Short Statement by the EADV on World AIDS Day 2015

Brussels, 1 December 2015. The European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology would like to draw the attention of the public, healthcare professionals and decision makers to the most recent surveillance data released by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, which indicate that with HIV infection diagnosed in over 142,000 people in 2014 the WHO European Region recorded the highest number of newly diagnosed infections in one year since the start of reporting in the 1980s.¹

As physicians, we are deeply worried by these figures. At a time when most people tend to think that we are winning the war on HIV, these numbers come as an eye opener. The EADV would like to once more reiterate the importance of practicing safe sex, as well as the significance of early diagnosis. The recently launched European HIV Test Finder makes it a lot easier to locate an HIV testing site: all that is needed is a post code or city name to find information about the nearest testing site. Early diagnosis can help infected individuals leave a near-normal life expectancy.

The EADV is a proud supporter of the #Rethink Campaign of the UK-based National AIDS Trust (NAT). This World AIDS Day, NAT is challenging people to rethink outdated stereotypes, challenge myths and be positive about HIV, with our ‘Think Positive: Rethink HIV’ campaign. You can visit their webpage at http://www.worldaidsday.org/campaign/rethink-hiv to get informed and see how you can contribute in the campaign through specific events or social media.

In the same context, the EADV proudly supports the campaign “Partager sa vie avec une personne séropositive, c’est possible” (transl. “Share your life with an HIV-positive person, it’s possible”) of the Belgium-based Plate-Forme Prévention Sida. You can read more on their campaign on their website http://preventionsida.org/2015/11/campagne-du-1er-decembre-2015/.

Useful Links

#Rethink Campaign: http://www.worldaidsday.org/campaign/rethink-hiv
NAT (UK): http://www.nat.org.uk/
TV Spot: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25fd5aCjQi0
Plate-Forme Prévention Sida (Belgium): http://preventionsida.org/

About EADV

Founded in 1987, EADV is a non-profit association whose vision is to be the premier European Dermato-Venereology Society, with the key aims of improving the quality of patient care, providing continuing medical education (CME) for all Dermato-Venereologists in Europe and advocacy on behalf of the specialty and patients.

The membership concept has been broadened to include all areas of Europe and elsewhere, and the development of alliances and affiliations with other organisations.

For further information about the Academy, please contact us under +32 2 650 00 90 or visit www.eadv.org