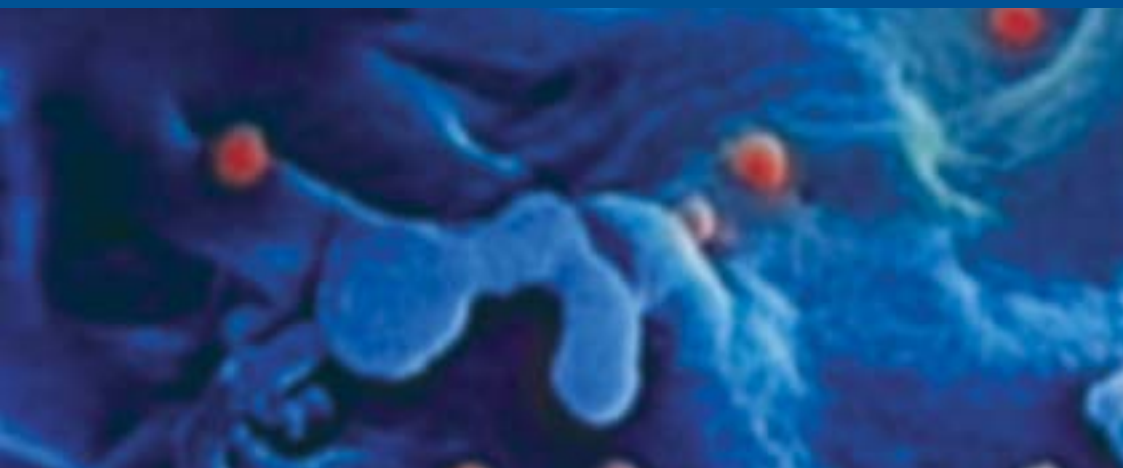


WORKING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF HIV

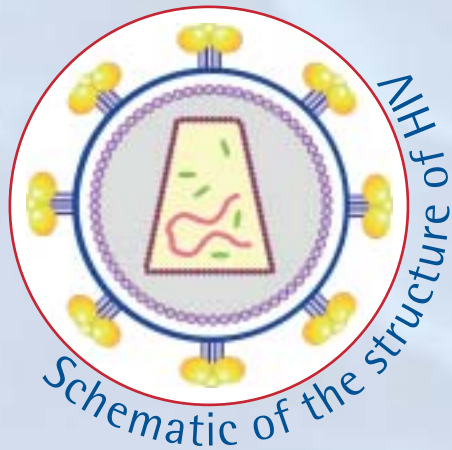


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EUROPEAN MICROBICIDES PROJECT

MICROBICIDES – BRINGING NEW HOPE TO WOMEN
ACROSS THE WORLD IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

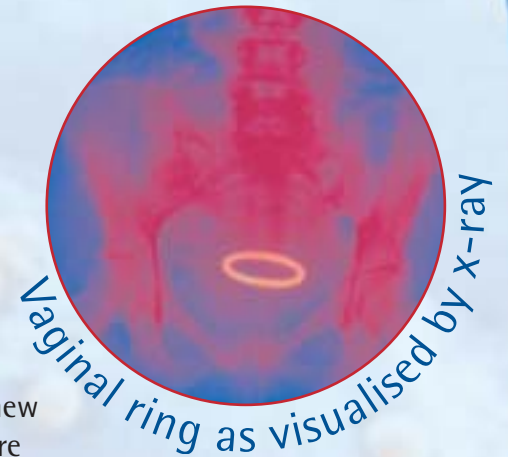
HIV is a growing problem worldwide. Despite education on safe sex practises and the increased use of drugs to slow the rate at which the HIV disease progresses, the numbers of people with new HIV infections each year are staggering, especially in the developing areas of the world. More needs to be done to stop this spread of HIV.



EMPRO is developing compounds called *microbicides*. These are designed to be used by women to stop them getting infected with HIV during sexual intercourse. HIV is spread predominantly by sexual activity so if a compound can be developed that reduces or stops the risk of HIV infection during sex then this could have a huge impact in reducing the numbers of people becoming infected with HIV each year.



Microbicides may be incorporated into creams, gels or even vaginal rings, and may prevent HIV infecting women by a number of ways. These include disrupting HIV itself, stopping HIV from interacting with human cells or eliminating HIV infection from cells before it gets established.



EMPRO is taking some new and previously untried approaches to developing novel microbicides. This is because we believe that new microbicide compounds are desperately needed and that only by trying some new approaches may we come up with microbicides that are better than those already available. Alternatively the compounds that we develop may also be able to be combined with existing microbicide formulations to provide better prevention of HIV infection. Some of these new approaches that EMPRO is using include the use of anticalins, nanobodies, peptide libraries and glyconanoparticles.



So what is EMPRO?

EMPRO is the European Microbicides Project. We are an international research network of 25 partners spread throughout Europe and Africa. Our partners are Universities, research institutes and small companies and the project is coordinated and led by Kings College London, UK. Our partners have skills that cover all the areas necessary for new drug discovery and development, including clinical trials. We are funded by the European Commission under their Framework 6 program in the LifeSciHealth Priority.

EMPRO began at the start of 2004 and will run for 5 years. We aim to have our first microbicide drugs in the beginning stages of clinical trial by this time.

Please visit our website or contact us for more information.

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SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME