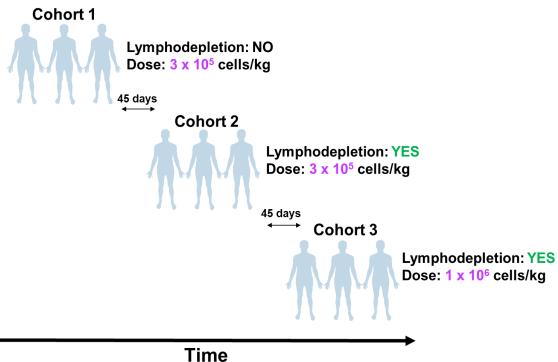


Adeno-Associated Virus Delivery of Anti-HIV Monoclonal Antibodies Can Drive Long-Term Virologic Suppression

José M. Martinez-Navio,^{1,5} Sebastian P. Fuchs,^{1,5} Shara N. Pantry,¹ William A. Lauer,¹ Natasha N. Duggan,¹ Brandon F. Keele,² Eva G. Rakasz,³ Guangping Gao,⁴ Jeffrey D. Lifson,² and Ronald C. Desrosiers^{1,6,7,*}

CAR-T cells recognizing vulnerable epitopes are now being studied, 20 years after initial studies Revolution in autoimmunity (lupus, etc) provides rationale that this approach can be safe and perhaps even scalable

 The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDILOINE
 Image: Contract of the cont







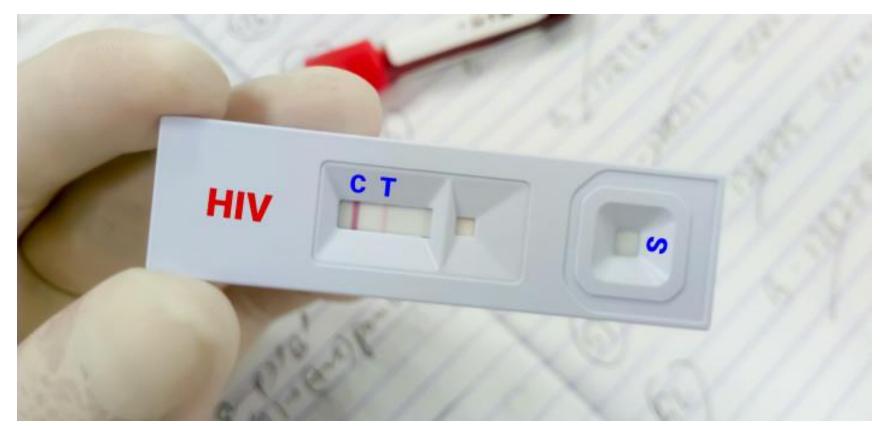
Steven Mehrdad Deeks Abedi

Boro Dropulic

Diagnostics

A qualitative, scalable at-home viral load diagnostic will likely be required for any cure strategy

An affordable, rapid, at-home <u>qualitative diagnostic</u> for VIRUS (not antibody) with reasonable sensitivity (~ 1000 copies RNA/mL) could transform treatment and PrEP. It may also be essential for implementation of a cure strategy



Is It Time for Free HIV Self-Tests From the Government?



Socio-behavioral Research

We need to know what people with HIV want a cure to look like, what risks are acceptable to get there, and what challenges they face from participating in these studies

'Fear overcome by love': why I participated in HIV cure research

Clark Hawley*

University of California San Francisco, CA, USA



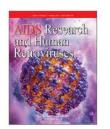
- PrEP initiation labs with plasma HIV RNA 220 copies/mL → started ART, reservoir studies negative
- ATI with weekly testing for 6 months
- Went to extremes to monitor







Karine John Dube Sauceda



Lessons Learned in Eliciting Systematic Participant Perspectives in a Combination HIV Cure Research Trial

Karine Dubé () ¹, Hursch Patel () ¹, Steven Meanley², Lynda Dee^{3,4}, Anastasia Korolkova¹, Fang Wan¹, Shadi Eskaf⁵, Meghann Williams⁶, Rebecca Hoh⁶, Steven G. Deeks⁶, Michael J. Peluso⁶, Jeremy Sugarman⁷, and John A. Sauceda⁸



Recall and Appraisal of the Risks, Benefits, and Objectives of Interrupting HIV Treatment in an HIV Cure-Related Study

