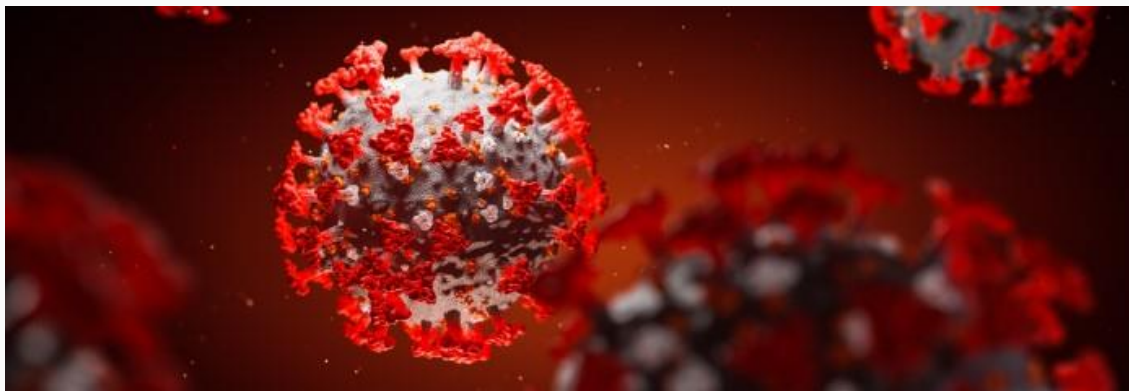


## Network Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



The safety of our Network members, study participants, and surrounding communities is always our top priority. The HPTN Leadership Team has been monitoring updates and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and numerous other health-based sources regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the current guidance, we have committed to the following action steps:

1. No new studies will start at this time.
2. Observational studies will pause until further notice.
3. All screening and enrollments in ongoing studies will pause until further notice.
4. Follow-up will continue for participants currently enrolled in other HPTN studies, with guidance from protocol teams.

We continue to monitor the situation and may adjust our plans as needed.

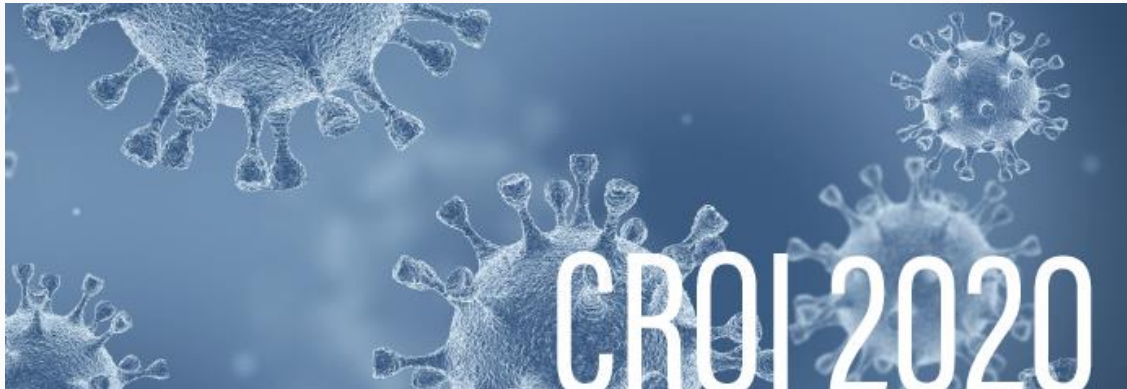
Click [here](#) for more guidance and resource documents on COVID-19.

## Annual Meeting Update



The 2020 HPTN Annual Meeting has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting is expected to be held in Fall 2020 or later, dependent upon the outcome of the pandemic response. We will share relevant updates via email and the [Annual Meeting webpage](#).

## CROI



HPTN researchers virtually presented 14 abstracts showcasing [HPTN 052](#), [HPTN 071](#), [HPTN 075](#), [HPTN 078](#), and the HPTN Modelling Center and HPTN Laboratory Center's ongoing work at the 27th annual [Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections](#) (CROI).

