

Facilitating meaningful community participation in HIV vaccine research

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Background

- Meeting was collaborative effort between SAAVI and IAVI
- Aim was to identify how best to facilitate meaningful community participation in HIV vaccine research
- Meeting was held with a range of role players from HIV vaccine trial sites and the communities in which they are located

Objectives

- The objectives were to
 - a) Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss theoretical, methodological, ethical and strategic challenges encountered in their work, and
 - b) Identify a set of research priorities to address the gaps in research
- Participants identified:
 - Strategic challenges
 - Gaps in current research
 - Research priorities to address the gaps identified.

Results

- Four key areas were identified
 1. Language, translation, literacy and understanding of scientific information.
 2. Moving from community involvement to community engagement.
 3. Integrating and linking HIV vaccine research with broader HIV prevention strategies.
 4. Involving adolescents in HIV vaccine research.

Swartz, Singh, Giocos, Martin, Louw, Kagee, Evangeli, Kafaar & Lesch (2007). Facilitating meaningful community participation in HIV vaccine research. Poster presentation, AIDS Vaccine Conference, Seattle

Outcomes

- A matrix was developed to facilitate implementation of identified research needs
- While small group discussions focused on and identified key topics and research questions, it was agreed that various participant sub-groups would work together to implement the research agenda that emerged from these deliberations.
- The meeting facilitated the consolidation of relationships and outlined the process for managing collaborations within working groups