

HIVR4P 2018: From Research to Impact



The [HIV Research for Prevention \(HIVR4P\) conference](#) will be held October 21-25, 2018 at the Marriott Auditorium Hotel in Madrid, Spain. The biennial conference is the only global scientific meeting dedicated exclusively to biomedical HIV prevention research including HIV vaccines, microbicides, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), treatment as prevention and other biomedical prevention approaches.

HPTN researchers will present 16 abstracts – five oral presentations and 11 poster presentations – covering [HPTN 067](#), [HPTN 069](#), [HPTN 074](#), [HPTN 075](#), [HPTN 077](#), [HPTN 078](#) and the AMP (Antibody Mediated Prevention) studies [HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#) and [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#). Three satellite sessions will feature HPTN data including “State of the Art of HIV bNAbs for Prevention of HIV Infection.” Myron Cohen, MD, HPTN co-principal investigator and Larry Corey, MD, HVTN principal investigator will co-chair the jointly-hosted session. The second session, “Current State of Play: PrEP Implementation Update and Challenges” will be co-chaired by Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA, HPTN co-principal investigator. The third session, “Engagement of African MSM in HIV Prevention Research: Effective Recruitment and Retention” will include a discussion on lessons learned from [HPTN 075](#). Ken Mayer, MD, chair of the

HPTN MSM Scientific Committee, will co-chair the session. In addition, Raphael Landovitz, MD, MSc, [HPTN 077](#) and [HPTN 083](#) protocol chair, will deliver a talk during the October 24 plenary session entitled, “Beyond TDF/FTC: The Future of Systemic Pre-exposure Prophylaxis.”

[See HPTN Abstracts](#)

2018 Zambia Health Research Conference



The [Zambia Health Research Conference](#) will take place October 15-17, 2018 at the New Government Complex in Lusaka, Zambia. Organized by the National Health Research Authority, the 8th biennial conference and HIV technical update meeting showcases advances in health research and development in Zambia. HPTN researchers will present five abstracts covering [HPTN 071](#) (PopART), a randomized community-based study evaluating the impact of a combination HIV prevention package on HIV incidence in 12 communities in Zambia and nine communities in South Africa.

Margaret's Story: A Look Back at HPTN 071 (PopART)

Margaret Musonda was the Population Cohort (PC) team leader at Site 12 in Zambia for [HPTN 071](#) (PopART), a randomized community-based study evaluating the impact of a combination HIV prevention package on HIV incidence in 12 communities in Zambia and nine communities in South Africa. In 2016, after the study had completed the first year of follow-up, Margaret attended an HPTN 071 (PopART) workshop in South Africa. During PC discussions at the meeting, the team reviewed study data and noted

Site 12 was experiencing challenges with recruitment and retention. Helen Ayles, the HPTN 071 (PopART) site principal investigator at Zambart in Lusaka, Zambia, called upon Margaret to explain the site's performance challenges to the room of attendees. Margaret was challenged by the discussion and committed to improving recruitment and retention at Site 12. Armed with her new enthusiasm, guidance and determination to change, Margaret led her site forward and increased retention rates and recruitment for the second year of study follow-up.

In this picture, chosen by Justin Bwalya, the HPTN 071 (PopART) PC manager for Zambia, Margaret and a research assistant have taken off their shoes and socks, and are wading through a stream. "Why were you doing that?" asked Dr. Ayles. Margaret replied, "We had to reach the participant, and this was the only way, as there was no bridge and no way around." This photo is a testament to the immense challenges faced by the HPTN 071 (PopART) field teams and their determination to overcome them. Midway through the second year of follow-up, Site 12 staff enrolled 530 additional participants and increased their rate of retention to 90 percent during the final year of study follow-up. Congratulations to Margaret, her Site 12 colleagues and all the participants they enrolled and retained in the study.



