

HIV science as art - bringing HIV science to life through the lens of artists living with HIV as a powerful knowledge translation strategy

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Background/Purpose:

This project explores HIV knowledge translation as well as to promote and communicate HIV science through an innovative partnerships between industry, science and lead by the community of PLHIV.

Approach:

As scientists gathered in Brisbane for IAS 2023, the HIV Science as Art exhibition took place at a gallery, meters away from the conference centre. Twelve eminent scientists were matched with an artist living with HIV to create a collaborative artwork representing everything from basic, social and prevention sciences. All artists received a commission to create an original piece of work in conversation with their companion scientist that reflected the concepts of their scientific work. The final works represented a diverse range of artistic expression and all original pieces were auctioned and along with the proceeds from the sale of collateral materials to raise funds to support PLHIV in the Asia/Pacific region.

Outcomes/Impact:

HIV Science as Art is a unique collaboration between industry, community, HIV research/science and importantly PLHIV. It has demonstrated the power of innovative partnerships and determination to bring the complexities of HIV science to the wider public and in turn has elevated the artistic lives of the participating artists. For many of the scientists, it has been a journey of reimagining their work through the eyes of the lived experience. For the curatorial team it has been an exciting foray into the power of art, representation and the power of creativity to educate, inspire and provoke meaningful discussions.

Innovation and Significance:

The combined efforts of the international scientific and artistic curators is a testament to their passion to make HIV science more accessible and demonstrate art as a powerful knowledge translation strategy. The legacy of this exhibition stands at the intersection exemplifying the power of partnerships, participation, and innovation – the hallmarks that have supported the successes in the global response to HIV.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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