History and Organization of HPTN Scholars Program

Sten H. Vermund
Darrell Wheeler
Sam Griffith
Sarah Artis
History

• **The Challenge**: To increase opportunities in HIV prevention research for scientists from groups underrepresented in HIV prevention research, e.g., racial/ethnic and sexual preference

• **The Commitment**: NIH (NIAID, then NIMH) supported The Scholars’ program in 2010 through the present
  – 6 HPTN Scholars in 2010 – 2011 year, 5 of whom re-competed for a second year in 2011-2012
  – 7 new Scholars in 2012-2013, with 3 returning for a second year
  – 4 new scholars in 2013-2014
# Meet the HPTN Scholars

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Y1-Y2</th>
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<th>Y4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typhanye Penniman</td>
<td>Russell Brewer</td>
<td>DeMarc Hickson</td>
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<td>Risha Irvin</td>
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<td>Tandrea Carter</td>
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<td>Yvonne Carter</td>
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<td>Jennifer Stewart</td>
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<td>LaRon Nelson</td>
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<td>Larissa Jennings</td>
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<td>Zandretta Tims-Cook*</td>
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<th>Y3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andres Bedoya</td>
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<td>Chela Hall**</td>
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<td>Sophia Hussen</td>
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<td>Chevy Williams</td>
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<td>Malika Roman Isler**</td>
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<td>Oni Blackstock</td>
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*Y1 only
**Y3 and Y4
Goals—The HPTN Scholars will:

- Acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities to become independent HIV investigators
- Complete a research project, presenting findings at annual meeting and submitting a manuscript
- Become knowledgeable regarding HPTN research, providing an opportunity to continue in the HPTN after the scholarship as members of a protocol team or by proposing new science
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scholar (Mentor)</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Product</th>
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| **HPTN 061** (BROTHERS) **Russell Brewer,** DrPH (Kenneth Mayer & Manya Magnus) | High prevalence of incarceration history among Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) in the US: Associations and Implications | **Poster Presentation** at AIDS 2012  
**Manuscript submitted to**  
*Am J Public Health* or *J Urban Health* |
| **HPTN 061** (BROTHERS) **Typhanye Penniman Dryer,** PhD, MPM (Steve Shoptaw) | Predictors of new incarceration among American BMSM | **Manuscript submitted to**  
*Am J Public Health* |
| **HPTN 061** (BROTHERS) **Russell Brewer,** DrPH (Kenneth Mayer & Manya Magnus) | Differences in substance use, psychosocial characteristics and sexual risk behavior between Black Men Who Have Sex with Men Only (BMSMO) and Black Men Who Have Sex with Men and Women (BMSMW) in 6 US Cities. | **Poster Presentation** at AIDS 2012  
**Manuscript** Submitted to *J. Urban Health* |
| **Typhanye Penniman Dryer,** PhD, MPM (Steve Shoptaw) | Changes in substance use and sexual risk taking over time among BMSM and BMSMW in 6 US cities | **Oral Presentation**  
2013 College on Problems of Drug Dependence Conference |
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<tr>
<td><strong>HPTN 061 (BROTHERS)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Risha Irvin, MD, MPH (Susan Buchbinder)</td>
<td>A Study of Perceived Discrimination in Black MSM and its Association with Healthcare Utilization and HIV Testing</td>
<td>Poster Presentation AIDS 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPTN 037&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chevette Williams</strong>, PhD (Dave Metzger)</td>
<td>Racial disparities and associated risk behaviors among HIV uninfected injection drug users and members of their risk networks</td>
<td>Manuscript in Press J AIDS</td>
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<td><strong>HPTN 061 (BROTHERS)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sophia Hussen, MD, MPH (Carlos del Rio; Robert Stephenson)</td>
<td>A Qualitative Analysis of HIV Testing Patterns among Black Men who have Sex with Men in Atlanta, GA, USA</td>
<td>Oral Poster Presentation at IAS 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HPTN 064 (ISIS)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Malika Roman Isler, PhD, MPH (Carol Golin)</td>
<td>Venues for Meeting Sex Partners and Partner HIV Risk Characteristics: HPTN064 Women's HIV SeroIncidence Study (ISIS)</td>
<td>Poster Presentation at IAS 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HPTN 064 (ISIS)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Brooke Montgomery, PhD, MPH (Sally Hodder)</td>
<td>Prevalence and HIV Risk-Related Correlates of Emotional, Physical, and Sexual Violence among Women at Risk for HIV in the United States: Data from HPTN 064 (ISIS)</td>
<td>Poster Presentation at IAS 2013</td>
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SNAPSHOT- Dr. Malika Roman Isler

- **Title:** The Association Between Venues where Women at Risk of HIV Meet Sexual Partners and Partner HIV Risk Characteristics

