

HPTN Scholars' Program

Informational Webinar

US Toll Free: 1-888-576-8499

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Hosted by HPTN Operations Center

October 26, 2011

1:00pm EST



Agenda:

- **What is the HPTN?**
- **Explanation of and Goals of the Program**
- **Applying & Eligibility**
- **What it means to be a Scholar**
- **Scholarship Experience of Current Scholars**
 - Dr. Yvonne Carter
 - Dr. Russell Brewer
- **Questions and Answers**

Introduction to the HIV Prevention Trials Network

Sten H. Vermund, MD, PhD

Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health

PI and Chair, HPTN Executive Committee



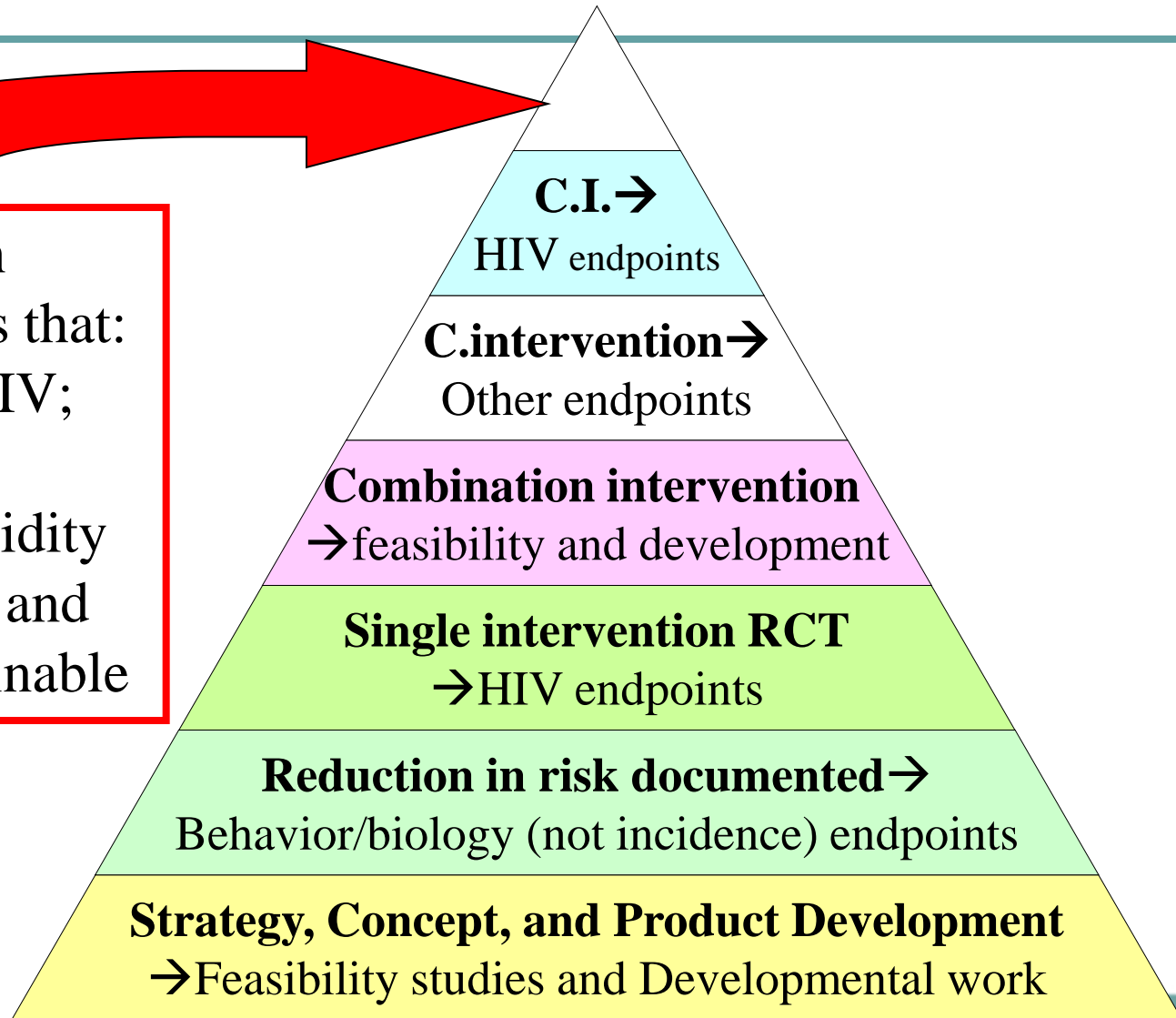
VIGH

VANDERBILT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

enhancing well-being around the globe

HIV prevention research pathway

Combination Interventions that:
(1) reduce HIV;
(2) reduce overall morbidity & mortality; and
(3) are sustainable



