

IAS and Medscape Spearhead First Peer-reviewed Journal to Showcase HIV Research in Resource-Limited Settings

Bangkok, Thailand, 6 July 2004: Today, the International AIDS Society (IAS), in partnership with Medscape, announced the launch of *eJIAS: eJournal of the International AIDS Society*, a new, online journal designed to provide researchers in developing countries a forum for sharing their work. This peer-reviewed, web-based medical journal will serve as a platform for developing countries to contribute important evidence from HIV/AIDS research, which may be overlooked by many top-tier medical journals in the United States and Europe.

In partnering with Medscape, the leading professional medical information site on the Internet, *eJIAS* will provide a prestigious mechanism for the timely exchange of the results of HIV research in developing countries.

"With the creation of *eJIAS*, we find ourselves in a key position to break down the traditional barriers in HIV/AIDS research," said Joep Lange, MD, President of the International AIDS Society. "By providing a forum for critically important work to be shared with the entire HIV/AIDS community, we are working towards a common goal of managing HIV infection among the world's population," he added.

eJIAS aims to educate international HIV/AIDS scientists, physicians, health workers and public health professionals about treatment, prevention and research activities in a diversity of geographic regions and cultural, socioeconomic and clinical settings, particularly in those countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. By sharing evidence gathered in developing countries, scientists will be able to compare research practices and share lessons learned from them in order to further their own research.

"Scientists from developing countries can face exceptional challenges in communicating their research findings," said Mark Wainberg, PhD, Editor in Chief of *eJIAS*. "This new journal will fill a significant unmet need by facilitating publication by developing world researchers and promoting the dissemination of potentially life-saving research in a timely, realistic and effective manner."

eJIAS (www.eJIAS.org) will publish peer-reviewed original research articles, critical reviews, editorials and commentaries, policy papers, consensus reports, conference abstracts, letters, and other communications that are highly relevant to the study and practice of HIV/AIDS in resource-limited settings. To further the journal's immediate accessibility and prominence, original *eJIAS* content will be published within a new *eJIAS* section of Medscape's veteran, MEDLINE-indexed general medical journal, *Medscape General Medicine* (www.MedGenMed.com).

"Given the common problems and regional diversity involved, creating new and effective ways for frontline HIV/AIDS health workers to communicate their research findings and clinical experiences is critical," said George D. Lundberg, MD, Editor of *Medscape General Medicine*. "We're proud to forward the cause by developing standards of excellence and supporting research publication in developing countries, which will hopefully expand access to information and treatment solutions."

The premier issue of *eJIAS* will launch with an international circulation of over 600,000 physicians and approximately 1 million healthcare providers. The first issue will feature abstracts presented at the XV International AIDS Conference being held in Bangkok, July 11-16. Prospective authors will be able to submit their manuscripts electronically for subsequent issues of *eJIAS* (guidelines are available at www.eJIAS.org).

The inception of *eJIAS* has been made possible by a generous grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation's Secure the Future program.

About IAS

Founded in 1988, the International AIDS Society is an independent not-for-profit organization representing 10,000 HIV health professionals throughout the world. IAS, through advocacy, education, and scientific and policy dialogue, is one of the world's most important contributors to the control and management of HIV infection. The IAS is the organizer and custodian of the International AIDS Conference. Held every two years, the International AIDS Conference is the world's largest HIV/AIDS conference, dedicated to linking community and science to galvanize the world's response to HIV/AIDS through increased commitment,

leadership and accountability.

About WEBMD

Medscape is owned and operated by WebMD. WebMD Corporation provides services that help physicians, consumers, providers and health plans navigate the complexity of the healthcare system. Our products and services streamline administrative and clinical processes, promote efficiency and reduce costs by facilitating information exchange, communication and electronic transactions between healthcare participants.

WebMD Health is a leading provider of online information, educational services and communities for physicians and consumers. WebMD Practice Services is a leading provider of physician practice management software and related services. WebMD Envoy is a leader in payer and healthcare provider transaction processing and reimbursement cycle management services.