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## Cutting edge HIV-Aids research and development



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WHILE the search for an effective vaccine for HIV continues, experts at the South African annual Aids conference will focus on prevention and basic clinical measures.

THIS year's gathering will return to the Durban International Convention Centre from June 13-15 with more than 200 speakers and 50 sessions.

The venue will host more than 350 educative posters and 80 exhibitions dedicated to HIV-Aids matters.

Helga Swart, head of communications, said the theme of this year's event is 'The Long Walk to Prevention: Every Voice Counts'.

Experts at the three-day indaba will present the most recent developments in managing HIV-Aids and associated diseases such as tuberculo-

sis and other opportunistic infections, bringing together a host of high-level speakers with extensive experience in research, treating and managing HIV and Aids clinically, administratively and emotionally.

"The conference has five tracks, each based on different issues, namely basic and clinical sciences, epidemiology, prevention and public health, social, political, economic and health system, ethics, marginalisation and the protection of human rights and lastly the best practices in programmes, communications and community," she said.

It will be a platform for delegates with a rare opportunity to interact with researchers, academics, clinicians, healthcare workers, nongovernmental organisations and government officials at the cutting edge of developments

regarding HIV and Aids.

"This conference will offer more than ever before with an exciting array of attractions such as the Community Village that will feature discussions and debates on cutting edge issues in HIV, networking zones and focusing on priority populations throughout South Africa."

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Southern Africa and the Durban based Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (Caprisa) will also be represented.

Both organisations have HIV programmes in rural parts of KwaZulu-Natal where the prevalence of HIV is high. MSF maintains a strong presence in Eshowe in the Zululand region while Caprisa has projects in Mafakatini outside Pietermaritzburg.

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**EXPERTS:** An indaba in Durban will bring together speakers with experience in research, treating and the managing of HIV and Aids.