

ISSAD 2025 Conference Hosting Proposal

Application

ISSAD 2025 IS DUE TO BE IN ASIA OR AFRICA

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 10th 2023 AND SHOULD BE EMAILED TO PROF. TATIANA PINTO [issadconference@gmail.com].

Purpose

The International Symposium on 'Streptococcus agalactiae' Disease (ISSAD) is a global conference on Group B Strep (GBS) which runs bi-annually and aims to link key stakeholders with the latest science to accelerate change, whilst building a community especially of next generation researchers and implementers. The inaugural conference took place in 2018, Cape Town, South Africa. This year's event will be hybrid that is primarily in-person, but it will also be streamed from the conference venue in Rio de Janeiro for the attendees that can't come to Brazil.

The ISSAD team is currently seeking an institution to host the next conference in 2025. The role requires one or more chairs from an academic institution to lead the ideation and execution of the conference in collaboration with a global Scientific Committee, a Local Organising Committee and a Communications Working Group.

This involves, but is not limited to:

1. Establishing the conference theme, tracks, and agenda in line with broader ISSAD objectives;
2. Identifying and supporting speakers, abstracts, young scholars and invited guests;
3. Managing conference logistics and administrative responsibilities;
4. Identifying a dedicated Events & Marketing member of staff to promote and administer the event.

This meeting does not have an agreed core budget although in the past we have been generously supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and PATH. The organisers will need to apply for funding or have a budget of approximately \$250K for:

- Venue, IT / AV and Catering
- Scholarships and travel from LMIC
- Keynote Speaker flights / hotels
- Staff for event organisation
- Marketing

Please note that there is a dedicated ISSAD website and social media presence, but the website would need to be transferred to its new owners, as well as updated and managed by the new host.

ISSAD Conference Objectives

The ISSAD Conference seeks to:

- Raise global awareness of GBS worldwide to accelerate progress in reducing morbidity and mortality
- Share and disseminate research relevant to GBS from around the world
- Address the worldwide burden by working towards a global GBS vaccine
- Highlight progress from the previous conference and push the GBS agenda forward to the next two years and beyond

Regional Hosts

2018 – Africa

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, hosted the inaugural conference in 2018 (www.issad.co.za), which was held in Cape Town. The Co-Leads were Prof. Shabir Madhi and Dr. Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen.

2021 – Europe

The 2nd Symposium is hosted by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK (www.issad.org). The Co-Leads are Prof. Joy Lawn (Director of LSHTM's MARCH Centre) and Prof. Beate Kampmann (Director of The Vaccine Centre at LSHTM).

2023 – Americas

The 3rd Symposium is hosted by the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil (www.issad.org). The Co-Leads are Prof. Tatiana Pinto (Associate Professor of Microbiology at UFRJ) and Prof. Lucia Teixeira (Full Professor of Microbiology at UFRJ).

2025 – Asia or Africa

We are seeking a lead organization in this region.

Illustrative Timeline

Please find a suggested approximate project timeline below.

	Description of Work and Key Milestones	Date and Time
Phase 1	Apply to host conference	October 10th 2023
Phase 2	Apply for funding to host conference	July 2024
Phase 3	Set date and research venues and discuss the type of conference you are going to organise	October 2024
Phase 4	Set-up a Local Committee, Contact Scientific Committee and create a Comms Committee and invite to meetings	Late-2024 / early-2025
Phase 5	Update website and work with your committees and institution to organise event	Late-2024 / early-2025
Phase 6	ISSAD Event	October 2025
Phase 7	Reporting	November 2025

APPLICATION

Please fill in the form below if you are based in Asia or Africa and would like to host ISSAD 2025. Application form must be sent to ISSAD's official email issadconference@gmail.com by October 10th, 2023.

CLOSING DATE OCTOBER 10TH 2023

COUNTRY AND CITY	
Conference Co-Chair Names:	1:
	2:
Emails:	1:
	2:
Institution Name:	
Institution Address:	

1. Please let us know why you would like to host the next ISSAD Conference in 2023?	
2. How are you going to meet ISSAD's objectives?	
3. What technical and operational support do you have to help host the conference? what previous experience do you have of hosting a scientific conference?	
4. Which GBS champions does your host country have to advance research and research leadership?	
5. Why do you feel you/your institution is best placed to host this conference in 2025?	

Thank you for taking the time to fill in the above form. The ISSAD Scientific Committee will decide before the ISSAD 2023 who will be the next institution to host the conference so this can be announced. If you are successful, you will be notified via email before October 15th.

If there are any questions, please reach out to ISSAD 2023 Co. Leads Prof. Tatiana Pinto (tcap@micro.ufrj.br) & Prof. Lucia Teixeira (lmt2@micro.ufrj.br).