



August 1-2, 2008

**Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel & Towers
Paseo de la Reforma 325 Col. Cuauhtemoc
Mexico City, Mexico**

***MSM Pre-Conference Event to the
2008 International AIDS Conference***



The Invisible Men: Gay Men and Other MSM in the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Description

The Pre-Conference Affiliated Event on MSM and HIV will focus on how insufficient global HIV research (broadly defined) on MSM drives the dearth of HIV prevention, treatment and care resources targeting MSM needs, drawing connections between research, practice and policy.

Who Should Attend

- Community-Based Organizations
- Human Rights Activists
- Researchers

Goals

1. Share information and establish stronger collaborations;
2. Develop strategies for expanding research about and resources for HIV prevention, treatment and care among MSM; and
3. Enhance advocacy campaigns to address repressive laws and policies that underlie data, resource, and service shortages.

Thank You to our Partners & Sponsors



7:00 - 9:00 AM **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

9:00 - 9:30 AM **Welcome**

Craig McClure, Executive Director of the International AIDS Society

9:30 - 11:00 AM **Opening Plenary – “Overview, Changing Environment, and Cross Issue Strategic Alliances”**

David Wilson, World Bank

11:00 AM-Noon **Poster Gallery, Information Exchange & Networking
Coffee & Refreshments**

12:00 - 1:30 PM Concurrent Workshops

Research, Data, Surveillance and Their Application

R1: Making Anal Sex Safer for MSM in the Developing World

Jim Pickett, *AIDS Foundation Chicago/IRMA, U.S.*

The notion that gay men and MSM are strictly a Western phenomenon is patently false. Gay men and other men who have sex with men exist throughout the developing world, despite official denial and cultural stigma and shame that results in catastrophically low levels of HIV prevention funding for these communities. Unprotected anal intercourse is an extraordinarily efficient means of HIV transmission, and more user-controlled methods of protection are needed for gay and MSM that go beyond latex, fidelity and abstinence. International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA) works to advance the research and development of safe, effective and acceptable rectal microbicides for all the men, and women, around the world who engage in anal intercourse. IRMA members from the developing world (IRMA's 600+ membership hails from 46 countries) will share the latest rectal microbicide research, highlight key findings in the new IRMA report, 'Less Silence, More Science', and discuss global advocacy efforts to engage gay and MSM.

***Please continue to check www.msmandhiv.org/2008aids/
for pre-conference event updates including added workshops and speakers!***

Research, Data, Surveillance and Their Application**R2: New Community Research from the Caribbean on Vulnerability and Gay, Bisexual and Other MSM**

Robert Carr, *Jamaica*
Steeve Daguerre, *Haiti*
Caleb Orozco, *Belize*
Joel Simpson, *Guyana*

Mario Kleinmoedig, *Curacao*
Ian McKnight, *Jamaica*
Leonardo Sanchez, *Dominican Republic*

While homosexuality is common in the Caribbean, it remains widely stigmatised in most of the region. Within the diversity of the Caribbean experience, however, there is a full range of complex issues that lead gay, bisexual, transgender and other men who have sex with men (MSM) to engage in risky behaviour. The rise of fundamentalist evangelism, timid or hostile political climates, and models of understanding behaviour that exclude these groups are some of the factors that make MSM programming limited and uneven to the task. This especially striking because it is happening at a time when the infection rates among this sub-population continue to increase and leaders scramble to find effective interventions to control infections rates among the general population.

This panel will therefore explore issues faced by different communities of MSM in Haiti, Curacao, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Belize and Guyana in challenging homophobia, forming nurturing communities, and accessing services. Experiences vary across language communities in the region and their particular socio-cultural environments. A diverse range of community-based response work is taking place in the Caribbean to address structural issues that facilitate the spread of HIV among MSM in a context where resources are limited to providing services for politically-conservative reasons. This panel will provide a window into that body of work that reflect the experiences of MSM programming in the Caribbean.

R3: Reclaiming HIV Prevention Research

Barry D Adam, *Canada*
Kane Race, *Australia*
David Halperin, *USA*

This session is an opportunity to build alliances between prevention activists and researchers who value the experiences, histories, and cultures of MSM and conceive of prevention research and practice by conceptualizing HIV as an unfortunate interloper into our desire to connect with other men. We are skeptical of approaches that test, measure, and pathologize MSM and view MSM as the vectors of disease whose deviance (drug use, promiscuity, etc) must be corrected by professionals. The session intends to open a dialogue on our own "evidence-based" research and practices for advancing the health and sexual cultures of MSM.