Anastasia Korolkova¹ · Samuel O. Ndukwe¹ · Lynda Dee^{2,3} · Steven G. Deeks⁴ · Michael J. Peluso⁴ · Rebecca Hoh⁴ · Antonio Rodriguez⁴ · Jeremy Sugarman⁵ · Lidia Rodriguez Garcla⁷ · Karine Dubé^{1,6} · John A. Sauceda^{7,8}



'It is scary to pause treatment': perspectives on HIV cure-related research and analytical treatment interruptions from women diagnosed during acute HIV in Durban, South Africa

Socio-Behavioral research

Deli Mthimkhulu^{a#}, Krista L. Dong^{b,c,d#}, Mzwakhe Wiseman Ngcobo^a, Deborah Mindry^e, Ayanda Zulu^a, Ntombifuthi Langa^a, Luyanda Maphalala^f, Vanessa Pillay^f, Maud Mthembu^g, Annie Miall^{b,f}, Whitney Tran^h, Ana Dillenⁱ, Fang Wan^h, Ali Ahmed^h, Jamila K. Stockman^h, Maryam Hussain^h, Thumbi Ndung'u^{b,j,k,l} and Karine Dubé^h

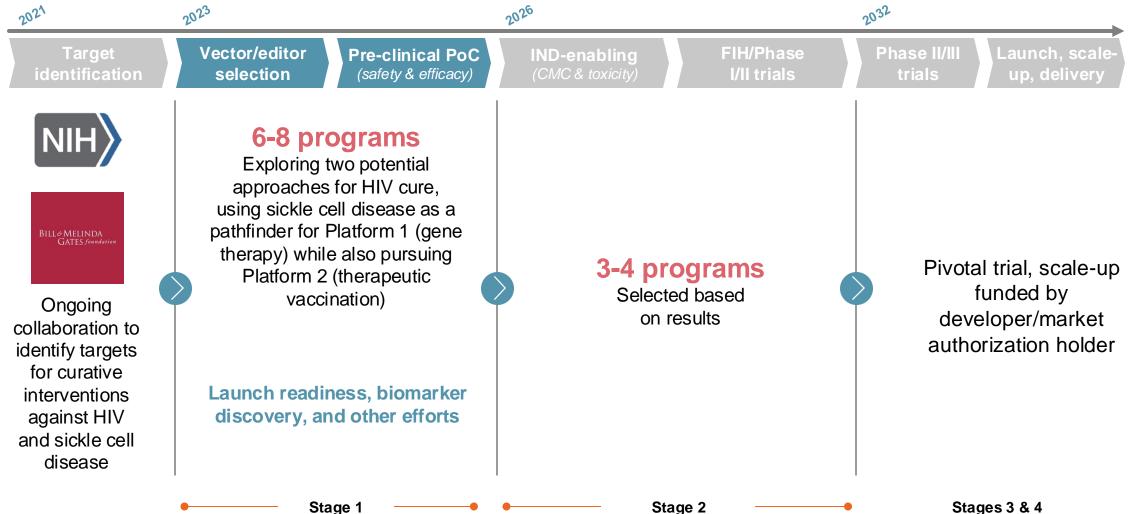
Threats to Progress

Industry engagement is too weak and may be waning.

Academia lacks the capacity to move ideas from the laboratory to the clinic without this engagement.

Tremendous uncertainty regarding key programs (PEPFAR, USAID)

Gates Foundation and HIV Cure Moving candidate interventions to the clinic



NIAID Vaccine Research Center: Multidisciplinary structure supports path from discovery to product development

Bethesda Building 40



<u>Gaithersburg</u> Vaccine Production Program



Clinical Materials Pilot Plant

Frederick



<u>Bethesda</u> Clinical Trials Clinic Building 10



Gaithersburg Vaccine Immunology Program





Basic and translational scientific discovery



Process development



Clinical product manufacturing



First in human clinical trials



High throughput immune assays

HIV Vaccine Development: Highly efficient translations from the lab to the clinic, and back



Thomas Denny COO



Althaf Hussain Sr. Director, Product Development



Maureen Maughan Dir. RNA and Product Integration





REVIEW ARTICLE

Development of mRNA manufacturing for vaccines and therapeutics: mRNA platform requirements and development of a scalable production process to support early phase clinical trials

