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Simon Collins, HIV i-Base

Thank you to everyone who has worked for and supported i-Base since April 2000 and everyone who is continuing to help us during 2025 and beyond.

Wishing you happiness for the upcoming year.

Review of 2024

The key themes in this review of the past year highlight the importance of responding to political changes as much as tracking incredible advances in HIV science. These issues will continue into 2025.

- The impact of **political change** on HIV care included LGBTQ+ hate laws in Uganda and extended to questioning the stability of PEPFAR after the US elections.
- Continued investment in new drugs in the **exciting ART pipeline** were reported at CROI, IAS, R4P and Glasgow — shifting to multiple long-acting combinations.
- **Remarkable research into oral PrEP** led to exciting changes that includes easier dosing options for everyone.
- **Lenacapavir PrEP** gets a special category for generating astonishing results — but who will get access and when depends on civil society generating global demand.

- The promise of **GLP-1 agonists such as semaglutide** have potential in HIV and perhaps addiction management, and possible new indications are suggested every month — but people with HIV have been excluded from research studies.
- **Mpox** continued throughout 2024 in key endemic countries, largely ignored until WHO recognised the implications of clade 1b in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We reported research throughout the year though including the disappointing results in December from tecovirimat studies.
- **Guidelines** for HIV treatment and prevention were produced in the UK, Europe and US by some of our most experienced and committed doctors and researchers —and we refresh a list of 14 we covered during the year — which did you miss?
- A few **special reports and reviews** include the chance to recognise the work of a few friends and colleagues.
- Finally, **news about i-Base** changes during the year, archives at Bishopsgate Institute and the Wellcome Collection and your chance to help in 2025.

1. Anti-LGBTQ+ hate laws in Uganda

Politics undercut HIV news throughout 2024 and started with reports on the anti-LGBTQ+ hate laws in Uganda.

We reported on international campaigns to challenge the new law. We also included links to financially support some of those who are now without homes and incomes.

- [Uganda hate law blocks HIV research: join 300 leading researchers in sign-on protest](#)
- [Uganda update: LGBTQ+ hate law challenged in the courts](#)
- [Uganda Court rejects appeal against the LGBTQ+ hate law](#)

CROI also recognised the significance and urgency by inviting Frank Mugisha to give one of the opening plenary talks.

- [CROI 2024: Opening lecture calls for scientists to speak up for LGBTQ+ rights in Uganda](#)

This appeal is also still ongoing to help some of the individuals most affected.

- [i-Base 2024 appeal: support for LGBTQI+ refugees in Kakuma](#)

2. HIV pipeline: Exciting research for new and better meds

Throughout 2024 we reported breakthrough news on the continued research into new treatments for HIV treatment and prevention.

- [CROI 2024: Pipeline ART – new drugs and formulations](#)

A comprehensive report from CROI covered more than 30 studies presenting new data, many in novel combinations and including more than a dozen involving the potential for bNABs. This continued at IAS 2024 in Munich, notably with the first formal presentation of lenacapavir for PrEP.

We also featured an impressive overview from Tracy Swan and ITPC on the HIV pipeline for low- and middle-income countries.

- **HIV pipeline: global overview for people in LMICs**

Finally, a new summary of the pipeline for 2025 based on a comprehensive review by José Arribas at the 2024 Glasgow Congress.

- **ART pipeline 2025: exciting dual long-acting combinations and the challenge of generic dolutegravir**

3. New PrEP research: easier and more effective dosing options

A series of research papers included a new modelling study that effectively explained the results from PrEP RCTs in both men and women.

- **Modelling study challenges links between gender and PrEP: event-based dosing and easier daily dosing should work for all**

Together with previously published pharmacokinetic studies and a meta-analysis of observational data reporting high levels of protection in women taking at least four daily doses a week, this led to dramatic changes in the PrEP guidelines from BASHH, European (EACS) and IAS-USA.

Working with BASHH researchers and other UK community groups, i-Base included these recommendations in February 2024, distributing 20,000 booklets to UK clinics between February and August 2024.

- **UK guide to PrEP now online: major update (2024)**

4. Lenacapavir PrEP: outstanding efficacy but global challenges of access and equitable access

Six-monthly injectable PrEP produced astonishing results and delivered new challenges for access.

- **Lenacapavir PrEP: 100% efficacy in cisgender women sets new challenges for global pricing and access**
- **AIDS 2024: Lenacapavir as PrEP is “beyond wonderful” but PURPOSE 1 study tells us so much more**
- **Second lenacapavir PrEP study protected 99.9% of people in the PURPOSE 2 trial: ACT UP London challenge pricing**
- **Urgency of planning broad vaccine-like access to lenacapavir PrEP globally**
- **Lenacapavir PrEP in cisgender gay men, trans and gender-diverse people: results of the PURPOSE 2 study**
- **HIVR4P 2024: Context of PrEP in Latin America**
- **Future PrEP and new results on lenacapavir in PURPOSE 1 and 2 – does HIV exposure explain incident cases**
- **Lenacapavir submitted to the US FDA with an indication for HIV PrEP**

The potential annual generic price of US \$41 depends as much on activist demands from civil society to generate pre-order commitments as it does pharmaceutical pricing.

