

# MEN & WOMEN DEMAND RECTAL MICROBICIDES

## WHY DOES THE WORLD NEED RECTAL MICROBICIDES?

The rectum is especially vulnerable to HIV transmission. An act of anal intercourse is 10- 100-times more likely to result in HIV transmission than vaginal intercourse. Studies show that 30% of the heterosexual population, and large numbers of gay men and males who have sex with males (MSM), engage in anal intercourse around the world.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN RESEARCH?

Trail-blazing researchers have examined how potential rectal microbicides might be formulated, how they could be distributed in the body, and what potential compounds might work rectally. Much more research is needed to have safe, effective products.

## WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL RECTAL MICROBICIDES WORKING GROUP?

Formed in 2005, the International Rectal Microbicide Working Group (IRMWG) is a growing coalition of more than 230 advocates, policymakers and scientists in over 25 countries on 5 continents, working to advance the research and development of rectal microbicides. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, post-exposure prophylaxis, vaccines, lubricant safety, and sexual harm reduction are also on the group's agenda.

Our agenda includes advocacy for:

- More funding and research into rectal microbicides development
- More research on the rectal safety of sexual lubricants
- Rectal safety studies on all vaginal microbicide candidates in late stage clinical trials
- Links to advocates and researchers working on other prevention technologies, women's health and gay men's health

## HOW DO WE CONNECT?

The IRMWG operates a moderated listserv, where members freely exchange ideas and information, and the group hosts regular international conference calls featuring presentations of the latest in rectal microbicide research. See [www.lifelube.org](http://www.lifelube.org) for more info.

### BECOME INVOLVED

To join our efforts and add your name to the IRMWG listserv, simply send an e-mail to Jim Pickett at [jpickett@aidschicago.org](mailto:jpickett@aidschicago.org).

### "RECTAL MICROBICIDES: INVESTMENTS & ADVOCACY"

Please visit [www.lifelube.org](http://www.lifelube.org) to read this IRMWG report, released in April 2006.

### INVESTMENTS NEEDED

We need a five-fold increase in rectal microbicides research investments over the next 10 years (from US\$7 million annually to US\$35 million annually).

### THE WORLD'S FIRST SAFETY TRIAL

This year the University of California, Los Angeles will conduct the first phase I safety trial of a potential rectal microbicide: UC-781. History is being made.

### ALL LUBES ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

We are working closely with researchers to disseminate information on the safety profiles of sexual lubricants for rectal use. Stay tuned!

### UNPROTECTED ANAL INTERCOURSE

Most women and up to half of gay men and MSM engage in anal intercourse without a condom.

### ACT NOW

Men and women around the world demand that donors, researchers, advocates and policy-makers ACT NOW to ensure we all have access to safe, effective rectal microbicides.

