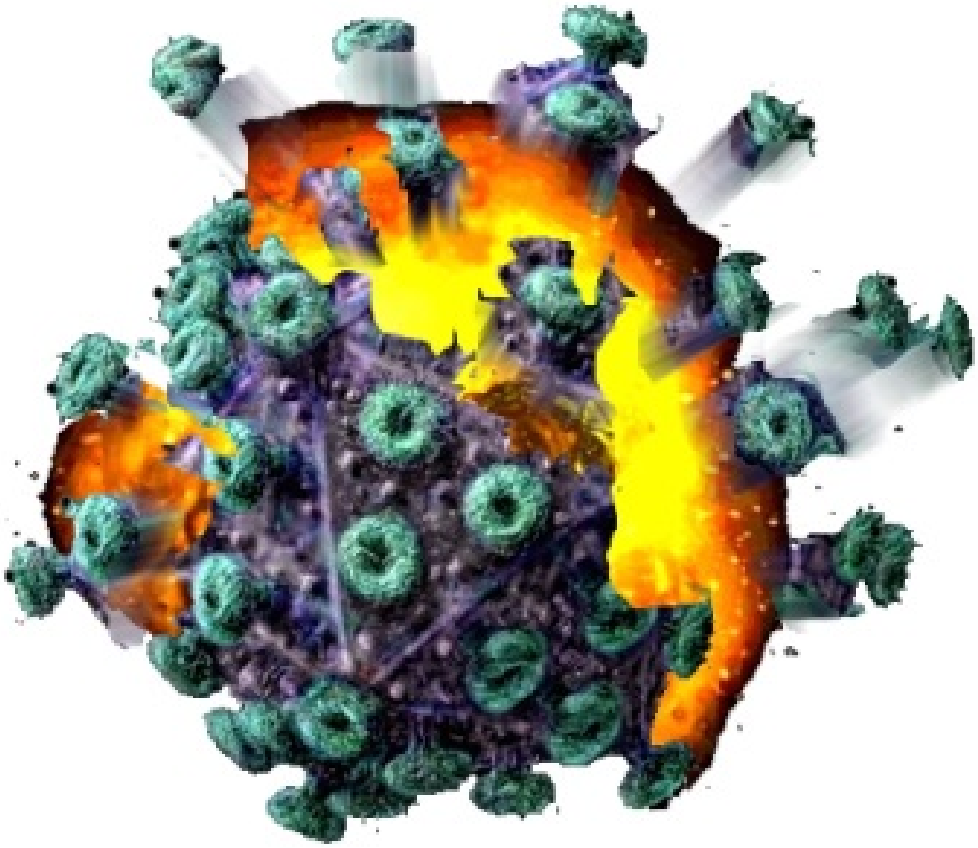

Monday, 20 November 2017

4th Utrecht HIV Cure Symposium

Utrecht, the Netherlands

University Medical Center (UMC) Utrecht

UMC Utrecht

4th Utrecht HIV Cure Symposium

In November 2017 the Translational Virology research group of the Department of Medical Microbiology in the UMC Utrecht will organize the fourth edition of the Utrecht HIV Cure symposium. The focus of this year's symposium will be on the recent developments and challenges towards HIV cure. This year HIV persistence in reservoirs, latency reversing agents and potential cure via allogenic stem cell transplantation.

Currently, an estimated 37 million people are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and 2 million people are newly infected each year. To halt the HIV epidemic, the UNAIDS has put up the ambitious 90-90-90 targets for 2020 which aims to scale up the response to the epidemic to enable identification of 90% of HIV-positive patients, for 90% of such diagnosed people to be on treatment, and to achieve viral suppression in 90% of patients on ART. Vigorous steps to reach the UNAIDS goals are being made, but ART does not eliminate HIV persisting in cellular reservoirs. Therefore, to truly constrain the human and economic distress this pandemic causes a curative intervention is urgently warranted.

During this symposium special consideration will be given on HIV persistence in long-term treated patients which is studied in detail by Kobus Bosman in collaboration with the Departments of Infectious Diseases and Immunology.

A major barrier for HIV eradication is the persistence of abovementioned latent reservoirs. When ART is interrupted the reservoirs can be re-activated and represent a potential source of viral rebound. However, when the reservoirs become small enough efficient control of the infection by the host immune system may be possible. Therefore, decrease of the latent reservoirs would represent an important step in order to achieve long-term virological remission. Latency Reversing Agents (LRA's) could be used to reach this goal as they induce reactivation of latent viruses while ART is maintained and new spreading infection is prevented. During the symposium Jori Symons will discuss the potential role of LRA's.

The search for a cure has been fuelled by the remarkable story of Timothy Brown, also known as "the Berlin patient", who cured HIV after allogeneic transplantation with non-functional CCR5 co-receptor (homozygous CCR5-Δ32) stem cells.

Inspired by the case of Timothy Brown a renowned group of international researchers formed the IciStem consortium, which is led by Annemarie Wensing and Javier Martinez-Picado. The consortium guides and investigates the potential for HIV cure in HIV-infected patients who receive Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation. By doing so the consortium aims to gain insight as to whether additional factors such as conditioning regime, total body irradiation, graft versus host disease or viral tropism could contribute to the eradication of a HIV infection. Findings of these analysis will be discussed during the symposium.

Finally, Fred Verdult, HIV patient and patient educator, will interview Timothy Brown himself on his experiences in HIV cure research and what happens after being cured from HIV.

Program

Chairs:

José Borghans, PhD, Immunology, UMC Utrecht

Jaap Jan Boelens, MD, PhD, Immunology & Oncology, UMC Utrecht

13:00 – 13:30 REGISTRATION

13:30 **Opening lecture: translational virology in the field of HIV cure**
Annemarie Wensing, MD, PhD, Virology, Medical Microbiology, UMC Utrecht

13:50 **Latency reverse agents as a strategy for cure**
Jori Symons, PhD, Doherty Institute, Melbourne, Australia

14:15 **HIV reservoirs in long-term treated patients: data from the CHEESE study**
Kobus Bosman, PhD, Virology, Medical Microbiology, UMC Utrecht

14:35 **CCR5 co-receptor usage in HIV positive Stem Cell Transplantation patients**
Monique Nijhuis, PhD, Virology, Medical Microbiology, UMC Utrecht

14:55 – 15:25 BREAK

15:25 **Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation in HIV-1 infected individuals; the IciStem Consortium**
Javier Martinez Picado, IrsiCaixa research institute, Barcelona, Spain

15:50 **Cured from HIV: What came after? Experiences of Timothy Brown**
Fred Verdult, Volle Maan, Amsterdam / Timothy Brown, Seattle, USA

16:20 **Closing remarks by Annemarie Wensing**

16:25 – 17:30 DRINKS

Date & Time
Monday, November 20th 2017, 13:30h – 16:30h.

Location
Van Peperzeelzaal in the UMC Utrecht.
Q-Building, UMC Utrecht. Heidelberglaan 100, 3584 CX Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Registration
Participation in this symposium is for free.
Please register online at:

www.icistem.org/4th-hiv-cure-symposium-utrecht

Registration will be handled in order of receipt. Registration is not valid until you have received an official confirmation from the organizers. A maximum of 50 participants can take part.

Accreditation
Accreditation has been requested at the NIV and NVMM.

Organization & Information
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