Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research

mHIVE
The network for Victorian HIV researchers

living positive victoria

# ACH4 18th Scientific Conference and Living Positive Victoria, mHIVE World Aids Day Symposium

## Conference Overview

We are excited to be holding the **ACH4 18th Scientific Conference and Living Positive Victoria, mHIVE World Aids Day Symposium**, at The Doherty Institute in Melbourne on 29 November - 1 December 2023...!

A key objective of ACH4 is to develop the next generation of researchers in blood borne viruses. The now biennial Scientific Conference established by Director, Professor Tony Cunningham and the Executive Committee in 2004, continues to bring HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HTLV-1 leaders, young and emerging scientists together for exchange of ideas and collaboration and fund international research leaders for globally relevant mentorship. The inclusion of international guest speakers inspires all attendees as it creates the opportunity to share findings, engage different perspectives and become exposed to trends in research internationally.

The conference now requires external funding to be supported and continue. The Executive has made the strategic decision to run the conference biennially through sponsorship, commencing in 2023.

Our conference is held around Australia. During COVID it was delivered virtually, now evolving to its current hybrid format, combining an in-person conference experience with a virtual component. Our event is conducted in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, encouraging productive discussions. It aims to position us as international leaders in virology.

Abstract presentations are predominantly delivered by post-docs, PhD students and research staff. Thus, the conference is a valuable platform to develop emerging researchers and elevate their presentation skills.
We also include a panel of International and National keynote speakers. Dedicated “lunch with the speakers” enables networking with global leaders in the field. Furthermore, we have a special session where a distinguished scientist talks as a career mentor with a focus on lessons learnt throughout their career. This develops student careers by allowing them to talk about rarely-discussed issues in a relaxed forum.

Combined and concurrent sessions will be held with papers being presented on a thematic basis. The combined sessions will include presentations from international and national guests and papers of interest to all hepatitis and HIV researchers.

Our conference model has led to numerous collaborations between clinicians & scientists, between viruses, and across Australia. These fruitful partnerships have resulted in clinical and commercial outcomes.

If you are unable to join in Melbourne, please join us virtually. All sessions will be live-streamed, and we encourage interactive Q&A discussions and virtual engagement.

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# Melbourne HIV Exchange

Monthly seminar and networking for Victorian HIV researchers

**About mHIVE**

The Melbourne HIV Exchange (mHIVE) is a Victorian-wide consortium of over 150 HIV researchers from the Doherty Institute, Burnet Institute, RMIT University, Monash University, University of Melbourne, Alfred hospital, NRL, VIDRL, Deakin, Latrobe, MSHC, AAHL and WEHI.

Our aim is to bring together all interested parties, once a month, for exchange of topical and relevant information on the broad range of basic, clinical and translational research currently being undertaken across the state. Every year we hold a special event to mark World AIDS Day. In past years, we have held hugely successful symposiums at the Doherty Institute, the Burnet Institute and RMIT with over 150 delegates from the key scientific, affected community and political sectors. The enthusiasm, communication and discussion that is fostered at these events is key to ultimately ending HIV.

We are always happy to add new names to our email distribution list and to welcome new faces to our monthly meetings over some light refreshments. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 4pm either at the Doherty, Burnet Institute or RMIT. Email us at mHIVEcommittee@gmail.com.

| **Focused topics include:**<br>**HIV, Hepatitis, HTLV-1, co-infection & COVID-19 & BBV/STI** |
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| • Genomics |
| • Methods and diagnostic assays |
| • Microbicides |
| • Persistence and latency |
| • Replication |
| • Therapies and drug resistance |
| • Vaccines |
| • Virus and host cell interactions |
| • Immunity |
| • Pathogenesis |