



July 2020 - Issue 59



The 23rd International AIDS Conference ([AIDS 2020](#)) took place virtually 6-10 July. HPTN researchers presented key data during two satellite sessions, four oral presentations, one poster discussion and 13 poster presentations. One of the biggest highlights from AIDS 2020 was the announcement from [HPTN 083](#) researchers that long-acting cabotegravir (CAB LA) for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), injected once every eight weeks, was superior to daily oral tenofovir/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) for HIV prevention among cisgender men and transgender women who have sex with men. HPTN 083 study chairs Dr. Raphael Landovitz and Dr. Beatriz Grinsztejn had a busy week presenting key data, participating in a news conference and fielding multiple media interview requests. A companion study, [HPTN 084](#) (The LIFE Study), is currently evaluating CAB LA's safety and efficacy to oral TDF/FTC for PrEP among cisgender women in sub-Saharan Africa. This study began about a year after the launch of HPTN 083. Interim results are expected next year.

The HPTN [Scholars Program](#) hosted a satellite session entitled "The Next Generation of Emerging Leaders of Color in the HIV Prevention Landscape." Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim opened the session with brief introductory remarks, followed by Dr. Darrell Wheeler, who discussed the history and accomplishments of the HPTN Scholars Program. Dr. Rodman Turpin presented on latent classes of sexual identity and homophobia associated with sexual risk among Black sexual minority men in [HPTN](#)

[061](#). Dr. Jasmine Abrams followed with a talk about increasing impact, engagement and accessibility in HIV prevention programs based on women's suggestions from urban high HIV burden counties in the U.S. ([HPTN 064](#)). Lastly, Dr. Glenn-Milo Santos discussed psychometric properties of substance use measures through a systematic review and meta-analysis of reliability, validity and diagnostic test accuracy. The satellite session concluded with a question and answer period moderated by Dr. Sten Vermund.

A second satellite session, "HIV Phylogenetics in a Global Health Setting," was hosted by members of the PANGEA-HIV 2 consortium and featured data from [HPTN 071](#) (PopART) including Dr. Christophe Fraser's presentation on findings from the HPTN 071-2 phylogenetics study, Dr. Musonda Simwina's talk on learnings from Zambia and key considerations for ethically responsible implementation of phylogenetic analyses, and Dr. David Bonsall's presentation on preventing the spread of drug resistance. HPTN co-PI Dr. Myron Cohen closed the session with brief remarks on the importance of the phylogenetic tool.

HPTN members also hosted two virtual booths: one in the exhibition space and the other in the Global Village. Each booth featured information about the Network, a video about our community engagement efforts and infographics on current studies and those in development.

[View Presentations](#)



The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) has launched its first study enrolling exclusively adolescents under the age of 18. [HPTN 083-01](#) is evaluating whether a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) regimen containing long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB LA) is safe and acceptable for adolescents assigned male at birth. Twenty-one percent (21%) of new HIV acquisitions in the U.S. occur among young people.

Most of these infections occur due to sexual activity and about half of the youth who are living with HIV don't know it.

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Community Engagement in the Age of COVID-19



COVID-19 has affected 213 countries and territories around the world. There have been more than 16 million cases and more than 650,000 deaths worldwide. In a time of fear, uncertainty and doubt, reaching study populations in creative ways has become even more critical given the realities of social distancing and virtual communications.

To get a sense of how HPTN Network members are currently building and maintaining connections with study participants, we sought feedback from three HPTN Community Working Group Members: Adrianna Boulin, a community engagement manager at the Fenway Institute in Boston; Edmilson Medeiros, a community engagement coordinator at the Centro Cerqueira Cesar Clinical Research Center at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil; and Elizabeth Shambadza Magada, a senior research counselor and community educator for the Parirenyatwa and Spilhaus clinical research sites in Zimbabwe.

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Shoutouts

Congratulations to HPTN Scholar Dr. Laramie Smith for receiving her first research project grant (R01) to study how anticipated and enacted intersectional stigma are experienced by U.S. Latino men who have sex with men in their social networks. The R01 is the oldest grant used by the U.S. National Institutes of Health to support health-related research. Dr. Smith, an assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health at the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine, is a member of the HPTN Substance Users Science Committee and HPTN 094 protocol team. Drs. Carl Latkin and Steffanie Strathdee mentored Dr. Smith during her HPTN Scholars' research project on [HPTN 037](#).



Calvin Mbede, a member of the [HPTN 075](#) study team and study coordinator at the Kisumu CRS in Kisumu, Kenya, had his first peer-reviewed paper published. [Healthcare-related stigma among men who have sex with men and transgender women in sub-Saharan Africa participating in HIV Prevention Trials Network \(HPTN\) 075 study](#) was co-authored by the HPTN 075 Kisumu CRS team. According to Calvin, engaging cisgender men who have sex with men in the community was an incredibly fulfilling experience knowing the stigma and discrimination they face. When asked about his writing experience, he said, "It doesn't matter whether you had attempted writing or not, you can set yourself up and face the challenge."

Network Member Spotlight

DeMarcus Jones is an [HPTN 083](#) protocol outreach recruiter at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. As a native Memphian, he continued his studies at the University of Memphis. With more than seven years of experience working in HIV prevention and community engagement, his mission is to continuously engage and mobilize LGBTQ individuals in the Memphis and surrounding areas and support HIV prevention research uptake progression.



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Hot Off The Press

Hensen B, Schaap AJ, Mulubwa C, Floyd S, Shanaube K, Phiri MM, Bond V, Bwalya C, Simwinda 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-Randomized Trial of HIVST Distribution Nested in Four HPTN 071 \(PopART\) Communities in Zambia.](#) J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2020 Aug 1;84(4):355-364.

Bonsall D, Golubchik T, de Cesare M, Limbada M, Kosloff B, MacIntyre-Cockett G, Hall M, Wymant C, Ansari MA, Abeler-Dörner L, Schaap A, Brown A, Barnes E, Piwowar-Manning E, Eshleman S, Wilson E, Emel L, Hayes R, Fidler S, Ayles H, Bowden R, Fraser C; HPTN 071 (PopART) team. [A comprehensive genomics solution for HIV surveillance and clinical monitoring in low-income settings.](#) J Clin Microbiol. 2020 Jul 15.

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Dimitrov D, Moore JR, Wood D, Mitchell KM, Li M, Hughes JP, Donnell DJ, Mannheimer S, Holtz TH, Grant RM, Boily MC. [Predicted Effectiveness of Daily and Nondaily Preexposure Prophylaxis for Men Who Have Sex With Men Based on Sex and Pill-taking Patterns From the Human Immuno Virus](#)

[Prevention Trials Network 067/ADAPT Study](#). Clin Infect Dis. 2020 Jul 11;71(2):249-255.



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