Shout-outs



[HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#), also known as Antibody Mediated Prevention (AMP), has completed its enrollment goal. The AMP study is a Phase 2b clinical trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of

VRC01, a broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody (bnAb). AMP is the first study to investigate whether bnAbs are effective in reducing the acquisition of HIV-1 infection among sexually active women in sub-Saharan Africa. Conducted at 21 sites, HVTN 703/HPTN 081 is a joint-collaboration with the HIV Vaccine Trials Network. Participant follow up will take place over the next two years with study results expected shortly thereafter. A parallel study, [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#), which investigates VRC01 in men or transgender persons (TG) who have sex with men or TG persons in Brazil, Peru, Switzerland and the U.S., will conclude enrollment the first week of October.



The HPTN Community Programs Team was invited by the [National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition](#) to present at its AIDS Institute during the 2018 [United States Conference on AIDS](#). The 22nd annual conference was held September 6-9 at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando, Florida and brought together community leaders and HIV advocates to learn the latest information and build skills to provide effective HIV prevention and treatment services. Jonathan Lucas, MPH, HPTN Senior Community Programs Manager, delivered a presentation entitled, "Review of Policy and Research Agenda and Current Research for Black Gay/Bi/Same-Gender-Loving Men."

Network Member Spotlight



Neetha Shagan Morar, MS, is the senior research manager for the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) HIV Prevention Research Unit in Durban, South Africa. She is currently supporting three sites recently activated to conduct [HPTN 084](#) and was a team member for [HPTN 035](#) and [HIVNET 020](#). Neetha has served on several committees including the MRC/info4africa KZN Community Forum, HIV/AIDS Network Coordination Community Partners group, MTN Working Group, HVTN Southern Africa Social and Behavioral Working Group, and the SAMRC Research Ethics Committee.

How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

Following the opportunity to coordinate the HIVNET 020 microbicide trial in the early 2000s, I was blessed to be part of the multicenter HPTN 035 vaginal gel microbicide trial. The results of this trial were disseminated under embargo in partnership with Community Working Group members and trial participants who were the true voices of their experiences with the gel. Community members and participants also shared their experiences and support of the research and gel with the media. This early HPTN experience contributed to our process of always informing community working group members and participants of trial results prior to public release. Thus, with HPTN 084, we aim to recruit ambassadors who are the voice for the study at the community and participant level.

[Read More](#)

Awareness Days



[National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day](#)

October 15

Hot Off The Press

Floyd S, Ayles H, Schaap A, Shanaube K, MacLeod D, Phiri M, Griffith S, Bock P, Beyers N, Fidler S, Hayes R; HPTN 071 (PopART) Study Team. [Towards 90-90: Findings after two years of the HPTN 071 \(PopART\) cluster-randomized trial of a universal testing-and-treatment intervention in Zambia](#). PLoS One. 2018 Aug 10;13.

Rogers BG, Mendez NA, Mimiaga MJ, Sherman SG, Closson EF, Tangmunkongvorakul A, Friedman RK, Limbada M, Moore AT, Srithanaviboonchai K, Mayer KH, Safren SA; HPTN 063 Study Team. "[I Wasn't in My Right Mind": Qualitative Findings on the Impact of Alcohol on Condom Use in Patients Living with HIV/AIDS in Brazil, Thailand, and Zambia \(HPTN 063\)](#)". Int J Behav Med. 2018 Aug 13.

Miller WC, Hoffman IF, Hanscom BS, Ha TV, Dumchev K, Djoerban Z, Rose SM, Latkin CA, Metzger DS, Lancaster KE, Go VF, Dvoriak S, Mollan KR, Reifeis SA, Piwowar-Manning EM, Richardson P, Hudgens MG, Hamilton EL, Sugarman J, Eshleman SH, Susami H, Chu VA, Djauzi S, Kiriazova T, Bui DD, Strathdee SA, Burns DN. [A scalable, integrated intervention to engage people who inject drugs in HIV care and medication-assisted treatment \(HPTN 074\): a randomised, controlled phase 3 feasibility and efficacy study](#). Lancet. 2018 Sep 1;392.



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