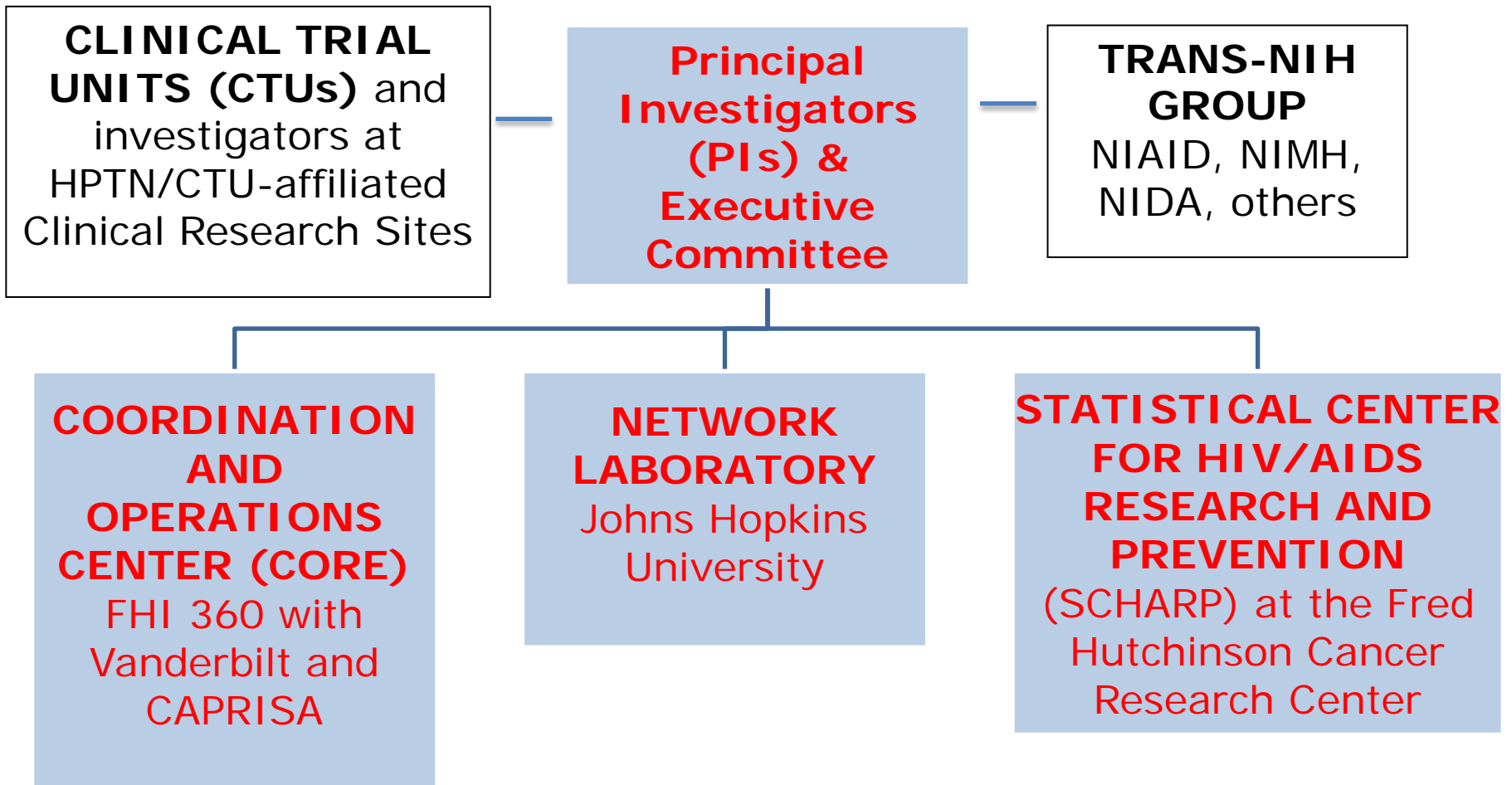
Key Research ?s - International

1. Expand HIV testing to reduce HIV transmission- **HPTN043 (NIMH Project ACCEPT)**
2. ART to reduce HIV transmission- **HPTN052 (ART for Prevention); 063 (Prevention for positives)**
3. Early vs. late ART- **HPTN052 (Cohen *NEJM* 2011)**
4. Structural interventions, adolescents: **HPTN068**
5. Risk reduction in hard-to-reach populations- **HPTN058 (IDUs); 062 (acutely infected)**
6. Combinations w/ TLC- **071 (PopART)**

