

HPTN 052 Study Monitoring Committee (SMC) Review
Review Date: 15 October 2009
10:00am – 12:00pm ET

Participating SMC Reviewers:

Jim Hughes, SMC Co-Chair, University of Washington
Chuck Hicks, Duke University
Ward Cates, Family Health International
Craig Hendrix, Network Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University
Joseph Margolick, Johns Hopkins University
Sheryl Zwierski, Division of AIDS (DAIDS), National Institutes of Health

HPTN 052 Protocol Chairs/Site Representatives:

Mike Cohen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
Suwat Chariyalertsak, Research Institute for Health Sciences (RIHES), Chiang Mai, Thailand
Sheela Godbole, National AIDS Research Institute, Pune, India
James Hakim, University of Zimbabwe Clinical Research Center, Harare, Zimbabwe
Breno Santos, Hospital Nossa Senhora da Conceição, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Francesca Conradie, Witwatersrand Clinical Research Site, Johannesburg, SA
Joseph Makhema, Botswana–Harvard School of Public Health AIDS, Gaborone, Botswana
Beatriz Grinsztejn, Instituto de Pesquisa Clínica Evandro Chagas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Johnstone Kumwenda, Malawi College of Medicine-Johns Hopkins, Blantyre, Malawi
Irving Hoffman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC USA
Lisa Mills, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kisumu, Kenya

Observers:

David Burns, DAIDS	Leslie Cottle, SCHARP
Vanessa Elharrar, DAIDS	Nirupama Sista, HPTN CORE, FHI
Estelle Piwowar-Manning, HPTN NL	Marybeth McCauley, HPTN CORE, FHI
San-San Ou, SCHARP	Jacqueline Talley, HPTN CORE, FHI
Ying Chen, SCHARP	Theresa Gamble, HPTN CORE, FHI
Lei Wang, SCHARP	Phaedrea Watkins, HPTN CORE, FHI
	Charlyne Rich, HPTN CORE, FHI

Meeting Format:

10:00am – 10:30am: Review of closed report (SMC and SCHARP attendance only)
10:30am – 11:15am: Review of open report (SMC, SCHARP, NL, and FHI)
11:15am – 11:45am: Q and A session with protocol chair and site representatives
11:45am – 12:00pm: Summary of SMC comments and recommendations (SMC, SCHARP, NL, and FHI)

Executive Summary:

The HPTN Study Monitoring Committee (SMC) conducted its seventh review of HPTN 052 via teleconference on 15 October 2009. Data and performance indicators available from study visits conducted on or before 11 September 2009 were considered during the review. The SMC also conducted a confidential review of data in a closed session prior to the full SMC review.

The SMC indicated that the HPTN 052 team continues to do a good job with study conduct. Enrollment is at 1308 couples as of mid-September 2009, which is at 88% of the target. The sites have done a good job with enrolling over the past several months with an average of 70 couples enrolled per month. It was noted that several sites are lagging in actual enrollment relative to their target enrollment.

In addition to enrollment as noted above, the SMC's review focused on retention of partners, laboratory results related to undetectable viral loads in a small number of participants, and concerns regarding data quality.

Summary and Recommendations:

- The following items were noted by the SMC:
 - 1) Table 1: The SMC was encouraged by the overall enrollment in the study, however, it was noted that several sites were “lagging” in their actual enrollment as compared to their target enrollment, specifically WITS (Johannesburg), Botswana, and Soweto. The investigator from WITS (Johannesburg) indicated that their outreach areas are somewhat of a distance from the clinic so in some cases, transportation to the clinic is an issue. The investigator also mentioned that some potential participants do not have legal status to be able to participate in the study. The investigator from Botswana indicated that staff has been involved in unblinding activities in the Partners in Prevention study which has taken away from some activities for HPTN 052, but the full focus of recruitment activities relative to HPTN 052 should resume by mid-November. The investigator from Soweto was not on the call.
 - 2) Tables 4a and 4b: The SMC is encouraged that 94% of couples remain in followup.
 - 3) Table 7: It was noted that the HPTN Network Laboratory has completed their antiretroviral (ART) drug screening analysis of 38 samples from participants in HPTN 052 in which the enrollment HIV-1 RNA was below detection limits. Twelve (12) of the 38 samples had evidence of ART in their samples. The SMC recommended that the team review the information provided by the HPTN Network Laboratory, and determine whether to test all enrollment samples that fall below or near the level of detection.
 - 4) Table 11: This table indicated that overall retention for indexes was excellent with values of 96% at 15 months and 93% at 39 months. Retention among partners at month 15 was 89%. The SMC recommended that site investigators be diligent regarding retention for partners in order to increase this rate. Specific concerns were raised regarding the retention rate in Blantyre (77% at month 15) and Chennai (84% at month 15). The Blantyre site investigator indicated that their lower retention rate may be due to the mobility of some of their participants, and that they have experienced similar issues in some of their AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) studies. The site team will explore further the reasons for loss to follow-up, and develop a plan for increasing their retention rate. The investigator from Chennai was not on the call.
 - 5) Table 17: This table indicated that the sites in Botswana, Soweto and WITS (Johannesburg) have a high rate of QCs. The SMC recommended that SCHARP representatives have individual calls with each of these sites to resolve their data management issues and reduce their QC rates.
 - 6) The HPTN Network Laboratory had no additional concerns to discuss from what was already included in the open report.
- It was noted that the next DSMB review of HPTN 052 is scheduled for November 3, 2009.