



SPEAKER BIOS

**Press Conference
20 March 2007
Mexico City, Mexico**

Craig McClure (Canada), *Executive Director, International AIDS Society (IAS)*

Mr. McClure is the Executive Director of IAS, the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals and the convener of the biennial International AIDS Conference.

Mr. McClure has a background in political science, international relations, education and counseling. He has worked in the HIV/AIDS field for 13 years, primarily in the areas of policy, advocacy and education. In 2003-2004, he played a central role at the World Health Organization (WHO) as a member of the coordination team for the development of the "3 by 5" strategy, the WHO and UNAIDS initiative to expand antiretroviral treatment access for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in resource-limited settings. Prior to working with WHO, Mr. McClure worked for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. As a founding partner of the consultancy Health Hounds, Mr. McClure led a number of HIV/AIDS policy and programme development projects from 1997-2000. Prior to 1997, he worked for four years for the Canadian Treatment Information Exchange, a non-governmental organization focused on HIV treatment information, education and advocacy.

Mr. McClure has published and presented on his HIV work at international, regional and national conferences. He is committed to approaches to ending the epidemic that balance the needs for further research with expanded implementation of existing prevention tools, ethical and equitable access to care and treatment, and an end to stigma and discrimination against PLWHA and the marginalized communities that remain most vulnerable to HIV infection.

Luis Soto-Ramirez, MD (Mexico), *AIDS 2008 Co-Chair, Head of the Molecular Virology Unit at the Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición (INCMNSZ) and Coordinator of the Clinical Care Committee of CONASIDA*

Dr. Luis Soto-Ramirez is the head of the Molecular Virology Unit at the Department of Infectious Diseases at INCMNSZ. He received his medical degree in 1982 from Escuela Mexicana de Medicina of Universidad La Salle, and completed training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at INCMNSZ and a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular virology at Harvard University. He has served as a member of the International AIDS Society's Governing Council since 2000 and as regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean since 2004. Dr. Soto-Ramirez has authored over 40 scientific publications. He has also published three books of poetry.

Pedro Cahn, MD, PhD (Argentina), *President, International AIDS Society, AIDS 2008 Co-Chair, and President, Huésped Foundation*

Dr. Pedro Cahn is President of Huésped Foundation, one of the major Argentinean AIDS organizations, which he co-founded in 1988. Huésped Foundation works in the areas of clinical research, prevention and direct services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Dr. Cahn also serves as Chief of the Infectious Disease Unit at Juan A. Fernandez Hospital, and as Assistant Professor in Infectious Diseases at the Buenos Aires University Medical School, where he received his medical degree. His doctoral thesis from the same university is on septic liver.

Dr. Cahn has chaired the Argentinean AIDS Society and the AIDS Committee of the Pan-American Society of Infectious Diseases. He has also served several times as external advisor to the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization, completing missions in Zaire, Ethiopia and Honduras, among others.

Angelica M. Valenzuela (Mexico/United States), *AIDS 2008 Conference Coordinating Committee member, Vice-President of Programs for the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation (CAAF) and Executive and Steering Committee Member for the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA)*

Ms. Angelica M. Valenzuela has her formal education in public Administration, International Relations, and Political Science. She has dedicated the last 11 years of her professional experience to the field of HIV. Through the years, she has done service coordination for people living with HIV/AIDS; has trained instructors to conduct HIV prevention and education in different communities, including groups of Mexican migrant men and women in the U.S. She has also done Quality Assurance for services provided under the Ryan White Care Act, HOPWA and CDC to individuals living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. She has also managed HIV/AIDS Programs that include education, prevention, counseling and testing, case management and HIV/AIDS surveillance.

Currently, she is an Executive in the Philanthropic field, working as the Vice President of Programs for the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation (CAAF). CAAF is a public foundation based in Los Angeles, California, committed to civil society institutions (in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean Region) that work on behalf of children and women impacted by HIV and AIDS. Twenty-five percent of the work that CAAF is conducting in Latin America is taking place in Mexico. Additionally, she is also collaborating as an Executive and Steering Committee Member of the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA).

Carlos García de León M, CD (Mexico), *AIDS 2008 Conference Coordinating Committee Member, Special Projects Coordinator for AVE de Mexico, and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Representative to ICASO (International Council of AIDS Service Organizations)*

Dr. García de León is a dental surgeon and has been practicing privately since 1985. He has been committed in the fight against AIDS since 1989 and he was the President of AVE de México until 2005. He is a PLWHA rights activist, as well as an activist for sexual rights and sexual diversity. He is an expert lecturer and gives workshops on many issues, including HIV, masculinities, prevention, political incidence and sexual diversity, among other topics. Dr. García de León is a National Public Health Institute Professor in Mexico and for the English-speaking Caribbean. He has developed several national, state and regional projects, three of which were designated as "Best Practice" by the National AIDS Programme. In 2005 he was Co-chair of the North American AIDS Treatment Action Forum.

Dr. García de León is a Mexican representative and regional advisor for LACCASO (Latin-American and Caribbean AIDS Service Organization Council). He is a Stop TB Mexico committee member and has been a regional HIV/AIDS consultant for the International Alliance. Currently, Dr. García de León works as a consultant for the Health Initiative Policy Project and is Coordinator at *Impulso* -- a network providing technical assistance to Mexico's National Business Council on HIV/AIDS (CONAES). He also serves as a Latin American and Caribbean representative on the ICASO Governing Board.

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