California’s Linda Adams and Mary Nichols on how the Golden State is set to tackle climate change both at home and abroad.

California dreaming

"FOR GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER JOINING ICAP IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE STATE’S EFFORTS TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING"

INSIDE

The road to Bali:
Guido Sacconi
Karl-Heinz Florenz
Katerina Batzeli
Roger Helmer

World Aids Day
EU-India
Eurostar
Joaquin Almunia
on the global credit squeeze

ALCOHOL:
László Kovács
Alessandro Foglietta
Richard Corbett
Alexander Stubb
Catherine Stühler
AIDS Vaccine Integrated project (AVIP): a Consortium funded by the FP-6 EU Program

Coordinator: Barbara Ensoli, National AIDS Center, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome (Italy)

The AVIP project is carried out by a Consortium - composed of 16 research centers and 3 Small and Medium Enterprises from 8 Countries (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, United Kingdom) – which comprehends worldwide acknowledged experts in the field of HIV research.

The original concept of AVIP is that HIV vaccines based on viral structural products alone have failed to prevent infection by HIV/SIV. More recently, vaccines based on gene products that possess the activity to regulate HIV replication and are expressed very early after the infection, have been shown to contain virus replication and to prevent disease onset. A vaccine combining both regulatory and structural viral proteins (combined vaccine) is likely to be superior to vaccines that include either a structural or a regulatory protein. In fact, such a combined vaccine should induce immune responses targeting both early and late viral products.

Major AVIP objectives are:
1. To develop 4 vaccines combined with structural and regulatory proteins, to evaluate their immunogenicity and efficacy in animal models (mice and monkeys) and to start clinical trials in EU on both HIV-infected and uninfected individuals for evaluation of their safety (phase I trials).
2. To perform studies in Developing Countries to evaluate the feasibility of advanced clinical testing of the AVIP developed vaccines.
3. To carry out training of laboratory and clinical personnel in Developing Countries, transfer technology and build up the capacity of selected sites in these countries, in preparation for future advanced (phase II/III) clinical trials.
4. To ensure community involvement both in EU countries and DC.

Preclinical studies of safety, immunogenicity and efficacy have been concluded for the 4 vaccines. Vaccines have entered or are entering phase I studies in 5 European countries (Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom). At the same time, feasibility (epidemiological, virological and immunological) studies are being carried out in South Africa and Swaziland and are in an advanced state. An AVIP International School has been settled and it is fully active at implementing the training program.

Contact Person: Barbara Ensoli, Director, National AIDS Center, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Viale Regina Elena 299, C.A.P. 00161 Rome (Italy)
Tel: +39 06 49906071; Fax: +39 06 49903002, email: barbara.ensoli@iss.it

Advertisement