Key Research ?s– largely USA and eligible for Scholars Engagement

7. Risk reduction in hard-to-reach populations- **061 (Black MSM); 064 (vulnerable women);** expected new MSM
8. Combinations w/ TLC- **HPTN065 (TLC-Plus)**
9. Public health use of iPrEP; innovative PrEP- **HPTN 066 (iPrEP PK); 067 (iPrEP behavior); 069 (maraviroc); 072 (microbicide behavior)**

Structure of HPTN



North American field sites (CTU/CRS)

- **Bronx- Lebanon Hospital Center CRS; Bronx, NY**
- **The Fenway Institute CRS; Boston, MA**
- **George Washington Univ. CRS; Washington, DC**
- **Harlem Prevention Ctr. CRS; New York, NY**
- **Hope Clinic of the Emory Vaccine Center CRS; Decatur, GA**
- **Johns Hopkins Adult AIDS CRS; Baltimore, MD**
- **New Jersey Medical School CRS; Newark, NJ**
- **NY Blood Ctr./Union Square CRS; New York, NY**
- **Ponce de Leon Center CRS; Atlanta, GA**
- **San Francisco Vaccine and Prevention CRS; San Francisco, CA**
- **UCLA Vine Street CRS; Los Angeles, CA**
- **Wake County Health and Human Services CRS; Raleigh, NC**
- **UNC AIDS CRS; Chapel Hill, NC**

HPTN: Prevention Now!



Explanation of the Program and Goals of the Program

Darrell Wheeler, PhD, MPH

Dean and Professor

Loyola University Chicago

HPTN Scholars Leadership

Overview

- **HPTN Scholarship- Awards that allow recipients to engage in research that has the ultimate aim of reducing HIV infection in communities at disproportionate risk for HIV acquisition in the United States.**
- **One year commitments with additional year based on:**
 - available funding
 - success of the scholar in meeting years' goals
 - proposal for continuation

Program Objectives

- **HPTN Scholars will acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities to further their careers as independent investigators in HIV science, by**
 - **completing the scholarship requirements**
 - **working with their mentor**
- **Develop a research project making use of data from completed or ongoing HPTN studies**

Program Objectives

- **Complete the approved project within the program year and**
 - **Present findings at a scientific meeting within the year**
 - **Submit a manuscript by the end of the program year**
- **Through the program, scholars become knowledgeable of the processes of doing research in NIH-funded HIV networks, and thereby have the opportunity to continue their careers in the HPTN after conclusion of the scholarship as members of a protocol team or through proposing new science funded by the HPTN.**

HPTN 061: Primary Objectives

To obtain information needed to design the full community-randomized trial in the areas of:

Recruitment of Black MSM

Uptake of the intervention components, including:

- proportion who agree to HIV testing
- proportion who agree to STI testing; and
- proportion who utilize peer navigation.

Estimating in the course of the study:

- proportion of participants who are newly diagnosed with HIV at enrollment
- increase in condom use from enrollment to week 52
- decrease in viral load among HIV infected participants from initiation of HAART to week 52
- decrease in STIs from enrollment to week 52

Satisfaction of Black MSM with intervention components.

HPTN 061: Secondary Objectives

- **Collect samples, behavioral data and HIV test results to improve laboratory measures of HIV incidence in cross-sectional studies**
- **Estimate HIV incidence rate under intervention condition**
- **Estimate intervention effect on HIV incidence rate through mathematical modeling**
- **Describe social and sexual networks of Black MSM based on individually self-reported network data.**
- **Describe risk behaviors of sexual network members of Black MSM, especially of those who are newly diagnosed with HIV infection, or previously diagnosed but not in care**
- **Assess attitudes of Black MSM toward other prevention interventions.**