[Read More](#)

## Scholars Program Now Accepting Applications



*Biostatistics professor and clinical trials expert Dr. Tom Fleming (middle) joined by the 2019-2020 HPTN Scholars. (L-R) Elzette Rousseau Jemwa, Rogers Sekabira, Dr. Anita Marais, Dr. Derek Dangerfield II, Dr. Rodman Turpin, and Dr. S. Raquel Ramos*

Application materials for the HPTN Scholars Program are now available for early-career minority investigators wishing to collaborate with HPTN scientists in the development and implementation of our HIV prevention research agenda. More than fifty (50) scholars have participated in the program since it started in 2010. The 18-month funding period covers a portion of each scholars' time and includes travel and supplies.

To be considered, domestic applicants must be investigators who have received their terminal degree (e.g., MD, PhD, etc.). For international applicants, current MD, PhD, and MBChB students may apply, along with individuals who have already graduated with their terminal degree.

The HPTN Scholars program is sponsored by the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health, and the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse, all components of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

## Network Member Spotlight

Leo Perelis, a member of the [HPTN 083](#) Community Working Group, is a community educator at the Hospital Ramos Mejía in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since 1992 he has worked with people living with HIV and supported multiple HPTN, HVTN and IMPAACT studies, as well as the Dolutegravir and Darunavir Evaluation in Adults Failing Therapy (D2EFT) trial.

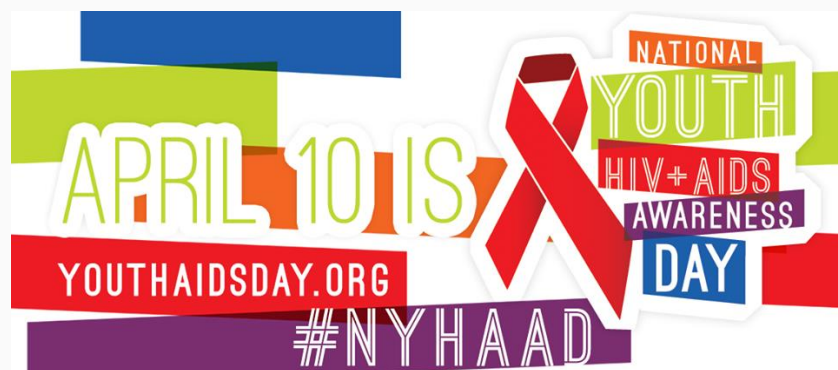


### How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

In 2015, HPTN LOC staff invited me to attend an HPTN meeting and I was impressed by the high level of participation from the HPTN Community Advisory Board members. Community Advisory Board members.

[Read More](#)

## Awareness Days





## Hot Off The Press

Hensen B, Schaap AJ, Mulubwa C, Floyd S, Shanaube K, Phiri M, Bond V, Bwalya C, Simwinga M, Fidler S, Hayes R, Mwinga A, Ayles H. [Who accepts and who uses community-based secondary distribution HIV self-testing \(HIVST\) kits? Findings from the intervention arm of a cluster-randomised trial of HIVST distribution nested in four HPTN 071 \(PopART\) communities in Zambia.](#) J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2020 Mar 13.

Velloza J, Khoza N, Scorgie F, Chitukuta M, Mutero P, Mutiti K, Mangxilana N, Nobula L, Bulterys MA, Atujuna M, Hosek S, Heffron R, Bekker LG, Mgodi N, Chirenje M, Celum C, Delany-Moretlwe S; HPTN 082 study group. [The influence of HIV-related stigma on PrEP disclosure and adherence among adolescent girls and young women in HPTN 082: a qualitative study.](#) J Int AIDS Soc. 2020 Mar;23(3):e25463.

Silhol R, Boily MC, Dimitrov D, German D, Flynn C, Farley JE, Gelman M, Hughes JP, Donnell D, Adeyeye A, Remien RH, Beyrer C, Paz-Bailey G, Wejnert C, Mitchell KM. [Understanding the HIV epidemic among MSM in Baltimore: a modelling study estimating the impact of past HIV interventions and who acquired and contributed to infections.](#) J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2020 Mar 3.

Filiatreau LM, Wright M, Kimaru L, Gómez-Olivé FX, Selin A, Twine R, Kahn K, Pettifor A. [Correlates of ART Use Among Newly Diagnosed HIV Positive Adolescent Girls and Young Women Enrolled in HPTN 068.](#) AIDS Behav. 2020 Feb 28.



What would you like to see from our newsletters? Please e-mail us with your thoughts and ideas at [news@hptn.org](mailto:news@hptn.org).

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