

PERSIMUNE SCIENTIFIC ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Annual highlights:

The Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Treatment ([START](#)) study continues to dominate the research achievements of PERSIMUNE. The striking finding that immediate recovery of immune function reduces the risk of cancer was analysed in detail and reported by Borges et al in [Clinical Infectious Diseases](#). It is intriguing that this discovery appears to be happening for cancers of infectious, as well as of non-infectious aetiology. A number of ongoing research projects will further explore the interaction between immune function and cancer pathogenesis.

Studying routes of acquisition of immune impairment is also central to PERSIMUNE. In a landmark study published in the [Journal of American Medical Association](#) (JAMA), Rodgers et al documented that in none of approximately 52,000 condomless sexual acts did HIV+ persons on fully suppressive antiretroviral therapy transmit HIV to their sexual partners. This important result generated significant international interest once it was published by JAMA in conjunction with the International AIDS Conference in Durban South Africa. Several public consensus statements were launched, most notably "[UequalsU](#)" from the United States.

The first results from PERSIMUNE on use of 2-deoxy-2-[fluorine-18] fluoro- D-glucose positron emission tomography integrated with computed tomography (¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT) to identify infectious complications among transplant recipients has been published by Wareham and colleagues in the [European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging](#). This technology has enormous potential for PERSIMUNE's research platform; it will be particularly interesting to see the results from the development of novel tracers targeting components of the immune system.