

Abstract of the Fourth Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Lecture at Nippon Medical School

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Rising to the Challenge of Ending AIDS as a Public Health Threat by 2030

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In 2021, there were 38.4 million people living with HIV, 650,000 HIV deaths and 1.5 million new infections worldwide. Much progress has been made globally towards the 2020 target of 90-90-90 and the development of simplified treatment regimens; but treatment as prevention is not having the population impact needed for epidemic control, underscoring the need to enhance primary prevention efforts. Reaching key and vulnerable populations is key to reaching the UN 2030 goal. Programmatic scale-up of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has increased but adherence remains a challenge. Several new provider-initiated technologies are in development. Covid-19 has negatively impacted HIV testing and treatment services and we have seen persistent infection in immune-compromised individuals including emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants. Staying focused on the SDG of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 remains an important pathway to endemic HIV infection but we need to have flexibility to take into account new challenges and opportunities. This will need more than the 2025 target of 95-95-95, provider initiated PrEP and customised combination prevention that addresses stigma and inequality; targeted prioritisation and evidence-based approaches. This is possible with global solidarity and shared responsibility.