- **Purpose:** To understand the relationship between venues where women at risk for HIV meet sexual partners and their demographic, psychosocial, and behavioral characteristics, and report of sexual partner HIV risk characteristics

- **Key Findings:**
  - Characteristics of women are related to where they meet sexual partners
  - Women met more risky partners in Public, Private, and Virtual venues than Formal venues
  - Come to the scholar presentations (today 4PM) to find out more!!!
SNAPSHOT - Dr. Andres Bedoya

• **Title**: Latino ethnicity, HIV risk correlates, and high-risk sexual behavior among HIV-negative Black MSM (HPTN 061)

• **Purpose**:  
  – To explore within-group differences among Black MSM based on Latino ethnicity and the extent this is related to high-risk sexual behavior

• **Key Findings**:  
  – Latino Black MSM differ from non-Latino Blacks on a number of factors associated with HIV risk  
  – Results from longitudinal data indicate that each group has a unique pattern of factors predicting high-risk sex  
  – Come to the scholar presentation (today, 4PM) to find out more!!!
SNAPSHOT: Dr. Sophia Hussen

**Title:** Typologies of Testing: A Qualitative Analysis of HIV Testing Patterns Among Black MSM in Atlanta, GA

**Purpose:**
- To qualitatively describe the varying patterns of HIV testing behavior in our sample of Black MSM, and to better understand social and contextual factors that may contribute to differential testing patterns.

**Key Findings:**
- Four different categories of testing behavior emerged: Maintenance Testers, Risk-Based Testers, Convenience Testers, and Test Avoiders.
- Differences between the testing categories were seen with relation to the following socio-contextual constructs: age, identity, stigma, and healthcare access. More at 4!
SNAPSHOT - Dr. Grace (Chela) Hall

• **Title:** Tell me who your sex partners are and I will tell you who you are: A Comparison of Sexual Network Partners with Community-Recruited Participants from the HPTN 061 Project

• **Purpose:** To examine if participant referrals in 061 afforded HPTN Researchers the opportunity to recruit participants who may be more vulnerable to diseases and less likely to engage with care and research compared to those recruited through traditional methods.

**Key Findings:** While referred sexual partners were different from the overall community-recruited participants, when referred sexual partners were compared to community-recruited participants who referred partners, no significant differences were found. Participant sexual network referrals **did not** give us a connection to subpopulations in the Black MSM population that were at greater behavioral risk for HIV. 4!!
SNAPSHOT - Dr. Chevy Williams

**Title:** Racial/ethnic differences in injector networks & factors associated with membership in networks w/ HIV

**Purpose:** To characterize and examine by race/ethnicity 1) networks of injection drug users and 2) factors associated with having HIV in one’s risk network

**Key Findings:**
- 15% of networks had at least 1 person with HIV
- Networks of black, white, and Latino injectors have important differences that have implications for prevention
- More at 4 (16:00) today!
SNAPSHOT - Dr. Oni Blackstock

**Title:** Attitudes and Beliefs about Individual and Community HIV/STI Risk among Women at Risk for HIV Acquisition in 064

**Purpose:** Using qualitative individual interview and focus group data, we sought to explore attitudes and beliefs about individual and community HIV/STI risk among US women at risk for HIV acquisition.

**Conclusions:**

- Overall perceived individual risk of HIV/STIs was low among this cohort of US women at high risk.
- HIV prevention messages will need to address partner risk as well as how community’s contextual and structural factors can increase individual risk for even those engaged in normative behaviors.
SNAPSHOT - Dr. Brooke Montgomery

**Title:** Prevalence and HIV Risk-Related Correlates of Emotional, Physical, and Sexual Violence Among Women at Risk in the US

**Purpose:** Assess prevalence of violence against women (VAW) and correlates of emotional, physical, and sexual violence among women living in US communities with high HIV prevalence and poverty

**Key Findings:**
- Prevalence of emotional abuse, physical violence, and sexual violence in the previous 6 months was 32%, 19%, and 7% respectively.
- Emotional violence associated with several HIV risk behaviors while physical and sexual violence associated with fewer risk behaviors.
Your Scholars’ Program Team

– Darrell “The Dean” Wheeler – Loyola University, Chicago
– Sten “The Viking” Vermund – Vanderbilt University
– Sam “The Man” Griffith – FHI 360
– Sarah “The Artist” Artis – FHI 360
Thanks to:

• Ken Mayer: Good idea, Ken!
• Kathy Hinson: No Kathy, No money, No fun!
• HVTN for details of their student program
• Carl Dieffenbach, Sheryl Zwerski, David Burns, Mike Gilbreath from NIAID
• David Stoff and Dianne Rausch from NIMH