



February 2019 - Issue 46



The Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) takes place March 4-7 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle. HPTN researchers will present 19 abstracts covering [HPTN 071](#), [HPTN 074](#), [HPTN 077](#), [HPTN 078](#), and [HPTN 082](#). Richard Hayes, DSc, FMedSci, HPTN 071 protocol chair, will present primary results from the study during an oral session entitled, “Impact of Universal Testing and Treatment in Zambia and South Africa: HPTN 071 (PopART).” Also, from the HPTN 071 protocol team, Mohammed Limbada, BSChB, MBChB, MSc, will lead the themed discussion, “Treat All, Treat Fast.” James Moore, PhD, will discuss, “Estimating HIV Incidence Among Young Women in HPTN 082 Using Baseline HIV Risk Scores,” and Raphael Landovitz, MD, MSc, HPTN 077 and HPTN 083 protocol chair, will deliver a presentation entitled, “Cabotegravir is not Associated with Weight Gain in HIV-Negative Individuals: HPTN 077.” CROI 2019 webcasts, abstracts, electronic posters, and other electronic resources will be available online after the conference ends.

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The [National AIDS Education and Services for Minorities \(NAESM\) conference](#) was held January 17-20 in Arlington, Virginia. During the four-day event, the HPTN was represented by Christopher Hucks-Ortiz, MPH, chair of the HPTN Black Caucus, Craig Hutchinson, MPH, Black Gay Research Group (BGRG) and HPTN Black Caucus co-chair, and Rondalya DeShields, MSN, RN, HPTN Community Working Group member. The three participated in a session entitled, “HPTN Responds to the BGRG Research Agenda: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach” which provided an overview of the HPTN’s research, as well as additional research strategies that can be used to inform the development of community programs that align with the updated and soon to be released BGRG Black Gay Men’s Research Agenda. A second session, “Be the Generation: Empowering Communities to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic” featured Christopher Hucks-Ortiz along with representatives from the [Legacy Project](#), [HIV Vaccine Trials Network](#), and [Microbicide Trials Network](#) discussing the [Be the Generation](#) project.

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## Shout-outs



*Wits Clinical Research Site Staff*

**Myron Cohen, MD**, HPTN co-principal investigator (fourth from the right), is joined by Helen Rees, OBE, MBBChir, MA, DRCOG, DCH, founder and executive director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand (sixth from the right) and the [HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#) site team during a recent visit to the Wits Clinical Research Site in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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**Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA**, HPTN co-principal investigator, was inducted as a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). Fellows are African scientists residing in Africa or elsewhere who have attained the highest international standards and/or who have made significant contributions to the development and application of science, technology, and innovation in Africa.

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*Rakai Health Sciences Group*



*Salim Abdool Karim, MBChB, PhD*

The Rakai Health Sciences Program, **Salim Abdool Karim, MBChB, PhD**, and Sheila West, PhD, were joint winners of Kuwait's 2018 Al-Sumait Prize for African Development. The prize rewards innovative and inspiring initiatives and research by individuals and organizations that address the challenges facing the African continent. The Rakai Health Sciences Program in Kalisizo, Uganda, led by **David Serwadda, MD**, HPTN international lead investigator (fifth from the left), was recognized for its important role in improving public health in the African continent by fighting against HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Dr. Karim, [HPTN 035](#) protocol chair and director of CAPRISA, was recognized for his contributions to science in HIV treatment and prevention over the past three decades. Dr. West, vice chair for research, Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was recognized for her work to control blindness among children and adults.



Congratulations to **Jaasiel Chapman**, a member of the [HPTN 083](#) Community Working Group and a clinical research community educator at the University of Cincinnati. Jassiel and a local medical student drafted a PrEP resolution that was recently passed by the Cincinnati City Council. The city is now dedicated to promoting PrEP initiatives to those that need it most.

**Richard Hayes, DSc, FMedSci**, is teaching a short course entitled, "Design and Analysis of Cluster Randomised and Stepped Wedge Trials." This course, July 8-12 at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, will cover the rationale for using these designs, specific design issues, the randomization process, sample size calculations, analytical methods, ethical considerations, and trial reporting and interpretation. Participants will receive a free copy of "Cluster Randomised Trials" co-authored by Dr. Hayes. He is the protocol chair for [HPTN 071](#) and a professor of Epidemiology and International Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London. For more information about the course, click [here](#).



