

# **HIV and the Body**

**Geraldine Reilly**

# Clinical need

- **Advances in HIV therapy over the last 25 years have transformed HIV diagnosis into a long term chronic disease**
- **Physicians are now adapting to treating patients with unfamiliar co-morbidities e.g. renal, cardiovascular and liver disease**
- **The challenge now for HIV physicians is to broaden their knowledge base to effectively manage these co-morbidities**
  - **Identify relevant clinical signs and symptoms**
  - **Refer, when appropriate, to specialist colleagues in other disciplines**

# Addressing the clinical need

---

- **HIV and the Body programme aims to:**
  - **Increase understanding and improve the management of co-morbid conditions in the long term treatment of HIV**
  - **Discuss and build consensus on best clinical practice**
  - **Provide the platform for national medical education following the international launch**

# International expert forums

- **HIV and the Body international expert forums are designed to address the clinical need**
- **The HIV and the Body programme and international expert forums are developed and led by an independent faculty of world-class experts**
- **The faculty includes HIV specialists and non-HIV specialists that are leaders in their chosen speciality e.g. hepatology, renal, metabolism, bone**
- **All meeting slides and subsequent output materials are developed by the faculty**
- **Support is provided to the faculty by a Secretariat – Weber Shandwick**
- **The content of the programme is at the sole discretion of the faculty and is not influenced by the Secretariat or Gilead**

# Programme development

- International expert forums are medical education meetings delivered by the independent faculty
  - Audience includes HIV and non-HIV physicians from 16 countries
- To date three international expert forums have been delivered with two others planned:
  - International **renal** expert forum
    - 16 June 2007
  - International **metabolism** expert forum
    - 8 Sep 2007
  - International **liver** expert forum
    - 10 May 2008
  - International **combined** expert forum
    - 11 & 12 December 2008
    - Meeting to incorporate kidney, metabolism, liver and bone
  - HIV and the **Heart**
    - 20 March 2009
- After international expert forums, delegates roll-out the programme in their home country



# Programme future

## ■ HIV and Your Body

- A patient focussed education programme designed to:
  - Empower people living with HIV to look beyond their HIV and take control of the management of their overall health by better understanding the signs and symptoms of co-morbidities and how they are optimally managed
  - Educate people living with HIV on the expanded role of HIV care providers in managing their illness, and the partnership those physicians enter into with their colleagues in other specialist areas
  - Increase knowledge and understanding of HIV and co-morbidities amongst a wider group of stakeholders, as appropriate (pharmacists, nurses, patient educators)
- The programme will be developed by an independent international taskforce made up of physicians, patient groups, pharmacists and HIV community representatives

# Programme outputs

- Treatment algorithms
  - Provide a reference for treatment and management of HIV co-morbidities
- HIV and the Body microsite
  - International Expert Forum presentations and slide decks are loaded onto the microsite to allow viewing by physicians not in attendance at the meeting



# Programme accreditation

- HIV and the Body is accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education
- Delegates receive 4 CME credits for attendance at an international expert forum



# Programme accreditation

- **EACCME accreditation is key to the success of the international expert forums**
- **HIV and the Body adheres to criteria for international accreditation of CME:**
  1. **Objectives of the CME activity**
    - Learning objectives are clearly identified by the faculty at the inception of any new expert forum
  2. **Programme**
    - Secretariat provide detailed information on the plans for the international expert forums with direction from the faculty
  3. **Provider**
    - The faculty Chair assumes the responsibility of CME director
  4. **Commercial interest**
    - The educational grant from Gilead is explicit in all materials
  5. **Quality assurance**
    - Non-biased education is guaranteed by the independent faculty developing all meeting content with no influence from Gilead or the Secretariat

# Programme evaluation

- Delegates are asked for feedback on each international expert forum, including their opinions on:
  - The scientific accuracy and relevance of data presented
  - The potential impact on their future practice
  - Their ability to outline patient management considerations as a result of the meeting

# Delegate feedback

- Over 88% of delegates across Europe committed to reassessing clinical practice in HIV
- Four clinics across Europe have confirmed a change in their clinical practice as a result of the HIV and the Kidney programme:
  - “Since the meeting we have **changed our renal monitoring practice** in the department.”
  - “As a result we have now commenced measuring protein/creatinine as a standard... and we **now monitor more closely the renal function** in our cohort with co-morbidities”
  - “I will **no longer be switching my patients away from tenofovir** due to renal issues but I will be monitoring them instead”
  - “We will be **changing our renal approach** immediately to include MDRD in routine lab parameters”

# Award winners!

- Best Medical Education Programmes – Global  
– Communiqué award 2008
- "A great programme - well executed with extremely thorough evaluation"

