

Online Resources

Presentations from UK-CAB meetings

- Reports
- Briefings and presentations from UK CAB meetings

Factsheets

- Becoming an advocate
- Taking part in clinical trials and other topics

Clinical trials

- Finding clinical trials
- Trials with UK-CAB representation

Treatment guidelines

- HIV and hepatitis
- Policy and guidance
- Other guidelines

Members' Forum

- News Announcements
- Online discussions

Mission Statement

UK-CAB aims to empower people living with HIV/AIDS and those supporting them so that they are aware of and understand the treatment options available, and are able to make informed and effective choices with their clinicians regarding treatment.

We aim to ensure that treatment is optimised for each individual, encouraging appropriate choices for the best standards of care.

Membership

Membership of the UK-CAB is free, and open to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), HIV community advocates, those working in a health/social care role for PLWHA, carers for PLWHA, and parents or guardians of children under the age of 16 living with HIV/AIDS.

Participation in the UK-CAB is open to HIV-positive people and community advocates. Individuals join the UK-CAB as members in their own right. Members also include advocates that are not linked to organisations, and HIV-positive people who want to use the training offered in the workshops.

In order to maintain the independence and the confidentiality of our internal discussions, employees of the pharmaceutical industry (commercial companies researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing HIV drugs and tests) are not allowed to join as members.

To join, please visit the UK-CAB website:

www.ukcab.net/join.html

A valid email account is needed for membership

Contact the UK-CAB

The UK-CAB is administered by HIV i-Base.

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HIV treatment advocates network

The UK-CAB is a network of community HIV treatment advocates across the UK. It aims to develop, strengthen and support:

- HIV Treatment advocacy in the UK
- Expert training on current treatment issues and opportunities to meet with doctors, researchers and pharmaceutical companies
- Community representation in the design and management of clinical trials and in setting standards of care

The UK-CAB connects over 550 members from over 120 organisations.

The UK-CAB is free to join and open to HIV-positive people and community advocates.

A Steering Group of UK-CAB members coordinates development of the project.

About UK-CAB

The UK-CAB was set up in May 2002. The 3 main aims of the UK-CAB are to:

- Develop and strengthen a network of HIV treatment advocates
- Provide expert training on current treatment issues and opportunities to meet with doctors, researchers and pharmaceutical companies
- Develop community representation in the design and management of clinical trials and the setting of UK standards of care

Treatment advocates network

<http://www.ukcab.net/forum>

UK-CAB connects members via a web-based message board and a programme of meetings.

The message board enables members to contribute and comment on treatment guidelines, clinical trials design, and to generally communicate with other advocates and keep up to date with reports on the latest research.

The UK-CAB provides training to enable full involvement in the UK-CAB meetings, and to provide a valuable backbone of knowledge of HIV treatment and treatment-related issues for health care workers.

Expert training

The core programme includes four national meetings a year with presentations from experts covering a wide range of HIV treatment areas including;

- TB, hepatitis, access to treatment for immigrants, starting treatment, drug resistance
- Feedback from recent medical conferences
- Training on practical and technical issues

Speakers include:

- Leading doctors and researchers
- Representatives of pharmaceutical companies
- Experienced advocates

Meetings are interactive, with questions, discussions and time to network. Background reading, presentations and reports from workshops are available on the website www.ukcab.net

Reading material, slide presentations and reports from each meeting are posted online to develop a growing advocacy resource.

These quarterly training meetings are free to attend but places are limited to 25 people.

Reasonable transport costs are paid, and accommodation provided, for participants who live and work outside London (UK-CAB cannot provide any funding for people traveling from outside England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.)

In addition UK-CAB on occasion sets up ad hoc meetings with pharmaceutical companies, researchers or clinicians to address specific topics which may not be readily accommodated in the programme of the quarterly meetings.

Community Representation

We believe that HIV-positive people and their advocates must be involved in all aspects of medical care. This includes involvement in clinical guidelines and the design and management of clinical trials.

UK-CAB elects and selects representatives for clinical trials and treatment guideline writing groups. This usually comprises two advocates who share this responsibility, often pairing an experienced advocate with someone wishing to develop their expertise.

UK-CAB supports many HIV organisations to develop confidence in understanding treatment when community input or representation is sought. UK-CAB provides organisations with an open and transparent (mutually agreed) forum for community representation, and an excellent channel for getting community feedback and response to important issues.

UK-CAB links to professional organizations

- British HIV Association (BHIVA). We provide community representation on BHIVA committees and subcommittees, and writing groups treatment guidelines.
- Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit: Our members provide community representation on Trial Steering Committees and Data Monitoring Committees.
- Major national HIV organisations in the UK, providing support as and when appropriate in the area of HIV treatment, treatment-related as well as policy issues.

UK-CAB has provided input to governmental health organisations, care providers, hospital trusts, specialised health commissioners and PCTs.

UK-CAB organises a Community Symposium at the BHIVA Autumn Meetings.