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## 22 SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### 22.1 Program Description

In 2010, the HPTN and the NIH initiated a U.S.-based scholars program for early career investigators to nurture the professional development of underrepresented clinical and behavioral scientists from minority backgrounds and to provide opportunities for future leadership roles within the HIV prevention research field. An international component of the program was introduced in 2015. Eligibility criteria for both programs can be found on the HPTN Scholars Program webpage (<https://www.hptn.org/research/scholars>).

In both domestic and international programs, applicants work with a mentor scientist in the Network to complete a research project utilizing data from an existing HPTN research study. The list of studies approved for Scholar use is updated each year but is based on protocol team progress of analysis and publication the (generally after at least the primary objectives have been published), available mentors affiliated with the HPTN and/or HPTN sites, and HPTN leadership approval. Each Scholar is funded for an 18-month term and the solicitation for new Scholars is undertaken annually.

The HPTN Scholars Program is overseen by senior investigators in the HPTN as appointed by the HPTN Executive Committee and is coordinated by the HPTN Leadership and Operations Center (LOC) liaison. Detailed guidelines for scientist mentors are available in the HPTN Scholars Mentorship Manual.

### 22.2 Tenants of the Scholars Program:

- Scholars will develop a research project using data from a completed or ongoing HPTN HIV prevention study and complete their project within the program cycle.
- Scholars are expected to attend an orientation to the program.
- Scholars are expected to attend and present the results of their research project at an HPTN Annual Meeting during the scholarship period, and at one national or international conference, if possible.
- Scholars are expected to participate in a series of group activities designed for further career development, including monthly conference calls to discuss ongoing research projects, new funding sources for career development, and opportunities for wider collaboration as well as additional training and skills building activities.
- Scholars will submit at least one manuscript at the end of the scholarship cycle.
- Scholars will be invited to join an HPTN Science Committee or Working Group as an observer, ideally for the duration of the program tenure. This affords each Scholar an opportunity to contribute and learn from the discussions as they build their capacity as an independent investigator and become further acquainted with the processes of the Network.
- Scholars are provided funding to cover a portion of their time (typically ~ 10-30%) and expenses, including travel and research materials/supplies.
- Expectations and guidelines are further detailed in the HPTN Scholars Program Manual.

### 22.3 Scholar Publication Guidelines

All publications developed by the Scholar (manuscripts, conference abstracts, posters, and oral presentations) that include data from an HPTN study must be reviewed and approved by the Scholar's mentor, any listed co-authors, prior to submission to the HPTN LOC Scholars Program liaison to

initiate the required HPTN reviews. Once submitted, the publication will undergo review by the respective HPTN study publications team (or designated reviewers, if the study team publication team is no longer intact) in which the data is based and the Manuscript Review Committee (MRC) prior to being submitted for publication or presentation. Scholars Program Leadership will also be provided an opportunity to review the publication.

The Scholar is responsible for monitoring the timelines set forth in the HPTN Scholars Program Manual and for reporting timeline updates and/or delays in deliverables to the HPTN Scholars Program Leadership and the LOC Scholars Program liaison.

#### 22.4 Authorship Guidelines for Scholars

The Scholar is responsible for identifying a writing team to support and contribute to development of their publication. All members of the writing team (i.e., co-authors) must review and approve a publication before it can be submitted to the HPTN LOC Scholars Program liaison for review by the respective study team, Scholars Program Leadership, and the MRC.

The following guidelines should be used if the Scholar's study's primary paper was published **less than three years** prior to the Scholar submitting his/her/their paper to the Manuscript Review Committee (MRC).

- The first author should be the person who is leading interpretation of the analysis and is writing the publication (i.e., the Scholar).
- The respective study Protocol Chair (and Protocol Co-Chair[s]) should be given the option of being included as a co-author.
- An LOC, Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC), and/or Laboratory Center (LC) representative who contributed substantially to the writing of the publication or to the conduct of the analysis should be given consideration for inclusion as a co-author.
- A member of each site team, designated by site PIs, should be approached to determine whether they would like to be included as co-authors.

The following guidelines should be used if the Scholar's study's primary paper was published **three years or more** prior to the Scholar submitting his/her/their paper to the MRC.

- The first author should be the person who is leading interpretation of the analysis and is writing the publication (i.e., the Scholar).
- The respective study Protocol Chair (and Protocol Co-Chair[s]) should be given the option of being included as a co-author.
- A LOC, SDMC, and/or LC representative who contributed substantially to the writing of the publication or to the conduct of the analysis should be given consideration for inclusion as a co-author.

The guidelines above are to be applied to any publication (abstract, poster, or manuscript) resulting from the Scholar's use of HPTN data.

Additional details are provided in the HPTN Scholars Program and Mentorship Manuals. The HPTN Publications Policy, Section 21 of the HPTN MOP, should also be referenced.