

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to announce the date and venue for next year's 26<sup>th</sup> Workshop: **21st to 23rd March 2024 in Vilamoura, Portugal.**

The Scientific Committee is grateful to our partners and to the HIV and hepatitis observational research communities for their interest and participation in the workshop. We look forward to continuing our commitment to this one-of-a-kind meeting in 2024 and beyond.

#### KEY IMMEDIATE ACTIONS NEEDED

- Please distribute this invitation within your study team.
- Please distribute this invitation to your contacts in resource-limited countries.
- Note the abstract submission deadline: **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

#### FOCUS AND FORMAT

We are interested in all aspects of HIV and viral hepatitis epidemiology and clinical research that relate directly or indirectly to cohort studies. We are also interested in COVID-19, mpox and other sexually transmitted infections, recognizing that many of you are also working in this area. Work of interest includes models of disease progression and the effect of treatment (including those that also incorporate disease transmission), co-infections, cost-effectiveness analyses, and research into statistical methodology.

One of the unique characteristics of the workshop is that abstracts and findings are not published or made public in any way. Investigators are thereby free to submit and present at later meetings such as the International AIDS Society conferences. This, and the size of the workshop (180-190 delegates) has led to an atmosphere of very open debate and discussion, which is particularly helpful to junior, but also to senior researchers. The workshop provides an excellent forum for presenting preliminary findings within a small and encouraging environment with many of the top international research experts present. Many presenting authors indeed do go on to successfully submit their abstracts to subsequent conferences and publish findings.

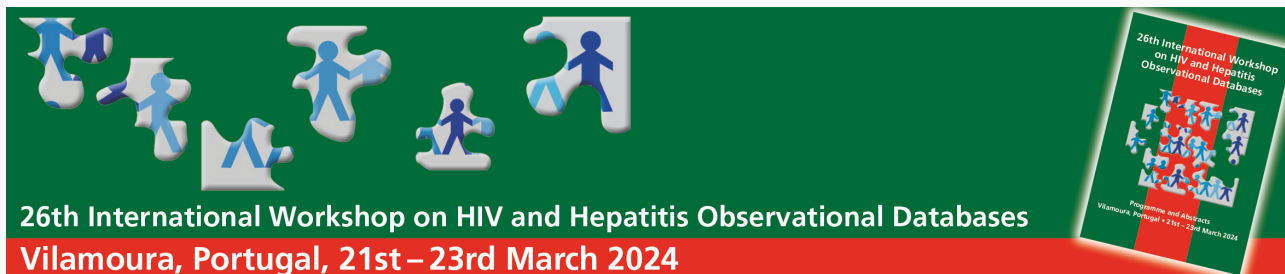
#### WORKSHOP AT A GLANCE:

- Arrive by midday Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March and depart Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in the afternoon.
- Welcome Lunch on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, followed by afternoon sessions.
- A full day meeting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, followed by the Workshop Dinner.
- Morning session on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- 6 Sessions ~ 1.5 h, ~ 5 presentations of 10 mins each, with time for discussion and debate in each session
- Two Poster viewing sessions ~ 1.5 h

#### TIMELINE

- Abstract Submission starts: **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**
- Abstract Submission Deadline: **by 17:00 UK time on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**
- Abstract selection and final programme by Scientific Committee: **late January 2024**
- Abstract status will be notified to all who submitted an abstract: **first week of February 2024**

#### COHORT INVITATION



**Attendance at this workshop is contingent on submission and acceptance of abstracts.** We are once again aiming to include attendees representing cohort studies from all regions. We particularly encourage abstract submissions from new cohorts and cohorts from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America.

#### SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS - RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST

This year, we are particularly interested in abstracts related to COVID-19 and mpox research, as well as HIV, hepatitis B and C.

The following is a list of areas of particular interest; however, any cohort-related abstracts of clinical and/or public health relevance to COVID-19, monkeypox, HIV or viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections are welcome:

**Methodology:** Novel methods and traditional applications.

**Hepatitis:** Natural history, efficacy, tolerability and outcomes of therapies.

**Health Outcomes:** Long term morbidity and survival, costs, resistance, cancers, mental health.

**Care continuum (COVID-19, mpox, HIV and Hepatitis):** Detection, adherence, engagement to care, patient mobility, measurements.

**Comorbidities and determinants:** Viral and host genetic markers, social determinants.

**Age specific cohorts:** From pregnancy to advanced age.

**Emerging areas:** Transgender cohorts, Phylogenetic mapping, lab testing, electronic medical records, big data.

**Resource-limited settings:** Hepatitis B, tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections, non-communicable disease, rapid treatment, and late presenters.

