

■ **UK authorities have approved the commencement of clinical safety trials of an experimental HIV vaccine** developed by researchers from the Universities of Oxford and Nairobi, reports *JAMA*. The experimental vaccine is the first one based on HIV subtype A, the most common HIV strain in Kenya and many other regions of Africa. The experimental DNA vaccine is the first component of a 'prime-boost' vaccination schedule, which will include administration of a second vaccine using a modified vaccinia virus vector. Initial trials will begin this month in healthy HIV-negative volunteers in Oxford, UK; the trial will be repeated 3 months later in Nairobi, Kenya. The candidate vaccine has reached the clinical trial stage in less than 18 months – an effort that has been supported by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.\*

\* See also Inpharma 1246: 5, 15 Jul 2000; 800820880 and Inpharma 1240: 4, 3 Jun 2000; 800763603

Stephenson J. Vaccine aimed at African HIV to begin trials. *JAMA*: the Journal of the American Medical Association 284: 683, 9 Aug 2000

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