R4: Successes and Challenges in Community Organizing in French Speaking Africa Part 1 (In French)**Enjeux et défis de l'infection par le VIH chez les hommes ayant des relations sexuelles avec des hommes en Afrique (francophone)**

1. Epidémiologie de l'infection par le VIH en Afrique chez les MSM
2. Etat des réponses : programmes de santé publique, financements etc.
3. La problématique du VIH chez les hommes ayant des relations sexuelles avec des hommes en Afrique est-elle une priorité de santé publique ?
4. Débats

R5: Research Among Ethnic Minority MSM Living in the UK (Including Black African, Black Caribbean, South Asian, South East Asian, Middle Eastern and Latino MSM).

Jonathan Elford, et al., *UK*

Programs & Good Practice**P1: Re-engaging Gay Men in HIV Prevention Work: The Experience of the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)**

Duncan Maclachlan, *AIDS Committee of Toronto, Canada*

Despite the impact of HIV infection in large, urban centres with organized gay communities, many gay men no longer want to "volunteer" to do HIV prevention work for a variety of reasons: the de-emphasis of the impact of HIV/AIDS on gay men, resulting apathy amongst gay men to become involved in a health issue that has been "de-gayed", coupled with internalised homophobia/HIV phobia. To address this, the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) has undertaken steps to "shift" HIV prevention work to a more holistic, sexual health promotion framework (within which HIV/AIDS is situated), and build greater community support for sexual health promotion. This, along with initiatives to enhance volunteer roles/responsibilities has translated in greater community support for program delivery/development. This presentation will highlight the steps taken to reinvigorate volunteer and community interest and support for ACT's Gay Men's Outreach programming.

P2: MSM, Sexual Health and Cultural Production: Corpus 7

Pato Hebert, *AIDS Project Los Angeles, U.S.*

Andy Quan, *Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations, Australia*

Corpus is an HIV/AIDS journal that utilizes art, creative writing, personal narrative, cultural criticism, humor and roundtable interviews to explore issues of sexuality, class, race, age and gender in the lives of gay and bisexual men as a strategy disrupt silences about sex between men that permeates the HIV/AIDS field. *Corpus* offers the possibility to move beyond the language of science and research to illuminate the lives of gay and bisexual men, through both reflection and contrast in images and words. This presentation will focus on the production of *Corpus 7* and offer excerpted readings from this and past issues.

P3: Marathon

SALVIMEX, *grupo de hip hop/rap en español creado en Los Angeles en el año 2002*

DEADLEE, *rapper, activista, comediante, open gay artist, radicado en Los Angeles*

Se basa en una conjugacion de Music (hip hop / rap) y Anecdotas Reales relacionadas con la infeccion del HIV. Se representaran canciones relacionadas con el tema, a la vez con intermedios de Anecdotas narradas por los artistas, historias reales, y una amplia descripcion de como los jovenes que pasan por esta situacion, puedan darse cuenta que se puede luchar y continuar logrando sus metas en la vida, no opstante las circunstancias adversas y los problemas emocionales ocasionados por el heche de estar infectado. Marathon es una representacion muy positiva, moderna y llevada a cabo con la musica del hip hop, videos musicales y dialogo.

CON UN SOLO OBJETIVO, CON UN SOLO PUNTO, CON UN SOLO FIN, UNA SOLA IDEA; FOMENTAR LA ESPERANZA Y LA ENERGIA A LA GENTE, PARA QUE SE DEN CUENTA QUE SE TIENE QUE CONTINUAR LUCHANDO EN EL CAMINO.

Funding, Resource Mobilization and Advocacy**A1: Initiating, Scaling-up and Neutralizing National Government Resistance to HIV Programming for MSM – Making the Lessons Learned in Asia Available to Other Parts of the World**

Siam Arayawongchai, *Purple Sky Network, Thailand*
Shivananda Khan, *Naz Foundation, International, India*
Paul Causey, *Thailand*

There is wide agreement in the Asia Pacific region that two regional processes have provided a framework and context which have both strengthened MSM advocacy and also allowed most national governments in the region to support – or at least not to suppress – the development of MSM programs. These processes were: 1) The planning and development of a Greater Mekong Sub-region strategy for MSM and HIV, resulting (among other things) in the establishment of the Purple Sky Network; and 2) The planning, conduct and outcomes of 'Risks & Responsibilities', the Asia Pacific Consultation on Male Sexual Health, held in Delhi in September, 2006, which subsequently gave rise to APCOM. This session will present the techniques used for strengthening MSM advocacy and networking nationally and regionally, and encourage discussion about their applicability to other regions of the world.