HPTN 061: Secondary Objectives

- **Use qualitative research methods to:**
 - **Examine individual, interpersonal, cultural, institutional, and geographic-specific processes that influence study participation and uptake of intervention components**
 - **Understand how and to what extent stigma and discrimination (and other emergent themes) influence HIV testing and access to care by geographic region**

Prevention: Key Research Questions Across Studies

1. Does expanded HIV testing reduce HIV transmission in a given community? HPTN 043
2. Does an HIV(+) person who is treated early transmit less to an HIV(-) sexual partner? HPTN 052
3. Should HIV therapy be started earlier than current SOC? HPTN 052/ACTG 5245 & INSIGHT START
4. Can we better engage hard-to-reach populations? HPTN 061 (BROTHERS) & HPTN 064 (ISIS)
5. Can combined testing expansion and bridging to good HIV/AIDS care reduce HIV incidence? HPTN 065 (“TNT”)

HPTN Feasibility Studies

BROTHERS (061)

- Feasibility of recruitment of Black MSM
- Feasibility of recruitment of their sexual/social networks
- Feasibility of HIV testing of index cases and network members
- Feasibility of peer navigation for prevention and care

ISIS (064)

- Accurate estimation of HIV incidence in US women at risk for HIV
- Feasibility of follow-up of cohort of at risk women
- Feasibility of HIV as the primary outcome for prevention study in US women

HPTN Scholars

2010-2011

- Risha Irvin
- Russell Brewer
- LaRon Nelson
- Typhanye Penniman
- Yvonne Carter
- Zandraetta Tims-Cook

2011-2012

- Risha Irvin
- Russell Brewer
- LaRon Nelson
- Typhanye Penniman
- Yvonne Carter

Applying and Eligibility

Sarah Artis

HPTN Operations Center

HPTN Scholars Leadership



Eligibility to become an HPTN Scholar

- **Be members of underrepresented racial/ethnic minority communities. Persons from such communities who are also of minority sexual orientation and/or gender identity are particularly encouraged to apply. The NIH does not predefine racial/ethnic minority communities, but rather gives this definition:**
 - “Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis (see <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/>). In addition, it is recognized that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting and individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be convincingly demonstrated to be underrepresented by the grantee institution are eligible for support under this program.”
- **Have experience and/or substantial potential in conducting research with populations at risk in the U.S.**



Eligibility (Cont.)

- **Have technical background suitable to become involved in a substantial component of the HPTN science agenda, including ethical and community participation**
- **Demonstrate plans to work with and be mentored by an investigator actively involved in HPTN research, based at an HPTN Clinical Research Site, or a scientist at one of the central resources of the network who is actively involved in HPTN prevention research**
- **Have the support of their host academic institutions that would allow them the time to participate in the mentored research program, traveling to the research venue and key HPTN meetings**



Application Process

- **All applications for the HPTN Scholars program are due by December 30, 2011**
- **The HPTN Scholars' Leadership and review committee will review all applications and decisions made no later than March 2012**
- **Scholars will be funded for a one year commitment, June 2012 through May 2013**



Application Criteria

- 1. Completed Application form (available on www.HPTN.org/scholars.htm website)**
- 2. A letter of support from a Domestic HPTN Investigator at a site or Central Resources, offering to provide mentorship**
- 3. Letter of support from applicant's immediate supervisor clarifying that the time will be made free to fully engage in the program**
- 4. One additional professional letter of support**



Application Criteria

5. A maximum 1000 word statement of intent describing how the experience would nurture the scholar's research career
6. A project proposal (600 word max.) describing the research the potential scholar wishes to accomplish in the time allotted
7. A PHS 398 proposal – a template form set is available by contacting Ms. Artis
8. Budget
9. Applicant must be able to accept NIH funds

Resources:

- **List of Mentors** – The applicant should contact Sarah Artis for assistance connecting with a Mentor
- **HPTN Study Database** – the applicant must propose a project utilizing data from an ongoing or completed *domestic* HPTN project. A list of those projects can be found on the HPTN website at:
www.hptn.org/scholars.htm

Yvonne L. Carter, MD, MPH

Brody School of Medicine

**Division of Infectious Disease and International
Travelers Clinic**

Year 1 & 2 Scholar

Russell Brewer, DrPH, CHES

**Director of HIV, STDs, and
Reproductive Health**

Louisiana Public Health Institute

Year 1 & 2 Scholar

Acknowledgments

- **Sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**

Questions?