

## Background

The introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has successfully prolonged the survival of HIV infected individuals. Much of this success is because mortality attributable to opportunistic infections is rapidly declining. However, other causes of death including cancer are proportionally becoming more significant. Cancer now ranks as the second to the third leading cause of death in individuals living with HIV. Additionally, the spectrum of malignancies seen in this population also appears to be shifting and includes non-AIDS defining cancers such as anal and lung cancer. A focus on cancer in the HIV infected population is thus becoming more critical.

The International Conference on Malignancies in AIDS and Other Acquired Immunodeficiencies (ICMAOI) is a unique gathering of clinical and laboratory investigators, post-doctoral fellows, students, physicians and health care worker that are interested in HIV-associated malignancy research. The National Cancer Institute has sponsored 10 prior conferences on the topic of malignancies in HIV/AIDS and other types of immune deficiencies. The goal of the conference is to provide the latest information on the epidemiology, virology, pathogenesis, tumor immunology, molecular biology, and treatment of diseases including Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and anogenital neoplasia. The major themes covered at the 11<sup>th</sup> ICMAOI included:

- Immunosuppression and non-AIDS defining cancers and the role of screening
- Global cancer trends in HIV-infected persons
- Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus basic biology
- AIDS-associated lymphoma
- New viruses and viral mechanisms
- Non-AIDS defining cancers

The 11<sup>th</sup> ICMAOI conference provided a forum for the presentation of basic, epidemiologic and clinical aspects of research on malignancies in HIV-infected and other immunosuppressed individuals being conducted nationally and internationally. The 11<sup>th</sup> ICMAOI, like prior conferences, was a key event that provided a platform for productive networking of domestic and international investigators interested in cancer in the context of HIV and immunosuppression.