



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5-18-07

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HIV Vaccine Awareness Day Is Marked By Important Briefing

Washington, DC – May 18, 2007 is HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, The AIDS Institute, and AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition are bringing awareness and education to this important day with a briefing held from 8:30am to 10:00am at the Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-354. The briefing, *Looking Back, Moving Ahead: An Update on HIV Vaccine Development*, will include presentations from the sponsoring organizations, in addition to Dr. John Mascola, Deputy Director, The Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center, National Institutes of Health.

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day educates the public about the need for an HIV vaccine and commends those participating in HIV vaccine trials, providing an impetus for more HIV vaccine research and development.

“On the 10th anniversary of HIV Vaccine Day, we acknowledge the continued importance of redoubling our efforts to find an AIDS vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS. The development of an effective AIDS vaccine continues to be one of the greatest public health challenges we face today. We must invest in innovative technologies and build clinical capacity in the areas of the world hardest hit by the epidemic if we hope to stem the spread of HIV in coming years,” said Frances Priddy, Director, Medical Affairs, IAVI.

Mitchell Warren, Executive Director of AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, meanwhile, cites the “particularly important role” communities and researchers in developing countries play in vaccine development. “As more and larger trials are planned, we must continue to develop research, policy and advocacy infrastructure to support them, and ensure that vaccine development efforts are integrated with treatment and existing prevention programs,” he said.

“It has been more than 25 years since the first AIDS cases were reported and we still do not have a cure or a preventative vaccine,” said Dr. Gene Copello, Executive Director of the AIDS Institute. “During the past 25 years, more than 25 million people have died of AIDS and 14,000 new infections occur each day throughout the world, creating an urgent and compelling need for both a cure and an effective preventive vaccine.”

For more information about HIV Vaccine Awareness Day and activities. Please contact:

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For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact
The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: Info@theaidsinstitute.org or www.TheAIDSInstitute.org
The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit agency that promotes action for social change
through public policy research, advocacy and education.