JILL WHITLEY, CHRISTOPHER ZWOLINSKI, CHRISTIAN DENIS, MAUREEN MAUGHAN, LEONIE HAYLES, DAVID CLARKE, MEGHAN SNARE, HONG LIAO, SEAN CHIOU, TINA MARMURA, HOLLY ZOELLER, BEN HUDSON, JOHN PEART, MONICA JOHNSON, AMELIA KARLSSON, YUNFEI WANG, CYNTHIA NAGLE, CHERELL HARRIS, DANIEL TONKIN, STEPHANIE FRASER, LIEZA CAPIZ, CHRISTINA L. ZENO, YVONNE MELI, DIANA MARTIK, DANIEL A. OZAKI, AMY CAPARONI, JASON E. DICKENS, DREW WEISSMAN, KEVIN O. SAUNDERS, BARTON F. HAYNES, GREGORY D. SEMPOWSKI, THOMAS N. DENNY, and MATTHEW R. JOHNSON

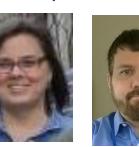
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA; AND PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA







Dan Ozaki Dir. Quality



Diana Martik I Dir. Analytics



Chris Todd Dir. Program



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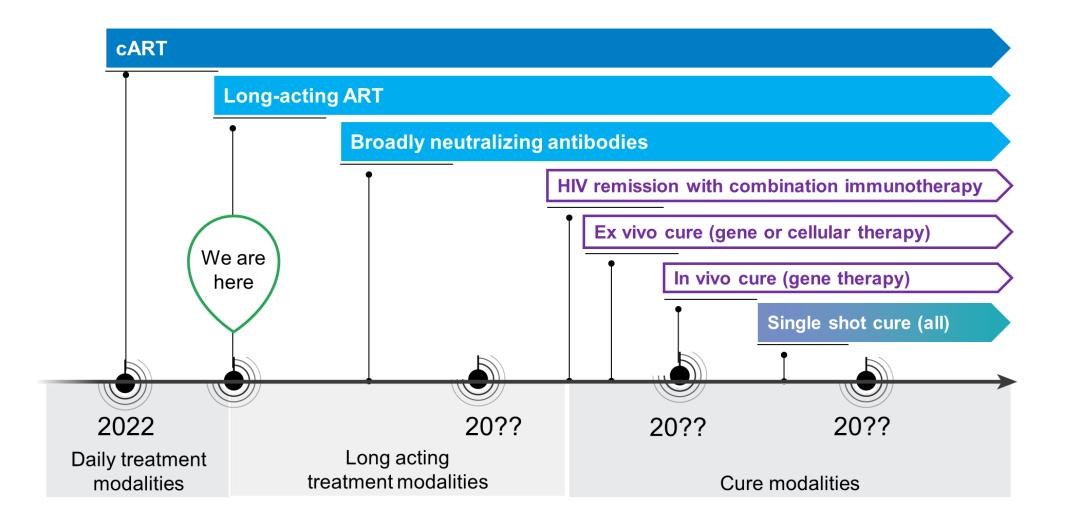
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Cure: Iterative and incremental progress expected *The first generation of cures are expected to complex and difficult-to-scale, as were the initial antiretroviral regimens* THE LANCET HIV Multi-stakeholder consensus on a target product profile for an HIV cure

Sharon R Lewin^{*}, Timothy Attoye, Cathy Bansbach, Brian Doehle, Karine Dubé, Mark Dybul, Devi SenGupta, Adam Jiang, Rowena Johnston, Rosanne Lamplough, Joseph M McCune, Gary J Nabel, Thumbi Ndung'u, John Pottage, David Ripin, James F Rooney, Izukanji Sikazwe, Moses Nsubuga, Mitchell Warren, Steven G Deeks^{*}, on behalf of the Sunnylands 2019 Working Group



HIV Cure in 2025: Summary

- Long-acting ART may be approximating "cure", but the challenges with ART access are becoming more obvious now than ever before
- We are making progress in inducing post-intervention control to establish the proof of concept
- Lots more work will be need to move from a proof of concept stage to something that is clinically useful and acceptable
- We need to keep our eyes on the target of a one-shot cure and advocate for the resources we need to get there

Acknowledgements



UCSF SCOPE Team







UCSF-BAY AREA CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH



National Institutes of Health



Gates Foundation