

Preface

Research developments in recent years in the areas of HIV antiretroviral treatment (ART) and the use of ART as oral or topical pre-exposure prophylaxis have been heralded as a paradigm shift in HIV prevention, similar to the ‘protease moment’ of 1996. This special issue of *Sexual Health* aims to present the state of HIV prevention response using these innovations, with special emphasis on the Asia and Pacific region. In particular, it is dedicated to showcasing research to promote debate regarding the potential of new treatment-based prevention approaches and challenges encountered as we transfer the research advances into practice. This special issue covers the fields of epidemiology, clinical research, social and behavioural science, public health and policy analysis. It was put together by our international team of experts in these fields, including: the deputy director of HIV-NAT (Thailand) Dr Jintanat Ananworanich, an expert on treatment strategies for HIV infection; Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, an expert in HIV

prevention, treatment and care in marginalised communities and Co-Chair of the WHO Technical and Strategic Advisory Committee on HIV; Dr Kenneth Mayer from Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health, a leading expert on the natural history, transmission and prevention of HIV in the US and in Asia; and Bill Whittaker, one of the architects of Australia’s response to AIDS and the leader in HIV advocacy, policy and strategy. We hope that this special issue will be of value to researchers and health-related organisations who work in the Asia and Pacific region, and beyond, in their efforts to bring the latest HIV prevention innovations to the community.

Iryna Zablotska, Jintanat Ananworanich, Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Ken Mayer, Mary Poynten, Bill Whittaker, John de Wit and Edwina Wright

Joint Guest Editors

Dr Iryna Zablotska is a Senior Lecturer at the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program (HEPP) at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Australia (Sydney, NSW, Australia). She is an epidemiologist and HIV prevention researcher with almost 15 years experience in the study of risk behaviour, disease prevention, behavioural risk reduction and biobehavioural prevention of HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STI), and has published extensively in these areas. Dr Zablotska has previously worked as a leading investigator of the Australian behavioural surveillance among gay men and continues her work on HIV behavioural prevention. In the past 3 years, she has developed the Kirby Institute’s work on HIV biobehavioural prevention with pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and leads the largest Australian PrEP implementation study based at the Kirby Institute. Dr Zablotska is the leading Joint Guest Editor for this special issue.

Dr Jintanat Ananworanich is Deputy Director in Scientific Affairs of HIV-NAT and Director of SEARCH, both being research units under the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center in Bangkok. Her research interest is in HIV therapeutic strategies, including treatment of acute HIV infection and its implication on HIV prevention and cure in children and adults. She has authored more than 160 peer-reviewed publications on HIV. She is US board certified in Pediatrics, Allergy and Immunology, and Clinical and Laboratory Immunology, and received her PhD in Medicine from the University of Amsterdam.

Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur). She established one of the first Infectious Diseases Units in Malaysia, which

has become a leading tertiary referral centre for infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS in the country, as well as the Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERiA) at the University of Malaya, one of the few dedicated HIV research centres in the Asia and Pacific region. As Past President of the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) and the Chair of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation, Dr Kamarulzaman has been a strong advocate for HIV prevention, treatment and care programs in marginalised communities, and has successfully advocated for the introduction of evidence-based harm-reduction programs among people who use drugs. She is presently Co-Chair of the WHO Technical and Strategic Advisory Committee on HIV, a Governing Council member of the International AIDS Society and an Executive Committee member of the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

Dr Kenneth Mayer is Professor at Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health, and Attending Physician and Director of HIV Prevention Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Boston, MA, USA). His clinical research has focused on the natural history and transmission of HIV in the US and Asia, having developed some of the very first cohort studies and AIDS prevention interventions and building international research capabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The Principal Investigator of an NIH-funded HIV Prevention Research Clinical Trials Unit since 1994, Dr Mayer has focused on biobehavioural HIV prevention and community-based prevention interventions. Dr Mayer has served on the national boards of the HIV Medicine Association, the American Foundation for AIDS Research and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. He recently served on the national CDC/HRSA HIV Advisory Board and is currently on the

Governing Council of the International AIDS Society. He is the co-author of more than 500 peer-reviewed publications, the first text on AIDS for the general public and five academic texts.

Dr Isobel Mary Poynten is a Senior Lecturer and NHMRC Post-doctoral Fellow in the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Australia. She is a clinical epidemiologist who has worked at the Kirby Institute for 11 years. Dr Poynten has published numerous research and review papers in the field of biomedical prevention of HIV and its impact on risk behaviours.

Bill Whittaker is one of the architects of Australia's response to AIDS and has worked in HIV advocacy, policy and strategy for more than 25 years. He participated in and contributed to the United Nations Special Sessions on HIV/AIDS in 2001, 2006 and 2011. Bill served as a commissioner on the UNAIDS High Level Commission on HIV Prevention. He has provided strategic advice on HIV in Australia and internationally, including for the World Health Organization, UNAIDS and the International AIDS Society. He is a special representative of the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) and an advisory board member of Pacific Friends of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Bill is a former CEO of the AIDS Council of New South Wales (NSW), Australia and President of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations. He chairs the Implementation Committee for the NSW HIV Strategy 2012–15.

Dr John de Wit is Professor and Director of the Centre for Social Research in Health at the UNSW Australia and Visiting

Professor in Social Psychology of Health and Sexuality at Utrecht University (The Netherlands). John has been undertaking and leading behavioural and social research regarding HIV, STI and sexual health for over 25 years, and his expertise and interest is especially with theory-informed research into the individual, social and structural factors that shape effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Dr de Wit is passionate about contributing to the translation of research findings into policies, programs and services, and his research program encompasses the development and testing of innovative intervention approaches and investigations of the practices, experiences and support needs of service providers. Reflecting his research leadership and broad interests, John has published widely across a range of topics and in esteemed peer-reviewed journals. He also is actively involved in various national and international advisory and organizing committees.

Dr Edwina Wright is an Infectious Diseases Physician at the Alfred Hospital (Melbourne, Vic., Australia) and Associate Professor at the Burnet Institute and Monash University (Melbourne, Vic., Australia). Dr Wright is currently the President of the Australasian Society of HIV Medicine. Dr Wright's research interests include the neurological aspects of HIV disease, HIV prevention and the host, immune and antiretroviral treatment aspects of early HIV infection. She has been involved in a number of international clinical research studies and is currently leading the Victorian HIV PrEP Demonstration Project.