- **Urgency of planning broad vaccine-like access to lenacapavir PrEP globally**

5. Semaglutide and other GLP-1 agonists in HIV care and potential use in addiction

i-Base was one of the community organisations to highlight the urgent need for data to inform the management of GLP-1 agonists such as semaglutide in people living with HIV.

Every month during the year, potential new indications in addition to the FDA-approved use for managing diabetes and weight loss. These include alcohol use disorder, liver complications, asthma, lung complications, heart and kidney disease, osteoarthritis, mental health, Alzheimer's, increased fertility and late onset epilepsy. Important possible safety cautions have also been reported including the loss of muscle mass and perhaps higher rates of **arthritis and pancreatitis**..

The surge in demand also raised many other issues including drug pricing, moving to telemedicine in the US, aggressive strategies to extend and evergreen patents beyond the intended lives, lack of global access and manufacturing monopolies.

- **CROI 2024: HIV studies with semaglutide: significant benefits but limited access for treatment and research**
- **Semaglutide in people with HIV: reduces both central and peripheral fat worsening lipoatrophy**

6. Mpox continues to challenge global health: continued epidemic in central Africa, emergence of more pathogenic clade1b, tecovirimat failure, unanswered questions on vaccine durability...

The mpox crisis in DRC emphasised how mpox had been ignored globally since 2023 until a new more pathogenic clade 1b strain emerged with new cases expanding to neighbouring countries.

Professor Chloe Orkin eloquently predicted that cases in Europe would inevitably be reported but that close management would limit any general risk.

The UK announced including the mpox vaccine within routine sexual health, although this planned programme is now at a time of global vaccine scarcity.

Looking forward, despite WHO declaring this an emergency, the limited access to vaccines is likely to continue this epidemic well into 2025.

- **WHO declares new mpox emergency (clade 1b): tecovirimat not effective in DRC study**
- **Mpox breakthrough cases after two doses of the MVA-BN vaccine**

Research updates continued to report on the efficacy of the MVA-BN vaccine and likely duration of protection, especially with breakthrough infections still reported in people who received two vaccine shots.

<https://i-base.info/htb/47082>

Despite having antiviral potency against mpox in vitro, tecovirimat fails to show efficacy against mpox in two RCTs.

- **Tecovirimat fails to show benefit in randomised STOMP study in mpox clade 2**

7. Guidelines: treatment and prevention

Many guidelines were updated or newly published.

All required the tireless work from many of our most respected HIV experts. Here are 14 guidelines from 2024 – are there any here you might have missed?

- **BHIVA recommendations on measles in the UK**, updated **guidance on shingles vaccine** and **guidelines on HIV-related opportunistic infections (2024)**
- **US guidelines recommend earlier use of statins in people living with HIV**
- **Australia Consensus Statement on doxy-PEP proposes limited use in gay and bisexual men**
- **European guidelines on statins in people living with HIV (EACS 2024)**
- **New CDC guidelines recommend selected use of doxy-PEP in the US (2024)**
- **South African guidelines do not include dapivirine ring: low efficacy and high price**
- **Updated WHO guidelines for HIV PEP (July 2024)**
- **New US screening guidelines to reduce risk of anal cancer in people living with HIV**
- **New European guidelines for HIV-related lymphoma**
- **Major update of UK PrEP guidelines online for public consultation**
- **EACS guidelines: New format and contents includes chemsex**
- **IAS-USA 2024 guidelines for HIV treatment and prevention: some differences to EACS and UK**

8. Special reports

Several of the reports during 2024 were published as special reports.

This included not only the unexpected increase in new diagnoses in the UK, but also the chance to recognise the work of friends and colleagues.

- **HIV diagnoses in England jump by 51% in 2023: missing targets and highlighting disparities in access to care**
- **Unheard: The medical practice of silencing – by Dr Rageshri Dhairyawan**
- **Liverpool University Drug Interaction website recognised for global impact on research and care**
- **CHAI six-monthly market report (July 2024)**
- **NAIDS reports debt crisis obstructs HIV response**

9. Change at i-Base: looking to the future

Finally, 2024 was a year of significant changes for i-Base.

<https://i-base.info/htb/48024>

We hope these changes will sustain the i-Base information services and the website for at least the next two years.

i-Base was also proud to donate our own accumulated library to the Bishopsgate Institute and the Wellcome Trust. Both organisations allow access to all resources.

- [i-Base library archived at the Bishopsgate Institute and Wellcome Collection](#)

Please consider supporting i-Base to help us continue this work into 2025.

<https://i-base.info/htb/49913>

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Links to other websites are current at date of posting but not maintained.

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HIV i-BASE

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