

CROI - February 22-25, 2016 - Boston, Mass.



The 23rd Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) will be held Feb. 22-25 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, Mass. and will bring together top basic, translational, and clinical researchers from around the world to share the latest studies, important developments, and best research methods in the ongoing battles against HIV/AIDS and related infectious diseases. HPTN researchers will present 26 accepted abstracts, including five oral presentations, covering the following studies: HPTN 061, 065, 067, 068, 069, 071 and 073. [View the HPTN schedule for CROI.](#)

HPTN Develops New Study to Identify and Retain Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in HIV care in the United States (US)

What is HPTN 078?

[HPTN 078](#) is a U.S.-based research study designed to develop and determine the effectiveness of a combined HIV prevention strategy that includes a method to identify, recruit, and link MSM to HIV care and an intervention to help HIV-infected MSM achieve and maintain viral suppression (low level of HIV in the body).

Who is participating in the study?

Approximately 2,700 MSM over the age of 16 will be recruited in four U.S. cities (Atlanta, Ga.; Baltimore, Md.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Boston, Mass.). These cities were selected because they have prior evidence of having high HIV burden among MSM. Of the 2,700 MSM recruited, 356 HIV-infected MSM who are not virally suppressed will be enrolled into one of two study arms and followed for 24 months.

Why is HPTN 078 important?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MSM continue to be the group most heavily affected by HIV in the U.S. While MSM represent approximately two percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for nearly 67% of newly diagnosed HIV infections in the U.S. in 2014. There is an urgent need to develop innovative methods to identify MSM who are HIV-infected and not virally suppressed, as well as ways to help MSM remain in care and achieve viral suppression. Achieving viral suppression is critical both for individual health and to stop HIV transmission within this community.

What will happen during the study?

HPTN 078 will be the first HPTN study to use a recruitment method known as deep-chain respondent driven sampling (DC-RDS) to identify and recruit HIV-infected MSM. DC-RDS uses a small group of participants, known as “seeds,” who are well connected within the population to recruit other MSM they know into the study. The MSM recruited by the “seeds” repeat the process and refer other MSM they know and so on. This type of recruitment process has previously been shown to be effective in recruiting hard to reach populations. The study team will assess the ability of DC-RDS to identify and recruit HIV-infected MSM in the U.S. who are not virally suppressed.

The enrolled MSM will be randomized to either the standard of care (SOC) or the study intervention arm, which is designed to enhance engagement in HIV care. Participants randomized to the intervention arm will work with a case manager (CM), who will help the participant link to and remain engaged in HIV care, including health services navigation and ART adherence counseling. Participants in the intervention arm will also have the option to receive automated reminders for ART adherence and appointments via text, email and phone. The control arm will offer the SOC for linkage to care, ART adherence and retention in care. The study team will compare how well the intervention and SOC arms achieve viral suppression 24 months after enrollment.

HPTN 075

Members from the HPTN 075 protocol team recently traveled to Blantyre, Malawi to conduct a risk mitigation visit and study-specific training. The Blantyre CRS will be the fourth site in HPTN 075. HPTN 075 has enrolled 179 of 400 total participants. This study aims to determine the feasibility of recruiting and retaining MSM in a multi-country prospective cohort study in preparation for HIV prevention studies in sub-Saharan Africa. [Read more.](#)



