PEPFAR

Scientific Advisory Board Meeting Summary Recommendations

January 6-7, 2011
Washington, DC

SAB Recommendations

- The following slides summarize the extensive discussions held by the SAB membership around the care / treatment and prevention subject areas. These lists should be read in the context of the accompanying Executive Summary and the Meeting Summary Notes to be disseminated in the near future.

- Organization of these slides is by key topic area, defined as the discussions evolved
  - Overarching Issues
  - Care and Treatment
  - Bridging Care/Treatment and Prevention
  - Prevention
  - Cross-cutting Issues

Overarching issues

- Consensus on need for centralized, multi-agency, rigorous strategic planning on research agenda (identification of priority studies, not just topics)
- Some of the research execution requires coordinated, multi-agency (and frequently multi-country) efforts – these need to be centrally managed
  - PEPFAR focus on studies that require large-scale implementation married to rigorous research
- Other studies can be executed in a decentralized, agency-specific way
- Existing review/improvement of study protocols/funding needs to be greatly improved (speed & complexity)
- Vanishing treatment/prevention dichotomy (most of our conclusions apply to both)

Care and Treatment Priorities

Two primary subject areas

- Treatment Optimization / Efficiency of Service Delivery
- Improving the implementation cascade

Care and Treatment Priorities

Treatment Optimization / Efficiency of service delivery

- Drugs
  - Selecting and developing regimens for maximal durability and tolerability
  - Dose optimization
- Models of service delivery
  - Monitoring and follow-up frequency
  - Innovative and scalable models of adherence and retention support
  - HR/facility optimization
- Timing of initiation
- Diagnostics
  - Strategic and efficient use of point of care

Care and Treatment Priorities

Improving the implementation cascade

- Innovative methods to improve linkages between the spectrum of services needed to achieve programmatic outcomes (e.g: PMTCT-→ARVs for Moms)
- Maximizing retention
  - Identifying and addressing critical enablers and barriers
  - Early loss to follow-up
  - Use and support of community-based organizations
  - Issues arising in long-term follow-up
- Improved ability to track drug resistance

Bridging Care/Treatment and Prevention

Four primary subject areas

- Prevention benefits of treatment
- Generate and Sustain Demand for Services
- Data
- Innovative Financing

Bridging Care/Treatment and Prevention

- **Prevention benefits of treatment**
  - How can treatment be optimally used (e.g., discordant couples, regimens) to maximize its preventive effects on viral transmission
  - Optimizing linkages to perinatal care and treatment for pregnant women
  - How can the behavioral prevention benefits of treatment access be maximized through improved service integration
  - Public health benefits vs. potential individual risk from earlier treatment initiation

Bridging Care/Treatment and Prevention

- **Generate and Sustain Demand for Services**
  - Population demand
    - Use of incentives
    - Impact of increasing demand for treatment on ability to provide prevention interventions
    - Increased demand for prevention services
    - Integration of community- and health-based services
    - Increased utilization of PMCT
    - Defining and providing services in a “rights-based” context
  - Willingness to Supply
    - Provider incentives
    - Addressing stigma and discrimination within health care services
    - Acceptance of revised treatment guidelines
    - Improved information dissemination methodology

Bridging Care/Treatment and Prevention

- **Data**
  - Optimize data collection and use for program improvement
    - Standardization of data elements & platforms
    - Routine data and special samples (e.g. resistance monitoring)
  - Facilitate access to disaggregated program data for research
  - Open source
  - Improved dissemination of PEPFAR-related research findings

Prevention Priorities

- Better implementation and scale-up of proven interventions
  - PMTCT, Family Planning and MARPs
  - Family Planning conundrum

- Community level ARV prophylaxis (topical and oral)
  - Effectiveness at community level rather than individual efficacy

- Proof of concept - can a tailored, prioritized package of interventions reduce hyper-endemic transmission at community level?

Prevention Priorities

- Better designed, implemented, evaluated and behavioral prevention – (the significant declines we have seen in many epidemics are primarily attributable to behavior change, albeit poorly understood)

- Strengthen evaluation, especially quasi-experimental, adaptive and even retrospective – require rigorous evaluation where unproven interventions are implemented at scale

Cross-cutting issues

Cross-cutting issues

- Optimization of Community-based Services
- Associated Diseases (e.g. TB) / Integration
  - Linkages to Care
- Human Resources - Training
- Populations (cross-cutting: kids, MSM, IDU, adol., etc)
  - Issues particular to pediatric regimens
- Ethics (Triage) - Allocation efficiency
  - National and global
- Impact of Shift to Country Ownership
  - Is it cost-effective?
  - Rising role of community empowerment