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## RE: Fifth International Workshop on HIV Persistence during Therapy

Following on the success of its last edition (<a href="http://www.informedhorizons.com/persistence2009">http://www.informedhorizons.com/persistence2009</a>) I am delighted to announce the Fifth International Workshop on HIV Persistence during Therapy, scheduled for December 6-9, 2011 at The Radisson St Martin (West Indies).

Since we launched this Workshop in 2003, the issue of "HIV Persistence & Reservoirs" has moved to the forefront, not only for researchers but also for clinicians facing the problem of a long-term control of a persistent retroviral infection.

With the ultimate goal of finding a cure against HIV, the study of "**HIV Reservoirs & Sanctuary sites**" is critical for several reasons:

- Anti-retroviral drugs diffusion in sanctuaries differs according to the molecules used;
- Anti-retroviral strategies started at acute infection can decrease the reservoir;
- Patients under optimal combination therapy still experience neuro-cognitive disorders, persistent inflammation, accelerated aging...
- Characterization of the exact nature of HIV reservoirs is still incomplete:
- Mechanisms of HIV latency need to be better understood;
- New tools to assess drug activity at the reservoir level need to be invented;
- New drugs targeting HIV reservoirs and sanctuaries have to be discovered.

All these aspects of "**HIV Persistence**" will be discussed during the workshop. The program format of this 5<sup>th</sup> edition will be in line with the past editions, including State-of-the-Art presentations given by international experts and new, unpublished data selected among submitted abstracts.

Over the last 7 years, this meeting has been recognized as the reference workshop on "HIV Reservoirs", bringing together a brilliant faculty and a group of researchers and clinicians of outstanding quality.

Priority will be given, as usual, to the quality of the scientific data presented and the participants will have to submit an abstract to sign up to this workshop. This is a guarantee of quality, limiting the attendance to less than 200 persons, i.e. those really working in the field throughout the globe.

### **Organizing Committee**

Robert Gallo The Institute of Human Virology Baltimore, USA

> José Gatell Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Spain

Alain Lafeuillade General Hospital Toulon, France

Christine Rouzioux
CHU Necker-Enfants Malades
Paris, France

Mario Stevenson University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester, USA

### **Scientific Committee**

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> Monsef Benkirane CNRS Montpellier, France

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> Joep Lange University of Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands

David Margolis University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Michael Hooker Research Center Chapel Hill, USA

> Mark Wainberg McGill University AIDS Centre Montreal, Canada

> > Simon Wain-Hobson Institut Pasteur Paris, France

The abstract book will again be published as a special issue of the "Global Antiviral Journal".

In 2009 for the first time, the workshop received support from the NIH, the ANRS, and was CME accredited by the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to ask for your support, which is vital for the success of this next edition.

Informed Horizons, LLC (IHL) will serve as the Secretariat for the Fifth International Workshop on HIV Persistence during Therapy. Your contribution should be made payable to:

Informed Horizons, LLC

1631 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 4

College Park GA 30349, USA

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact Kristen Morris, Secretariat, at +1 770 573 3020. To commit your support, please fax your completed fax-response form to: +1 770 997 2488.

We would like to express our gratitude for your generous support for the Fifth International Workshop on HIV Persistence during Therapy.

Kind regards,

Alain Lafeuillade, MD

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

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