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PROCESS INNOVATION FOR COST EFFECTIVE LENACAPAVIR

Speakers: Tishina Rasulallah
Senior Manager
Partnerships-Global Health
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Date: Thursday,
October 22, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: ZOOM ONLY MEETING



<https://fordham.zoom.us/j/85784444139>

Event is free of charge

Please contact Peter Corfield at pcorfield@fordham.edu to RSVP for the meeting or if you have any questions.

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Abstract:

Approximately 41 million people are currently living with HIV, and tens of millions of people have died of AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic. Though treatment and prevention options exist, in 2025, 1.2 million people newly acquired HIV. Lenacapavir, a first-in-class HIV capsid inhibitor, has been developed for both multidrug-resistant HIV treatment and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), using oral lead-in tablets and long-acting injectable formulations. Its novel mechanism and simplified dosing deliver durable viral suppression and improved adherence, establishing it as a breakthrough drug for HIV prevention and treatment. Yet the broader public health impact depends not only on clinical efficacy and licensing but also on whether lenacapavir can be manufactured affordably, reliably, and at scale – particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) where cost and process complexity pose barriers.

To address these challenges, Medicines for All at VCU (M4ALL) has developed a streamlined synthetic route for lenacapavir sodium that reduces reliance on costly raw materials, lowers production costs, and improves scalability. This innovation demonstrates manufacturing as an upstream access intervention, complementing licensing and generic strategies, and highlights the importance of sustainable, large-scale production to ensure global access for populations most in need.

Biography:

Tishina Rasulallah, PhD, MPP is the Senior Manager for Partnerships - Global Health at Medicines for All at VCU (M4ALL). Before joining M4ALL, she served as a Senior HIV Treatment Advisor in the Office of HIV/AIDS at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), providing support to countries to improve HIV outcomes for moms, kids and youth. Prior to USAID, Tishina served as a Senior Technical Officer for community-based family planning at FHI 360, expanding global access to reproductive health commodities, and as a Peace Corps Volunteer Teacher in Lesotho teaching chemistry and math to secondary school students. Tishina earned a PhD in biomedical sciences from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in public policy from Princeton University and a BS in Chemistry from Dillard University. She is a former Term Member on the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dr. Limei Jin earned his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (Chinese Academy of Sciences). He has more than 20 years of experience in organic synthesis, with a current focus on API process development and CMC strategy to enable efficient.