

NEAT ID President's Update – July 2025

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in our studies. The continued success of NEAT ID research would not be possible without your dedication and support.

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Dr. Esteban Martinez, elected NEAT ID President at the start of 2025. I had the honor of succeeding the founder of NEAT ID, Professor Anton Pozniak, who has done an extraordinary job establishing and growing the network. Under his leadership, NEAT ID has supported 16 studies, enrolled over 6,000 patients, produced more than 50 publications, and secured over €30 million in funding for participating sites.

My mission is to build on this remarkable legacy by supporting and expanding clinical research in infectious diseases. This includes fostering expertise, providing resources and funding, promoting training and mobility for researchers at all levels, and strengthening long-term international collaborations. I look forward to working closely with all of you to achieve these shared goals.

Together with our Communications and External Relations Committee, chaired by Dr. Laura Waters, I am delighted to announce the launch of a triannual report to keep all participating sites informed and updated on NEAT ID activities.

We hope all attendees found the **IAS Conference in Kigali, Rwanda** valuable and engaging. The meeting brought together over 6,000 participants and highlighted both transformative scientific progress and critical funding challenges. Africa's growing leadership in HIV research was front and centre, including the continent's first Phase I mRNA vaccine trial. The conference also featured WHO guidance supporting long-acting PrEP with lenacapavir, the Kigali Call to Action urging expanded prevention and equity-based policies, and promising preclinical data on HLA-E restricted CD8+ cell therapy pointing toward future cure strategies.

We are also excited to announce our **NEAT ID Special Session at EACS 2025 in Paris, France**, scheduled for **Thursday, 17 October at 12:15pm CEST**. Invitations will be sent to all participating sites. This session will highlight the scientific and clinical impact of our **LAPTOP** study and include the presentation of the **NEAT ID Young Investigator of the Year Award**.

Once again, thank you for your continued commitment and collaboration.

Regarding our current study portfolio, I'm pleased to share the following updates:

- **FOST Switch:** Recruitment is ongoing and expected to close at the end of July.
- **C2C:** Recruitment closed. Approved as a poster presentation at IAS 2025.
- **DREW Amendment:** Recruitment closed with 373 out of 399 participants in Cohort 1 and 89 out of 100 in Cohort 2.
- **CAB PrEP:** Recruitment expected to begin in 2025.

- **DREW Manuscript:** Accepted for publication in *AIDS*, appearing in the July 1st, 2025, issue.
- **Upcoming Manuscripts (expected in 2025):** *COMBINE-2*, *HIV CoCo*, *WISARD*, and *LAPTOP*.
- **FOST Switch DSMB Screening Data:** Accepted and presented as a poster at BHIVA.
- **NEAT ID Young Investigator of the Year Award:** To be presented during our EACS 2025 special session.
- **Integration Grant:** 2025 Annual reports for 2022 awardees have been issued and received. We thank awardees for their hard work on research.

Dr Merle Henderson - Longitudinal changes in plasma neuronal markers in persons with HIV commencing ART

- CROI Conference 2025 (San Francisco, USA) – poster presentation
- HIV CNS Day 2025 (London, U.K.) – oral abstract presentation
- BHIVA Spring Conference 2025 (Brighton, U.K.) – oral abstract presentation
- Manuscript submitted May 2025 for publication

Dr Linos Vandekerckhove-

- IAS 2025 (Kigali, Rwanda) - Oral Presentation
- Awarded the IAS/ANRS Lange/van Tongeren prize for Young Investigators, recognizing innovation, originality, and scientific quality in HIV research
- Manuscript submitted for publication

For full details on our studies, please visit our website: <https://www.neat-id.org>.

With best wishes,
Dr. Esteban Martinez
1st August 2025