

**Special Issue for Current HIV Research**  
Guest editor: *Shayesta Dhalla, MD, MHSc, PhD*

**HIV Vaccines and the STEP Study**

**Aim and Scope:**

The field of HIV vaccines has become an even more challenging one, since a phase 2B HIV vaccine trial in high-risk HIV-negative individuals (the STEP study) using an investigational adenovirus vaccine showed that the vaccine was ineffective. There was also an increase in HIV infection in those who received the vaccine and had pre-existing adenovirus antibodies versus those who did not receive the vaccine, primarily in uncircumcised men. This review addresses important topics with respect to the STEP study such as ethical issues surrounding HIV vaccine trials, early phase HIV vaccine trials, preventive and therapeutic HIV vaccine trials, hypothetical and actual willingness to participate (WTP), and priorities regarding vaccine dissemination. The IAVI perspective on future HIV vaccine trials will also be addressed.

**Key words:**

HIV vaccines, STEP study, ethics, Phase I/II studies, feasibility, willingness to participate

**Tentative subtopics and proposed authors:**

1. Ethical issues surrounding HIV vaccine trials - Supachai Rerks-Ngarm / Pune Pitisuttithum (Thai Ministry of Public Health).
2. Early phase HIV vaccine trials- M. Julianna McElrath (University of Washington).
3. Hypothetical vs actual willingness to participate in an HIV vaccine trial- Susan Buchbinder (University of California, San Francisco).
4. Preventive vs. therapeutic HIV vaccine trials- Larry Corey (University of Washington).
5. Dissemination of an HIV vaccine- Catherine Hankins (UNAIDS).
6. IAVI perspective on HIV vaccines- Margaret G. McGlynn (IAVI).

**Submission deadline for authors:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.