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## Network Member Spotlight



**Daniel Gondwe** is an assistant community engagement coordinator with the John Hopkins Research Project in Blantyre, Malawi. He currently serves as a member of the [HPTN 084](#) Community Working Group. Daniel previously served as a member of the HPTN Global Community Working Group during the implementation of [HPTN 035](#), [HPTN 052](#), [HPTN 075](#), and [HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#).

### How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

Two years after joining the Blantyre Clinical Research Site, I joined the recruitment team for HPTN 035. It was exciting joining that great team and recruiting many participants into the study. After contributing to the development of education, recruitment and retention strategies, my services were required at the start of several HPTN protocols.

[Read More](#)

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## Awareness Days



## Hot Off The Press

Hermanstyne KA, Green HD Jr, Tieu HV, Hucks-Ortiz C, Wilton L, Shoptaw S. [The Association Between Condomless Anal Sex and Social Support Among Black Men Who Have Sex With Men \(MSM\) in Six U.S. Cities: A Study Using Data from the HIV Prevention Trials Network BROTHERS Study \(HPTN 061\)](#). *AIDS Behav.* 2018 Oct 30.

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Adeyeye A, Burns D, Rinehart AR, Margolis D, Spreen WR, Cohen MS, McCauley M, Eron JJ. [Safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of long-acting injectable cabotegravir in low-risk HIV-uninfected individuals: HPTN 077, a phase 2a randomized controlled trial](#). PLoS Med. 2018 Nov 8;15(11).

Kilburn K, Hughes JP, MacPhail C, Wagner RG, Gómez-Olivé FX, Kahn K, Pettifor A. [Cash Transfers, Young Women's Economic Well-Being, and HIV Risk: Evidence from HPTN 068](#). AIDS Behav. 2018 Nov 10.

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Khoza MN, Delany-Moretlwe S, Scorgie F, Hove J, Selin A, Imrie J, Twine R, Kahn K, Pettifor A, MacPhail C. [Men's perspectives on the impact of female-directed cash transfers on gender relations: Findings from the HPTN 068 qualitative study](#). PLoS One. 2018 Nov 26;13(11):e0207654.

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Sivay MV, Fogel JM, Wang J, Zhang Y, Piwowar-Manning E, Clarke W, Breaud A, Blankson J, Hamilton EL, Kahn K, Selin A, Gomez-Olive FX, MacPhail C, Hughes JP, Pettifor A, Eshleman SH. [Natural control of HIV infection in young women in South Africa: HPTN 068](#). HIV Clin Trials. 2018 Oct;19(5):202-208.

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Kapadia SN, Wu C, Mayer KH, Wilkin TJ, Amico KR, Landovitz RJ, Andrade A, Chen YQ, Chege W, McCauley M, Gulick RM, Schackman BR. [No change in health-related quality of life for at-risk U.S. women and men starting HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\): Findings from HPTN 069/ACTG A5305](#). PLoS One. 2018 Dec 26;13(12):e0206577.

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Price J, Pettifor A, Selin A, Wagner RG, MacPhail C, Agyei Y, Gómez-Olivé FX, Kahn K. [The association between perceived household educational support and HIV risk in young women in a rural South African community \(HPTN 068\): A cross-sectional study](#). PLoS One. 2019 Jan 17;14(1):e0210632.

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Tsuyuki K, Shoptaw SJ, Ransome Y, Chau G, Rodriguez-Diaz CE, Friedman RK, Srithanaviboonchai K, Li S, Mimiaga MJ, Mayer KH, Safren SA. [The Longitudinal Effects of Non-injection Substance Use on Sustained HIV Viral Load Undetectability Among MSM and Heterosexual Men in Brazil and Thailand: The Role of ART Adherence and Depressive Symptoms \(HPTN 063\)](#). AIDS Behav. 2019 Feb 6.



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