

Special Hot Topics Issue for **CURRENT HIV RESEARCH**

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The Role of Co-infections in HIV Transmission across Mucosal Surfaces

Aim and Scope:

Co-infection with a variety of mucosal pathogens has been shown to increase rates of HIV-1 transmission. The mechanisms behind this effect are many and include breaks in the mucosal barrier, altered barrier permeability, direct or indirect effects of co-infection on HIV receptor and co-receptor expression, unfavorable changes in immune cell trafficking to the site of transmission and untoward effects of immune evasion by co-infecting pathogens. In this hot topics issue, we will address these mechanisms for a variety of mucosal pathogens. An improved understanding of the effects of co-infection on HIV-1 transmission will aid in the development of transmission prevention strategies.

Key Words:

HIV, sexually transmitted infections, mucosal epithelia, transmission

Tentative subtopics:

Chlamydia trachomatis

Herpes Simplex Virus

Neisseria gonorrhoea

Bacterial vaginosis and trichomonal infections

Oropharyngeal infections

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

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