



UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION

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THE NATIONAL HIV & AIDS SYMPOSIUM 2026

FEATURING THE ANNUAL NATIONAL HIV & AIDS SCIENTIFIC MEETING, *THE ANNUAL JOINT AIDS REVIEW*, *PHILLY LUTAAYA MEMORIAL LECTURE* AND *PARTNERSHIP FORUM*

Theme: "Sustainable Interventions to End AIDS as a Public Health Threat by 2030"

Call for Abstracts

Background

The Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC), in partnership with the Research, Academia, Science and Professional Associations HIV Response Partner (RASP - HRP), will convene **the National HIV and AIDS Symposium 2026 (NHAS 2026) November 16th - 18th, 2026**. The meeting will bring together researchers, policy makers and service implementers to share new knowledge on HIV and AIDS and review implementation of the National HIV Response against targets set in the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (NSP). NHAS 2026 will feature **the National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting 2026, the Annual Joint AIDS Review**, a state-of-the-art exhibition on HIV and AIDS interventions and breakthroughs, **The Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture**, and The Partnership Forum.

Venue: The venue for NHAS 2026 will be Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Mbarara. NHAS 2026 will be hybrid with physical and virtual components.

Dates: NHAS 2026 will occur at MUST, Mbarara, from **Monday November 16th to Wednesday November 18th, 2026**.

Goal

To share new evidence from research and experience in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, social support, and systems strengthening in the national HIV and AIDS response.

Specific objectives

1. To assess progress in the implementation of the NSP 2025/26–2029/30 during its first year (FY 2025/26) and inform adaptive planning for subsequent years
2. To share and discuss completed, ongoing, and planned research in HIV and AIDS and showcase current breakthroughs in HIV and AIDS interventions
3. To rally the country against HIV and AIDS and associated stigma through the Philly Lutaaya Commemoration
4. To build the capacity of junior and civil society scientists in HIV and AIDS research by providing a platform for such scientists to share and discuss their work

Participation

NHAS 2026 is a 3-day event. The Scientific and Programs Committee will receive and evaluate abstracts for oral and poster presentation. Authors are invited to submit abstracts under the priority topics below.

Thematic Areas and Priority Topics for Abstracts	
Epidemiology and HIV Prevention 1. Surveys on HIV prevention indicators in the general population or specific populations 2. Assessments of feasibility, acceptability, utilization, cost-effectiveness, and retention for new HIV prevention interventions and programs 3. Utilization of Behavior Change Communication (BCC) approaches to reach vulnerable populations with HIV and AIDS information 4. Innovative use of traditional and new media to create demand for HIV testing services among AGYW and high risk populations	
Care and Treatment 1. Evaluations, surveys and innovations on currently available care and treatment interventions 2. Adjuncts and alternatives to antiretroviral therapies 3. Mortality, e.g., common diagnoses at death among PLWH, causes death, and mortality audits	
Social Support, Social Protection and Social Determinants of Health 1. Studies and innovations on social, psychological, ethical and spiritual areas of HIV and AIDS 2. Efficacy of counseling and other psychological or behavioral interventions for HIV/AIDS 3. Community experiences: e.g., disclosure, understanding/meaning of HIV and AIDS, perspectives on social and economic interventions, and gender-based violence 4. Health equity, e.g., service delivery and access for key and priority populations	
Healthcare Systems, Community Systems and Systems for Governance 1. Assessments and innovations in human resources for health, e.g., capacity building 2. Integrated service delivery, e.g., describing, comparing, and evaluating approaches 3. Program reorientation and transition from donor-led to local government-led programming 4. Client-centered services, e.g., audience segmentation studies to tailor HIV/AIDS messaging 5. Community-led research, e.g., telling the stories of persons with HIV/AIDS 6. Innovations in multi-sectoral coordination, e.g., review of HIV/AIDS partnerships 7. Innovations in data sharing and data use, eg., development of cloud-based platforms 8. Financing and financial management, e.g., reducing the cost of the HIV/AIDS program	
HIV cure	
1. Framework for research in HIV cure 2. Characterization of HIV reservoirs including reservoir size determination 3. Characteristics and dynamics of HIV subtypes and recombinants 4. Systematic reviews on HIV cure interventions 5. Characterization of HIV reservoirs	6. Characteristics and dynamics of HIV subtypes and recombinants 7. Characterizing HIV positive elite controllers 8. Perceptions of HIV cure 9. Natural and herbal remedies with effects on HIV 10. Investigating claims of an HIV cure

Guidelines for Abstract submission:

1. All abstracts should be written in English.
2. Abstracts should be submitted by email to: nhas@uac.go.ug
3. An abstract form can be provided on request, but all authors should structure their abstracts as: introduction, methods, results, implications and conclusions. Maximum word count is 500.
4. The **deadline** for submissions has been extended to **October 15th, 2026**.
5. Notice of accepted abstracts will be sent to authors by 23rd October 2026.

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