A2: No Mas en el Tintero: CONGA and Advocacy Efforts in Central America (In Spanish)

Norman Gutierrez, *CONGA, Nicaragua*
Moises Cascante, *AIDS Project Los Angeles, U.S.*

This presentation will be based on the recommendations contained within the monograph published by CONGA and APLA entitled, *No Mas en el Tintero*, which focuses on the HIV/AIDS and human rights concerns of gay and bisexual men in Central America. Panelists will also share strategies they used for the dissemination of the publication and describe the advocacy organizing significance of the publication.

Esta presentación será basada en las recomendaciones contenidas dentro de la monografía publicada por CONGA y APLA titulada, *No Más en el Tintero*, que se enfoca en las inquietudes de hombres gays y bisexual con respecto al VIH/SIDA y los derechos humanos en Centroamérica. Los miembros del panel también compartirán las estrategias que utilizaron para la distribución de la publicación y describirán las implicaciones de la organización política de la publicación.

A3: Findings from Survey of Hivos-Funded Gay Groups

Hivos

Questions/Inquiries

Please email your inquiries to 2008AIDS@msmandhiv.org or call +1-213-201-1566.

Funding, Resource Mobilization and Advocacy**A4: Positive MSM and their role in the HIV response**

Robert Baldwin, *Asia Pacific Network of People with HIV/AIDS*

In the Asia Pacific region, as in some other economically developing regions, there is an increasing realization and acknowledgement of the growing HIV epidemic among men who have sex with men (MSM). This has led to some escalation in the response regionally, and in some countries, by INGOs, NGOs and even now some government agencies, but the focus has largely been on HIV prevention, including promoting HIV testing, with minimal actions around effective care and peer support programs/projects for MSM living with HIV. This is compounded by multiple levels of discrimination faced by many positive MSM from within the general, PLHIV and MSM communities.

Some PLHIV regional and national networks, including the Asia Pacific Network of PLHIV (APN+), are taking proactive steps to address the role of positive MSM in the HIV response.

The session will allow for a brief description by APN+, and possibly some other interested global, regional and country PLHIV networks, of their latest innovative actions in regards to addressing the role of positive MSM in the HIV response and also allow for the majority of the time to be a facilitated open mike discussion by session participants of what they see the role of positive MSM to be. We would expect a lively (moderated) discussion on how participants view current positive MSM care and support programs, overcoming barriers to effective positive MSM involvement in the HIV response and how to address issues of discrimination, particularly from within PLHIV and MSM communities.

1:30 - 3:00 PM **Banquet Lunch**

3:00 - 4:30 PM Concurrent Workshops***Research, Data, Surveillance and Their Application*****R6: The State of Current Research with Ethnic Minority MSM in the U.S.: Disparities in a Global Northern Country**

Tri D. Do, *University of California, San Francisco, U.S.*

Greg Millet, *Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S.*

Rafael M. Diaz, *San Francisco State University, U.S.*

African American, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American men who have sex with men (MSM) are disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S. Infection rates are increasing at alarming rates across these groups and sero-prevalence estimates remain disturbingly high particularly among African American MSM. This presentation lays out the epidemiologic picture for ethnic minority MSM and discusses social and cultural factors that may be exacerbating the epidemic. Presenters will critique mainstream public health formulations of the problem and offer alternative frameworks for understanding disparities among these groups

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Research, Data, Surveillance and Their Application**R7: Black Gay/MSM in Toronto: Preliminary Results of the MaBwana Study**

Winston Husbands, *African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario, Canada*
Clemon George, *University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Canada*

MaBwana is a study of vulnerability to HIV among Black, African and Caribbean gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in Toronto. The purpose of the study is to enable HIV prevention programming that is supported by research evidence. The study involved key informant interviews, and a survey and in depth interviews with Black, African and Caribbean gay and bisexual men and MSM. This presentation will give an overview of the study, the process of community engagement and preliminary findings from the research.

R8: Research Involving MSM in Eastern Europe

Tudor Kovacs, *Romania*

This session will highlight the following current research and prevention programs focused on MSM in Eastern Europe:

- LaSkye Project, PSI Russia, - a widescale HIV prevention project across Russia, that was successful in creating a positive brand and a good perception of safe sex based on extended media communication. The project successfully rallied gay community support, an important component in building community-based responses to HIV in a region of the world where there is no "gay community."
- A qualitative research study with MSM and MSW on sexual behaviors, perception of self and lifestyle, which shows the much deeper stigma associated with sexual orientation versus stigma associated with sex work; the study also found that typical power relations between a customer and an escort (where the customer usually holds the power) are often reversed because of the stigma associated with homosexuality.
- Belgrade, Serbia - a successful quantitative study making use of Respondent Driven Sampling. The project was successful in reaching MSM in Serbia.
- Hesus, Bulgaria – presentation of the only published, successful, evidence-based HIV prevention intervention with MSM in Eastern Europe (Amirkhanian, et al, 2003). The intervention, developed in Sofia, Bulgaria, is based on social networks theory.