**Implementation Science:** PrEP, Public health interventions, context specific interventions, Care delivery models.

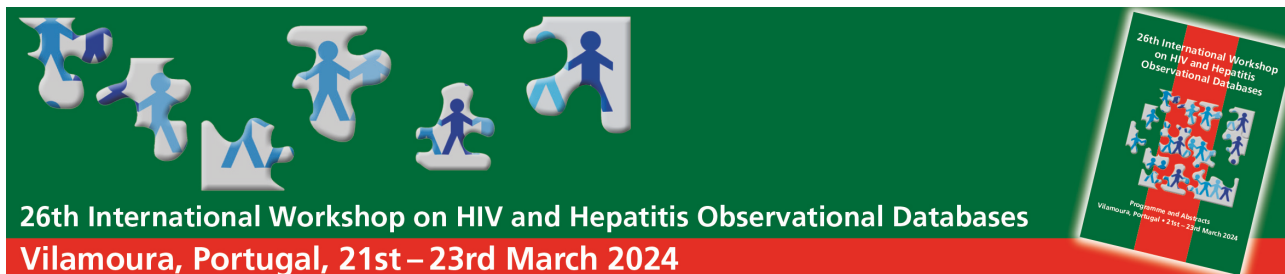
#### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Invitations to attend the workshop apply to the presenting author of accepted abstracts. **Please read the abstract submission rules below.**

The maximum number of abstracts each cohort or cohort collaboration can submit is **SIX**. At most **FOUR** abstracts per cohort will be accepted (resulting in a maximum of FOUR persons per cohort). Purely methodological abstracts (which might use example data from a cohort) do not count as one of the six submissions for that cohort. At most **TWO** methodological abstracts can be submitted by one person.

**ABSTRACTS OF STUDIES WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED AT CROI 2024 ARE INELIGIBLE for submission to IWHOD.**

ANY ABSTRACT ACCEPTED FOR CROI 2024 AS A LATE BREAKER MUST BE WITHDRAWN FROM IWHOD. Please make sure to let the secretariat know of any abstract accepted by CROI as soon as notified.



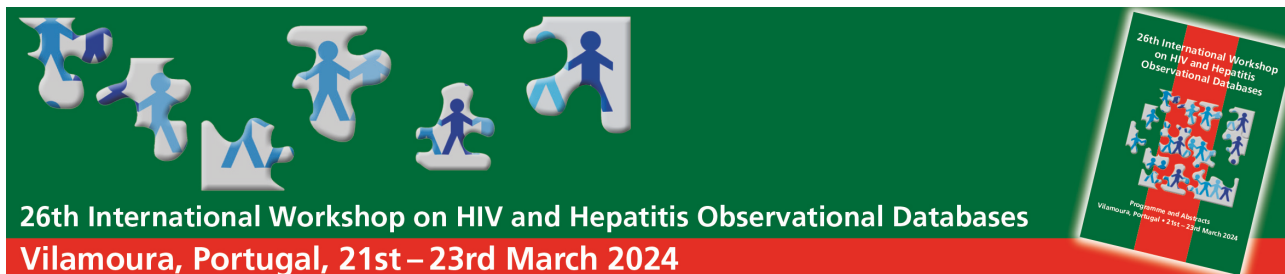
#### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION RULES

- Your abstract **must** be submitted via the **IWHOD online abstract submission system** accessible via a web-link you will find on the [Abstract Submission](#) page of the IWHOD website from the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. First, you will be asked to register with the system. Please then carefully follow the instruction on that page.
- Your **abstract body** must not exceed **500 words** (including tables and figures). A maximum of **one display item** (figure, graphic or table) is allowed and **must be titled**.
- When submitting purely methodological abstracts, you may select **“methodology”** in the appropriate field on the online submission form rather than give details of your cohort.

#### TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS

- Delegates will be responsible for booking and paying for their own flight and ground transportation to and from the workshop.
- **The delegate fee (350€)** will cover accommodation (2 hotel nights, breakfast) and workshop attendance (abstract book, access to sessions), lunch on Thursday and Friday, as well as dinner on Friday. The Workshop Dinner on Friday will be by registration only.
- We continue to strongly encourage abstract submissions from resource-constrained settings. Recognising that the expenses may deter some from attending the meeting, we are offering scholarships for delegates based in low and middle-income countries, particularly those with student status, whose abstracts have scored highly. When submitting your abstract, you will be asked whether you qualify for this scholarship.
- For **countries with no Portuguese consulate**, travel-for-visa costs may be included in the financial assistance we will offer, and the Secretariat will help in gathering the paperwork needed to apply for a visa.
- All accommodation must be booked via Visual Response. Accommodation expenses associated with the workshop (i.e., within the workshop start and close dates and time) will be covered by the delegate fee and workshop scholarship, if applicable. **Additional costs**, such as extra nights, room service, etc. will be the delegate’s personal responsibility and need to be settled on departure. Please note that Visual Response will need to have your completed registration form by **10<sup>th</sup> February 2024** in order to ensure a room reservation. It is delegate’s responsibility to provide Dolores O’Sullivan at Visual Response ([d.osullivan@visualresponse.com](mailto:d.osullivan@visualresponse.com)) with this information in a timely manner.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us by email: [iwhodsecretariat@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:iwhodsecretariat@ucl.ac.uk)



