Oasis

August 7, 2008 By Paul Dalton

The World AIDS Conference can be a bit overwhelming. Over 20,000 people converge in one place to try and deal with the dizzying array of HIV related issues facing the world. The lines are long, the rooms often overfilled, and the sheer number of choices available can feel quite daunting.

The lounge for people living with HIV/AIDS is an oasis amidst the hustle and bustle. This year?s lounge is wonderful. It has a clean, modern, calm feel to it. I liked the one in Toronto, but it was a bit dark and maze like- where the one here in Mexico city feels warmer, more open and inviting.

I can come down here between sessions to sit, relax, maybe lay down or get a massage. There is always coffee, nuts, fruit and other light snacks.

The best part for me is being in a room full of people from around the world living with this illness. It is like a mythical break room in a United Nations of HIV, people from around the planet dealing with and fighting against this virus- taking a collective break from it all, enjoying each others company and re-energizing for the fight ahead.

Today is the last full day of the conference. It is also the day for the 'late breakers' where much of the more exciting information often comes out. It doesn't look like anything truly earth shattering will emerge, but there should be some good presentations. Check out Project Inform's coverage of the Conference at
https://www.poz.com/article/project-inform-leader-hiv-hepatitis-c-advocacy-likely-close

---

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.