

## 361<sup>ST</sup> INTG MEETING : 11 JUNE 2013 :

“COPING WITH HIV IN ADOLESCENCE: THE SITUATION IN THAILAND”.

A TALK BY DR. SOPHIE LE CŒUR.

**Presentation of the talk:** Children born with HIV have survived thanks to antiretroviral treatment. They are now entering the fragile period of adolescence, often after a traumatic childhood: a family history disrupted by the illness and the subsequent death of one or both parents; a sometimes difficult relationship with the grandparents who are most often their caregivers; periods of serious illness; stigmatization experiences from other kids or adults; and above all the discovery that they are infected with HIV. Adolescence is a time of many questions: how can sexuality be approached? How can the self-esteem necessary to become an adult be acquired when suffering or having suffered from stigmatization? How can opportunities be maximized for their future despite the potential consequences of their illness? Faced with so many personal and social difficulties, teenagers sometimes stop their demanding treatment, placing their lives at risk. The TEEWA\* (Teens living With Antiretrovirals) study in Thailand, aims at conveying information on the situation, needs and prospects of these children to the health authorities. This information is essential to develop strategies that can be used to help young people living with HIV/AIDS and their families to deal with this difficult period.

\* The TEEWA study is funded by Oxfam GB and SIDACTION in France..

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