Blantyre CRS - HPTN 075

NETWORK UPDATES

HPTN at NAESM 2016: All About Prevention



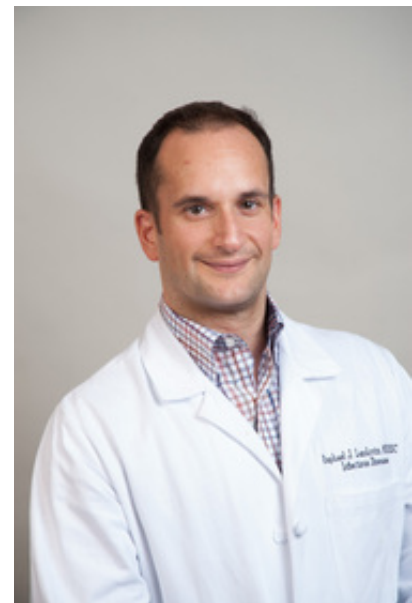
National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities (NAESM) held its 13th annual African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS and other Health Disparities on January 21-24 in Los Angeles, California. The theme of this year's conference was "Live it! Be it! Own it! Taking Ownership of Our Health." The HPTN hosted two sessions at the conference. These sessions were co-sponsored by the HANC Legacy Project, the HPTN, the HVTN and the MTN. "**Envisioning the Future of HIV Prevention: An Update and Discussion**" provided updates on HIV incidence and prevalence in the U.S. and research focusing on Black MSM being conducted by three DAIDS-funded

networks (HPTN, HVTN and MTN). “**Emerging HIV Prevention Research Studies Engaging Black MSM and Transgender Persons in the HPTN and HVTN**” highlighted emerging biomedical HIV prevention research studies that seek to advance HIV prevention options available for Black MSM and transgender men and women who have sex with men, with the ultimate goal of reducing the HIV epidemic among these groups. The plenary largely focused on AMP, a pioneering study seeking to reduce HIV acquisition in MSM, transgender people and women who have sex with men through the use of antibodies, and HPTN 083, an innovative study comparing the protective effects of injectable PrEP to oral PrEP. The next NAESM African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS and other Health Disparities is scheduled to take place January 18-22, 2017 in Dallas, Texas.

SPOTLIGHT ON NETWORK MEMBERS

Conversations With the HPTN - Raphael Landovitz, MD, MSc

Dr. Landovitz serves as the Protocol Chair for HPTN 077 and HPTN 083 and is currently Associate Professor of Medicine at the UCLA Center for Clinical AIDS Research & Education. He completed his training at Princeton University and Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. His research agenda focuses on the optimization of the use of antiretroviral medications for both HIV treatment and HIV prevention. [Read more.](#)



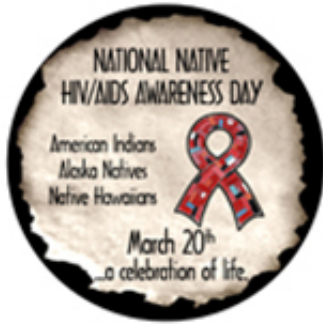
AWARENESS DAYS



[National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

March 10, 2016

[National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Hendrix CW, Andrade A, Bumpus NN, Kashuba AD, Marzinke MA, Moore A, Anderson PL, Bushman LR, Fuchs EJ, Wiggins I, Radebaugh C, Prince HA, Bakshi RP, Wang R, Richardson P, Shieh E, McKinstry L, Li X, Donnell D, Elharrar V, Mayer KH, Patterson KB. 2016. [Dose Frequency Ranging Pharmacokinetic Study of Tenofovir-Emtricitabine After Directly Observed Dosing in Healthy Volunteers to Establish Adherence Benchmarks \(HPTN 066\)](#). AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses 32:32-43.

Schackman BR, Eggman AA, Leff JA, Braunlin M, Felsen UR, Fitzpatrick L, Telzak EE, El-Sadr W, Branson BM. 2016. [Costs of Expanded Rapid HIV Testing in Four Emergency Departments](#). Public Health Reports 131 Suppl 1:71-81.

Fogel JM, Hudelson SE, Ou SS, Hart S, Wallis C, Morgado MG, Saravanan S, Tripathy S, Hovind L, Piwowar-Manning E, Sabin D, McCauley M, Gamble T, Zhang XC, Eron JJ, Gallant JE, Kumwenda J, Makhema J, Kumarasamy N, Chariyalertsak S, Hakim J, Badal-Faesen S, Akelo V, Hosseinipour MC, Santos BR, Godbole SV, Pilotto JH, Grinsztejn B, Panchia R, Mayer KH, Chen YQ, Cohen MS, Eshleman SH. 2016. [HIV Drug Resistance in Adults Failing Early Antiretroviral Treatment: Results from the HIV Prevention Trials Network 052 Trial](#). Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes.

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