

On World AIDS Day, December 1st, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, reflects on encouraging milestones from the past year in HIV/AIDS research that are advancing us toward controlling and ultimately ending the pandemic." />



Leading research to understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases



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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

# NIH News

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Allergy and  
Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## NIAID MEDIA AVAILABILITY

### Landmark Discoveries Characterize NIH HIV/AIDS Research in 2010

#### WHAT:

On World AIDS Day, December 1st, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, reflects on encouraging milestones from the past year in HIV/AIDS research that are advancing us toward controlling and ultimately ending the pandemic.

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) proves effective at reducing the risk of HIV acquisition among men who have sex with men:** Published in *New England Journal of Medicine* online, the NIAID-sponsored study known as [iPrEx](#) found that a daily dose of an HIV-1 infection reduced the risk of HIV acquisition among men who have sex with men by 44 percent. Even higher rates of protection were seen among study participants who adhered most closely to the daily drug regimen. NIAID and The Gates Foundation continue to fund research is needed to determine whether PrEP will be similarly effective at preventing HIV infection in other populations.
- Vaginal microbicide prevents HIV infection:** For the first time in nearly 15 years of research, scientists discovered a new level of protection against HIV infection. The [CAPRISA 004](#) study, conducted by the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa, found that the use of a microbicide gel containing a 1 percent concentration of the antiretroviral drug tenofovir resulted in a 39 percent reduction in HIV-1 acquisition compared with a placebo gel. NIAID was among the organizations that provided substantial support and resources for the CAPRISA study. Ongoing and future clinical trials will build on these study results with the goal of bringing a safe and effective microbicide to the market.
- Antibody discoveries propel HIV vaccine research:** In the past year, researchers have discovered at least eight new HIV-1 strains from infecting human cells in the laboratory. For instance, a team led by NIAID scientists [discovered two human HIV-1 strains](#) that are 100 percent of known global HIV-1 strains from infecting human cells, and demonstrated how one of these disease-fighting antibodies' structure of the new antibodies and where they bind to the virus is helping equip scientists with the tools to design a vaccine. NIAID is also making some of the antibodies as protection against HIV infection.
- New hope for people co-infected with HIV and tuberculosis (TB):** The Cambodia-based study known as [CAMELIA](#) found that untreated, HIV-infected adults with very weak immune systems and newly diagnosed TB can be prolonged by starting TB treatment, rather than waiting eight weeks, as had been standard. This finding is valuable because immunocompromised individuals paradoxically can worsen the symptoms of co-infections such as TB, yet waiting to start TB treatment can lead to death. TB accounted for nearly a quarter of the 2 million HIV-related deaths worldwide in 2008. NIAID and the French National Agency for Safety and Health of Medicines co-funded the CAMELIA study.

**WHO:**

Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., NIAID director; Carl Dieffenbach, Ph.D., director of the NIAID Division of AIDS; and Gary J. Nabel, Research Center, are available for comment.

**CONTACT:**

To schedule interviews, please contact Laura Sivitz Leifman, 301-402-1663, [niaidnews@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:niaidnews@niaid.nih.gov).

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NIAID conducts and supports research—at NIH, throughout the United States, and worldwide—to study the causes of infection and develop better means of preventing, diagnosing and treating these illnesses. News releases, fact sheets and other NIAID-related information are available on our [website](#).

**About the National Institutes of Health (NIH):** NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational research to understand the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit [www.nih.gov](#).

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