

## Lancet HIV Publishes Article from HPTN Modelling Centre

Seven researchers including the [HPTN Modelling Centre](#)'s Drs. Marie-Claude Boily and Kate Mitchell, and HPTN investigator Dr. Chris Beyrer, co-authored the Lancet HIV [article](#) "HIV Testing and Engagement with the HIV Treatment Cascade Among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Africa: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis." The researchers concluded that among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Africa, HIV status awareness, antiretroviral therapy coverage and viral suppression, remain much lower than required to achieve UNAIDS 90–90–90 targets. In addition, severe anti-LGBT legislation might be associated with lower HIV testing and status awareness; therefore, further research is needed to assess the effect of such legislation on HIV testing and engagement with the HIV treatment cascade among MSM.



The HPTN Modelling Centre, part of the Statistical and Data Management Center, is a collaboration between the Department of Infectious Diseases Epidemiology at Imperial College London and SCHARP. The Centre supports HPTN research activities, clinical trials, product development, and future HPTN research directions by conducting mathematical modelling studies.

## HPTN Scholars Named Study Protocol Co-Leaders



**(L-R, Drs. Tonia Poteat and LaRon E. Nelson)**

The HPTN Scholars Program seeks to increase opportunities for scientists from groups underrepresented in HIV prevention research. Based in part on their performance as scholars, two emerging researchers were recently named first-time protocol co-chairs for two HPTN studies in development. Dr. Tonia Poteat will co-lead HPTN 091 along with Dr. Sari Reisner, while Dr. LaRon E. Nelson will co-lead HPTN 096 along with Drs. Robert Remien and Chris Beyrer. Dr. Poteat, a Domestic Cohort 6 Scholar, is an assistant professor of social medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill, as well as a core faculty member in the UNC Center for Health Equity Research in Chapel Hill, NC. Dr. Nelson, a Domestic Cohort 1 and 2 Scholar, is the associate dean for Global Health and Equity and Independence Foundation associate professor of Nursing at Yale School of Nursing in New Haven, CT.

HPTN 091 is a vanguard feasibility and acceptability study examining the integration of HIV prevention, gender-affirmative medical care, and peer health navigation to prevent HIV acquisition and transmission among transgender women. Building on lessons learned from [HPTN 073](#) and [HPTN 078](#), HPTN 096 will test an integrated, HIV status-neutral, population-level health equity approach to reducing HIV incidence among black men who have sex with men in the southern United States by increasing rates of HIV testing, pre-exposure prophylaxis uptake and adherence, and viral suppression.

## Developing New Tools for Lasting HIV Prevention

In the absence of an effective vaccine, the HPTN continues investigating new HIV prevention approaches to meet the needs of diverse communities worldwide.



## Shoutouts

The protocol writing team for the HPTN 094 (INTEGRA) study recently met in Washington D.C. to discuss and make key decisions about study design and objectives on the path to finalizing the protocol for Network and sponsor review. This was the first time the protocol team met in person, and their discussions were enriched by input from experienced HIV and opioid treatment clinicians; study coordination, laboratory and pharmacy staff from NIH research sites; a person in recovery for opioid use disorder, and others. The INTEGRA study will evaluate the impact of providing treatment for opioid use disorder, including peer navigation, either through antiretroviral therapy or pre-



exposure prophylaxis distributed from a mobile van to people who inject drugs and are at risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV.

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Dr. Adaora Adimora, chair of the HPTN Women at Risk Scientific Committee, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service. Dr. Adimora is the Sarah Graham Kenan Distinguished Professor of Medicine and professor of epidemiology, Division of Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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Congratulations to Jonathan Lucas for receiving the FHI 360 2019 IMPACT Emerging Leader Award. The IMPACT Awards honor the extraordinary contributions of FHI 360 staff – individuals and teams – in helping FHI 360 achieve critical organizational outcomes and strategic objectives. Jonathan is an HPTN LOC senior community programs manager. The HPTN LOC is based at FHI 360 in Durham, NC. (L-R, Jonathan is joined by Pamela Myers, FHI 360 chief human resources officer)



Following concept review, the HPTN Executive Committee approved protocol development of HPTN 097 (submitted as HPTN 074 Plus): A Phase III Randomized Control Trial to Optimize HIV Viral Suppression Comparing the [HPTN 074](#) Intervention as the Standard of Care with an Integrated Intervention of Immediate Antiretroviral Therapy and Medication Assisted Treatment Plus Enhanced Social Support and Mental Health Care Among HIV-Infected People Who Inject Drugs.

## Network Member Spotlight



Christopher Blades, a member of the [HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#) (AMP) and [HPTN 083](#) community working groups, is the community program manager at UCLA's Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine, housed at the UCLA Vine Street Clinic in Los Angeles. With a public health background, Christopher has worked for nine years educating communities to diminish mistrust and misconceptions about clinical research.

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

I first got involved with the HPTN back in 2009 working as a peer health navigator for the [HTPN 061](#) trial. In this role, I had the unique experience of developing personal relationships with participants enrolled in the study, helping them navigate the various complexities within the health care system.

[Read More](#)

## Awareness Days



## Hot Off The Press

Giovenco D, Kahn K, Hughes JP, MacPhail C, Wagner R, Pettifor A. [Self-Esteem as an Indicator of Transactional Sex Among Young Women in Rural South Africa \(HPTN 068\)](#). AIDS Behav. 2019 Oct 17.

Palumbo PJ, Zhang Y, Fogel JM, Guo X, Clarke W, Breaud A, Richardson P, Piwowar-Manning E, Hart S, Hamilton EL, Hoa NTK, Liulichuk M, Anandari L, Ha TV, Dumchev K, Djoerban Z, Hoffman I, Hanscom B, Miller WC, Eshleman SH. [HIV drug resistance in persons who inject drugs enrolled in an HIV prevention trial in Indonesia, Ukraine, and Vietnam: HPTN 074](#). PLoS One. 2019 Oct 10;14(10):e0223829.

Holtz TH, Chitwarakorn A, Hughes JP, Curlin ME, Varangrat A, Li M, Amico KR, Mock PA, Grant RM; Thai HPTN 067/ADAPT Study Team. [HPTN 067/ADAPT: Correlates of Sex-Related Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Adherence, Thai Men Who Have Sex With Men, and Transgender Women, 2012-2013](#). J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2019 Oct 1;82(2):e18-e26.

Sugarman J, Trumble I, Hamilton E, Sarasvita R, Dumchev K, Viet H, Hoffman I, Miller W, Hanscom B. [Reported Participation Benefits in International HIV Prevention Research with People Who Inject Drugs](#). Ethics Hum Res. 2019 Sep;41(5):28-34.

Poteat TC, Celentano DD, Mayer KH, Beyrer C, Mimiaga MJ, Friedman RK, Srithanaviboonchai K, Safren SA; HPTN 063 Study Team. [Depression, sexual behavior, and HIV treatment outcomes among transgender women, cisgender women and men who have sex with men living with HIV in Brazil and Thailand: a short report](#). AIDS Care. 2019 Sep 17:1-6.

Stoner MCD, Kilburn K, Hill LM, MacPhail C, Selin A, Kimaru L, Khoza N, Hove J, Twine R, Kahn K, Pettifor A. [The effects of a cash transfer intervention on sexual partnerships and HIV in the HPTN 068 study in South Africa](#). Cult Health Sex. 2019 Sep 9:1-16.



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