

Oral presentation

Any progress for HIV vaccines to come?

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Twenty years of HIV research has yielded vast knowledge about the immunological personality of HIV. Some of this is promising. Serendipity coupled with good experiments have taught us that seemingly antibodies of any specificity may be able to eliminate HIV infectivity in vivo provided such antibodies bind to virions with high enough avidity. Can we induce such antibodies and do they under normal conditions have to be focused on certain molecular combinations such as i.e. Gp120/CD4? Has the concept of positive auto-immunity been truly analyzed in depth? What is the present status of the concept of induction of anti-toxin antibodies as a valuable component in an HIV vaccine? Do new adjuvants provide possibilities for further enhancing the capacity of T cell immunity in animal model systems to prolong life? A suggested scheme to reach "final" answers to some of these questions will be discussed.