R9: Prevalence Probe in Southern Africa

Planning in Progress

R10: Estimating the Number of Men Who Have Sex with Men in Low and Middle Income Countries

Planning in Progress

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Programs & Good Practice**P5: HIV Prevention with Male Sex Workers in Mombasa**

Scott Geibel *Population Council, HIV Prevention Work with MSM, Kenya*
Scott Kellerman - *Population Council, HIV Prevention Work with MSM, U.S.*

This session will present the findings of an intervention study of 425 male sex workers (MSW) who sell sex to other men in Mombasa, Kenya. Presenters will describe the HIV prevention and peer education intervention used and its effect on sexual risk and treatment-seeking behavior. Implications for future research and prevention with MSW will also be discussed.

P6: HIV Prevention with Gay/Bi/Queer Transmen in Ontario, Canada

Members of the *Gay/Bi/Queer Trans Men Working Group of the Ontario Gay Men's HIV Prevention Strategy, Canada*

This workshop is designed to support participants' understanding of the social factors contributing to HIV vulnerability for gay/bi/queer trans men, based on community-based qualitative research study recently conducted, which examined the HIV prevention needs of gay/bi/queer trans men in Ontario, and which also resulted in the creation of Primed, a sexual health resource specifically targeting gay/bi/queer transmen. The workshop will equip participants with tools for making their programs more inclusive of gay/bi/queer trans men. Participants will also discuss ways to develop specific strategies for gay men's sexual health and identify recommendations for improving service access within organizations.

P7: China Session

Planning in Progress

Funding, Resource Mobilization and Advocacy**A5: Successes and Challenges in Community Organizing in French Speaking Africa Part 2 (In French)**

Réponse communautaire

1. La problématique du VIH et des hommes ayant des relations sexuelles avec des hommes en Afrique : d'un point de vue des droits de la personne
2. Réponse communautaire des associations identitaires
3. Réponse communautaire des associations de lutte contre le VIH/SIDA
4. Associations de lutte contre le VIH/sida et associations identitaires gay : quel partenariat, quelles complémentarités ?
5. Débats

A6: Funds Mobilization: A 'How To' Working Session

Planning in Progress

A7: Policy Reform – Case Examples: Latin America

Plan Against Homophobia, Tony Reis, *Brazil*
From Sodomy Laws to Constitutional Protections, Orlando Montoya, *Ecuador*
Planning in Progress

A8: Policy Reform – Case Examples: Asia

Article 377, Aditya Bondhyopadhyay, *India*
Cambodia
Planning in Progress

MSM Pre-Conference Program

Friday, August 1, 2008

4:30 - 5:00 PM **Closing Remarks, Summaries & Announcements**
Coffee & Refreshments

MSM Pre-Conference Program

Saturday, August 2, 2008

8:00 - 10:00 AM **Continental Breakfast**

10:00 -10:30 AM **Welcome**
MSM Global Forum Co-Chairs

10:30 -11:30 AM **Closing Plenary – “Hope and Ways Forward”**
Planning in Progress

11:30 AM- Noon **Closing Comments – Open Microphone**
Coffee & Refreshments

Afternoon **Join Anti-homophobia March**

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Questions/Inquiries

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MSM Pre-Conference Information

Registration

- There is no cost to register for this event.
- Registration includes participation in the MSM Pre-Conference Event including continental breakfast, coffee and refreshments for August 1 & 2 and lunch on August 1.
- To ensure equitable representation from the various regions globally, we are limiting space for each geographic region.
- Registration is available online only at www.msmandhiv.org/2008aids/
- **Important Note:** You will receive an email confirmation for your registration to the MSM Pre-Conference Event. **If you do not receive an email confirmation**, please contact 2008AIDS@msmandhiv.org or +1-213-201-1566 immediately.

Call For Posters

Be featured in the poster session highlighting strong practices in MSM prevention programs around the world. Include your poster description (200 words maximum) in your MSM pre-conference registration which will be printed in the MSM pre-conference program. Upon receipt of your registration, you will receive guidelines for the poster session including size requirements.

Need Help with Obtaining Your Visa?

The Global Forum on MSM & HIV can work with IAS to help obtain your visa to attend the pre-conference and 2008 AIDS conference events. If you would like our help with obtaining your visa, please include your passport information in the online registration form and we will contact you to begin the process.

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