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## Top AIDS researchers among those killed

**MELBOURNE:** Top-level AIDS researchers on their way here for an international conference are reportedly among those killed in the crash of Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH17 in Ukraine Thursday.

Dutch clinical researcher and HIV Netherlands Australia Research Collaboration co-director Joep Lange is reportedly among

the dead, with colleagues and peers taking to Twitter to express their grief, reports the ninemsn portal.

The International Aids Society (IAS) did not name any passenger but issued a statement expressing "sincere sadness" at the loss of "colleagues and friends" travelling to the 20th International Aids Conference.

"At this incredibly sad and

sensitive time, the IAS stands with our international family and sends condolences to the loved ones of those who have been lost to this tragedy."

A number of other passengers are understood to represent organisations such as Stop Aids Now and Aids Fonds Netherlands. They were on their way to AIDS conference. – Bernama