### SENIOR COHORT REPRESENTATIVES

To encourage presentations by junior scientists and allow them to benefit from discussion with senior investigators, a limited number of invitations will be available at a special rate (€500) for senior cohort representatives co-authoring abstracts submitted to IWHOD. Only one such place is available per cohort. Applications should be made to [iwhodsecretariat@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:iwhodsecretariat@ucl.ac.uk) and the **deadline for applying is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. We regret that we will not be able to accept applications past this deadline due to the limited number of places available.

### YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Two Young Investigator Awards for early career researchers will be given at the end of the workshop, one for best oral and one for best poster. When submitting your abstract, you will be asked whether you qualify for this Award. Award winners will receive automatic invitations to IWHOD 2025, and the fee to the workshop will be waived.

### ONGOING AND NEW COLLABORATIONS

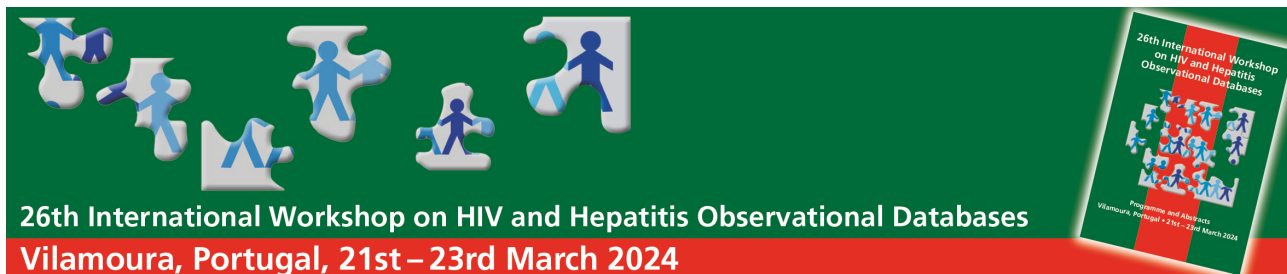
- IWHOD has proven to be a productive mechanism for fostering collaborations among cohorts across the world. We would like to see as many preliminary findings ensuing from such collaborations as possible, and strongly encourage abstract submissions from collaborative groups.
- If you and your collaborators are interested in holding a **side meeting** at the workshop, please communicate with your colleagues directly, and contact Dolores O'Sullivan ([d.osullivan@visualresponse.com](mailto:d.osullivan@visualresponse.com)) from Visual Response to arrange for a time slot and a meeting room at the hotel as soon as possible and no later than 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The investigators or organisations requesting the side meetings will need to cover these expenses on site.

### IWHOD SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee ensures the program development and selection of presentations (oral and posters) is transparent.

Scientific Committee 2023: Mary-Ann Davies, Julia del Amo, Hansjakob Furrer, Miguel Hernan, Amy Justice, Roger Kouyos, Karine Lacombe, Yukari Manabe, Caroline Sabin, Rodolphe Thiébaud, Ole Kirk, Giota Touloumi, Keri Althoff, Agnes Kiragge, Marc van der Valk, Tinei Shamu, and Marina Klein (Chair)

IWHOD Secretariat: Kholoud Porter (Chair), Phoebe Day, Jakob Friis-Larsen and Dorthe Raben.



The Workshop relies on your input and we hope you find that the program addresses the issues relevant to you. We look forward to next year's meeting and we hope you will be able to participate in what looks to be an exciting and stimulating program.

Sincerely,

Marina Klein

26<sup>th</sup> IWHOD Chairperson

On behalf of the IWHOD Scientific Committee:

Mary-Ann Davies, Julia del Amo, Hansjakob Furrer, Miguel Hernan, Amy Justice, Roger Kouyos, Karine Lacombe, Yukari Manabe, Caroline Sabin, Rodolphe Thiébaud, Ole Kirk, Giota Touloumi, Keri Althoff, Agnes Kiragge, Marc van der Valk, Tinei Shamu, and Marina Klein (Chair).