



Prevention NOW!

February 2017 - Issue 30

HPTN Annual Meeting

Making Strides with Targeted HIV Prevention Strategies

The HPTN Annual Meeting will take place April 9-13, 2017 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. The meeting will include an engaging lineup of speakers and topics in several sessions and a main plenary featuring Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and Ambassador-at-Large Deborah L. Birx, M.D., coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and U.S. special representative for Global Health Diplomacy. HPTN Scholars, the Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC), the Modeling Center, and the Laboratory Center (LC) will also present their work, and study teams will highlight key study findings and lessons learned on the rollout and conduct of trials in an evening poster session and reception.



[View Meeting Details & Register](#)

CROI 2017

The HPTN presented 17 abstracts at the 24th annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Seattle, Washington February 13-16. Abstracts covered included HPTN 037, 052, 065, 067, 068, 069, 071, and 076. [HPTN 071 \(PopART\)](#) presented four posters on key study findings to date - see more from HPTN 071 at CROI [here](#).

[View HPTN posters from CROI 2017](#)



Remembering LeTanya Johnson-Lewis

It has been four years since we lost our dear friend and colleague, LeTanya Johnson-Lewis. LeTanya was a medical technologist in the Department of Pathology and School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). LeTanya joined the Hopkins family in 1999 and transitioned in 2008 to the School of Medicine JHU as a Laboratory QA/QC coordinator for the HPTN Laboratory Center (formerly known as the Network Laboratory). Always greeting everyone with a welcome smile, a warm hello and laughter, her energy and positivity were endless.

Many of our last memories of LeTanya surround the first annual workshop of the HPTN 071 PopART team in Livingstone, Zambia. Attendees chased monkeys away from their food, took walks by Victoria Falls and around the grounds of the hotel and park, bargained at the market for souvenirs, crossed paths with zebras, giraffes and crocodiles, shooed bugs from the guest rooms, and made lasting friendships. On the last evening together, several colleagues took a beautiful sunset river safari on the Zambezi River. While visiting Livingstone for the fourth annual team workshop, several attendees honored LeTanya's memory by taking that same sunset cruise. After docking at the Royal Livingstone Hotel, the group lit candles and sent them out on the river to remember and honor LeTanya's life and memory. May she rest in eternal peace.



Study Shout Outs



HPTN 071 Annual Workshop

The [HPTN 071](#) team recently held their annual workshop in Livingstone, Zambia. The event included nearly 100 study team representatives for four days of plenaries and working group meetings. Several individuals also had the opportunity to visit local study clinics and tour with the field teams implementing the main study intervention referred to as Community HIV-care Providers (CHiPs).

[HPTN 082](#) Community Educators Meeting

HPTN Senior Community Programs Manager Marcus Bolton recently visited three HPTN 082 sites – Wits HIV CRS (Johannesburg, South Africa), Emavundleni CRS (Cape Town, South Africa) and Spilhaus CRS (Harare, Zimbabwe) – to provide PrEP study protocol trainings along with a capacity-building workshop designed for community representatives to learn about clinical research principles and the elements of clinical research. The training was offered to new community education staff and Community Advisory Board (CAB) members.



HPTN 084 Informed Consent Form (ICF) Community Review

Community Advisory Board (CAB) members and community education staff recently met at Wits HIV CRS (Johannesburg, South Africa) and Spilhaus CRS (Harare, Zimbabwe) to review the HPTN 084 ICF to ensure appropriate literacy levels and comprehension for local community members and volunteers. The input and

feedback provided by these teams is vital for ensuring that the research project being implemented in these communities is understood by the community which promotes better recruitment, retention and community support.

Network Member Spotlight



LaRon E. Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP is the Dean's Endowed Fellow in Health Disparities and an assistant professor of nursing at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. He is also a scientist and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network Research Chair in HIV Program Science with African, Caribbean and Black Communities at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Canada. He was lead implementation scientist on HPTN 073 where he led the development of the client-centered care coordination model that was used to support PrEP for Black MSM. He is currently the HPTN Black Caucus representative to HVTN 703/HPTN 081 and HVTN 704/HPTN 085 (The AMP Studies) protocol teams.

How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

I first became involved as an external community stakeholder advising the protocol team on the development and implementation of HPTN 061. At that time, I was co-chairing the Black Gay Research Group and we had a significant interest in HPTN 061 because we saw it as a high-stakes study given how the HIV epidemic was disproportionately impacting Black gay and non-gay identified men who have sex with other men. I became more formally involved in the Network in 2010 when I was selected for the first cohort of the HPTN Domestic Scholar's Program. Under the mentorship of Dr. Ken Mayer, I led two research projects based on data from HPTN 061.

[Read More](#)

Awareness Days



National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Hot Off The Press

Greene E, Pack A, Stanton J, Shelus V, Tolley EE, Taylor J, El Sadr WM, Branson BM, Leider J, Rakhmanina N, Gamble T. 2017. "[It Makes You Feel Like Someone Cares](#)" [Acceptability of a Financial Incentive Intervention for HIV Viral Suppression in the HPTN 065 \(TLC-Plus\) Study](#). PloS One 12:e0170686.



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