



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAPAC and Prevention Access Campaign Announce Partnership to Educate Clinicians and Allied Health Professionals about U=U

Washington, DC, USA (October 19, 2017) – The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) and the Prevention Access Campaign have announced a partnership to educate clinicians and allied health professionals about the Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) message. The partnership’s objective is to destigmatize HIV by promoting the scientific evidence that people living with HIV who are on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and have an undetectable viral load are incapable of transmitting HIV to their sexual partners.

“We believe everyone living with HIV has a right to accurate and meaningful information about their social, sexual, and reproductive health based on science not stigma. Ending the HIV epidemic requires bold new approaches to dismantle HIV stigma, improve health outcomes, and prevent transmissions,” said Mr. Bruce Richman, Executive Director of the Prevention Access Campaign. “Our partnership with IAPAC represents an important step forward to ensure that clinicians and allied health professionals convey accurate information about U=U, notably that people living with HIV who take ART as prescribed and achieve an undetectable viral load do not sexually transmit HIV.”

The partnership’s initial collaboration will focus on delivering U=U education to clinicians and allied health professionals (e.g., community health workers, peer educators) in high HIV burden cities around the world, including Bangkok, Thailand; Birmingham, AL, USA; Johannesburg, South Africa; New York City, NY, USA; Paris, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and San Francisco, CA, USA. These cities belong to a network of Fast-Track Cities that have pledged to attain the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 targets by 2020 (www.iapac.org/cities). The targets translate into 90% of people living with HIV knowing their status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV receiving sustained ART, and 90% of all people receiving ART achieving viral suppression.

“IAPAC is proud to partner with the Prevention Access Campaign to ensure that the game-changing U=U message is understood by clinicians and allied health professionals and integrated into clinical practice in specialized and primary care settings to generate increased demand for HIV testing, care, and treatment,” said Dr. José M. Zuniga, IAPAC’s President/CEO. “More importantly, from a human rights perspective, we have an obligation to eliminate the stigma associated with thinking about or dealing with people living with HIV as vectors of disease. Clinicians and allied health professionals must play a role in eliminating stigma wherever it exists, but particularly in health settings.”

Richman and Zuniga stressed that the partnership will expand beyond this initial educational collaboration to include other U=U-themed activities in more than 250 cities that have signed the *Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities Ending the AIDS Epidemic*. A further announcement is expected on World AIDS Day 2017.

#

About IAPAC

The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) represents more than 30,000 clinicians and allied health professionals in over 150 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of and increase access to HIV prevention, care, treatment, and support services for men, women, and children affected by and living with HIV and comorbid conditions such as tuberculosis and viral hepatitis. For more information about IAPAC and its 30-year history of marshaling the health professions to end the AIDS epidemic, please visit www.iapac.org.

About the Prevention Access Campaign

The Prevention Access Campaign is a global community of HIV advocates, activists, researchers, and over 400 community partners from more than 60 countries uniting to disseminate the scientifically supported message that people living with HIV who are on effective antiretroviral therapy with an undetectable viral load do not sexually transmit HIV. For more information about the Prevention Access Campaign, please visit www.preventionaccess.org.

About Fast-Track Cities

The Fast-Track Cities initiative is a global partnership supporting Mayors and local stakeholders in high HIV burden cities around the world to accelerate their local AIDS responses to attain the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 and zero discrimination targets by 2020. The Fast-Track Cities network is supported by the initiative's four core partners – UNAIDS, the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the City of Paris. Since its launch on December 1, 2014, more than 250 cities and municipalities have signed the Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities Ending the AIDS Epidemic. For more information about the initiative, please visit www.fast-trackcities.org, www.iapac.org/cities, and www.unaids.org/en/cities.