



**Minutes of the PARTNER Investigator Meeting
Thursday 13th October 2011, Belgrade EAGS**

Agenda

Chair: Jens Lundgren

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Status in PARTNER study
 - a. Open sites
 - b. Enrolled pairs
3. Presentation of the new PARTNER presentation, leaflets, posters and postcard
4. Presentation of the Community Lead initiative
5. Presentation of content of EACS poster, including discussion of: What is the highest acceptable transmission risk?
6. General discussion
 - a. Short presentation from sites

Status in PARTNER study:

Michelle Ellefson from CHIP updated the group on the current status of enrollment. With 67 centres total, 64 are able to recruit. Overall the study has 433 partnerships enrolled. The goal by end of 2011 is 900 partnerships (which would average 60 pairs per month for a steady recruitment). The attached slides show national projections and enrolment numbers.

Presentation of the new PARTNER presentation, leaflets, posters and postcard

Tina Bruun study coordinator introduced the new design in leaflets and poster and the post card as a new idea. All sites will receive the material both electronic and by mail. The new design can be found at the CHIP website.

Presentation of the Community Lead initiative

To increase the enrollment in the PARTNER study the Executive committee has decided, to suggest that each country appoint a Community Lead to help promote the Partner study in the HIV and gay community.

The Community Lead will work closely together with the National Coordinator and sites in the country. Some of the tasks are:

- informing community stake holders
- provide the information to gay media
- provide the information on internet
- arrange ways to distribute flyers, posters,
- and some other activities to make this important study known

David Haerry as the Community Lead in Switzerland presented his ideas on the tasks as he sees them.

Presentation of content of EACS poster, including discussion of: What is the highest acceptable transmission risk?

Jens Lundgren presented the poster.

- Several studies show that transmission risk is very low

- However it remains unclear what the risk of transmission is on ART when condoms are not used
- In studies to date most of the pairs used condoms, so the low transmission risk is partly due to consistent condom use
- More extensive research is required of serodifferent couples having condom-less vaginal sex with suppressed VL on ART in order to more precisely estimate the risk of HIV transmission using ART alone
- There remains no data for anal sex in serodifferent MSM (and hetero) couples, which are likely to be different to vaginal sex, and ongoing studies that include MSM are critical.

General discussion

Dr. Marcel Stoeckle and Dr. Gilles Wandeler from Switzerland presented their view on why enrollment is going very well at their sites. The issues on sex with out condoms had been disused in Switzerland since the Swiss Statement and as part of the yearly update for the Swiss Cohort questions on sex and sex without condoms are raised.

Representative from sites that have not recruited many pairs experience difficulties enrolling because pairs are using condoms consistently and others do not have a HIV negative partner. Additionally they have experience difficulties getting the HIV negative partner to attend the hospital and become involved in the study.