



Prevention NOW

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A World AIDS Day Message

December 1, 2014



On this World AIDS Day, we take time to reflect on the progress made in the prevention of HIV over the past 30 years, and the role of the [HIV Prevention Trials Network \(HPTN\)](#) in that progress. World AIDS Day is always an opportunity to

reenergize ourselves for what lies ahead in terms of designing and conducting innovative prevention strategies that can make a difference among the world's most vulnerable populations.

This year's World AIDS Day theme is Focus. Partner. Achieve: An AIDS-free generation. We are reminded to stay focused on the end-goal as we pursue our day-to-day work, and to continue to foster meaningful collaborations with governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, civil society groups and communities around the world.

As we reflect back on 2014, it's been both a busy and productive year. We are leading important studies that are examining the use of financial incentives for HIV prevention. This includes use of financial incentives for HIV prevention among young women in South Africa ([HPTN 068](#)) and for achieving linkage and viral suppression in a study in the US ([HPTN 065](#)).

We can be proud of the successful launch of [HPTN 071 \(PopART\)](#) study, a large combination prevention study in South Africa and Zambia, likely one of the largest HIV studies ever conducted. With 2015 around the corner, we will launch an integrated strategies study, [HPTN 074](#), to examine treatment as prevention for injection drug users and [HPTN 075](#) to assess the feasibility of reaching and retaining MSM in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time, we are continuing important studies that examine the use of various antiretroviral drugs for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) ([HPTN 067](#) and [HPTN 069](#)), including the uptake of PrEP by Black MSM ([HPTN 073](#)), a

Save the Date!

HPTN & IMPAACT

2015 Annual Meeting

June 12-19, 2015

Crystal Gateway Marriott

1700 Jefferson Davis Highway

Arlington, VA 22202

Studies Launching in 2015

HPTN 074

HPTN 074 will assess whether an integrated intervention for HIV-infected people who inject drugs will reduce HIV transmission to uninfected partners. The treatment combines antiretroviral therapy, substance use treatment, and behavioral counseling. This study will be conducted in Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia; Hanoi, Vietnam; and Kyiv, Ukraine.

HPTN 075

HPTN 075 will evaluate the feasibility of recruiting and retaining roughly 400 men who have sex with men (MSM) at four sites in sub-Saharan Africa in preparation for future studies. Men regardless of HIV

population severely affected by HIV in the US. We are engaged in exciting new efforts to advance the study of promising injectable agents for PrEP across various at-risk populations. We look forward to the launch of [HPTN 076](#) and [HPTN 077](#) which will evaluate the safety and acceptability of long-acting injectable PrEP agents as an alternative to oral PrEP.

With 35 million people worldwide living with HIV, close to two million new infections each year and disproportionately higher HIV rates in certain populations and regions, there is still much to be done. We cannot rest on the success and progress to date. These realities inspire the HPTN to continue its efforts to reach and engage new populations and to seek partnerships with communities around the world.

With your continued partnership and a shared commitment to finding solutions and improving health, let's continue to work diligently toward achieving an AIDS-free generation.

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH
Myron Cohen, MD
HPTN Principal Investigators

An Enriched Research Experience as a HPTN Scholar

Deadline for 2015-16 Applications: January 16



Early career scientists are gaining an enriched research and mentorship experience in [the HPTN Scholars Program](#) that they say is helping to catapult their career. Now in its fifth year, the HPTN Scholars Program has involved 21 young researchers to date.

[Current Scholars](#) are Drs. Laramie Smith, Nicole Salazar-Austin, Tiamey

Ritchwood and Bisola Ojikutu. They are working on a variety of analyses that cover factors related to the success of peer-delivered interventions among people who inject drugs ([HPTN 037](#)), demographic factors and HIV testing in young people ages 18-24 ([HPTN 043](#)), the relationship between partner age and sexual risk behaviors among adolescent girls (HPTN 068) and what predicts status disclosure to sexual partners among HIV-infected women ([HPTN 063](#)).

The HPTN Scholars Program is offered to early career U.S. minority

status can participate in the study. This study will be conducted in Blantyre, Malawi; Cape Town, South Africa; and Kisumu, Kenya.

HPTN 076

HPTN 076 will evaluate the safety, tolerability, acceptability and pharmacokinetics of the long-acting injectable formulation of rilpivirine (TMC278 LA), a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

Participants will receive daily oral tablets for four weeks followed by six doses of the injectable TMC 278 LA at eight-week intervals. This study will be conducted in HIV-uninfected women in Cape Town, South Africa; Harare, Zimbabwe; and two sites in the United States (Bronx, NY and Newark, NJ).

HPTN 077

HPTN 077 will evaluate the safety, tolerability and acceptability of the long-acting injectable cabotegravir (GSK1265744 LA) among HIV-uninfected men and women.

Participants will receive daily oral tablets for one month followed by three doses of the injectable formulation, each at 12-week intervals. The study will be conducted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa; Lilongwe, Malawi; and four sites in the U.S (Washington D.C., Chapel Hill, NC; Los Angeles and San Francisco,

investigators to groom them for leadership positions in the future of HIV prevention research. Scholars work with HPTN-affiliated mentors to complete a research project using data from an existing HPTN research study. The program is designed to hone their skillset for successfully developing and executing independent research studies. The [work of HPTN Scholars](#) has been presented internationally at the International AIDS Society Conference and other meetings and has been published in prominent scientific journals.

“The HPTN Scholars Program has been wonderful,” says Laramie Smith. “The leadership team is committed to providing the resources and professional trainings that will help us to grow our careers as young investigators, as much as they are committed to providing us the resources we need to complete our individual mentored research projects. I am also fortunate to be in the company of three brilliant young scientists, whose passion for reducing the burden of HIV and infectious diseases in marginalized communities inspire my own continued commitment to this work.”

Under the mentorship of Drs. Carol Latkin and Steffanie Strathdee, Smith is working on a set of secondary analyses for the HPTN 037 trial, a peer educator-delivered HIV prevention intervention aimed at reducing injection and sexual risk behaviors among injection drug users and their social network.

Scholar Tiamey Ritchwood says in addition to a very supportive mentorship experience, she appreciates the opportunity to connect with top HIV research scientists who are affiliated with HPTN’s international network.

“Such networking could facilitate collaboration on a variety of levels, including manuscript, grant, service and advocacy. The connections made in this program will also help me to establish an independent research career,” said Ritchwood. She is working with mentor Audrey Pettifor to explore how adolescent girls’ self-reported sexual risk behaviors are influenced by the age of their partners.

Scholars also find opportunities to get involved in other activities of the HPTN. For example, Smith was invited to observe the HPTN Substance Use Steering Committee (SUSC) as members worked on a review of available literature on substance abuse and HIV among men who have sex with men in Africa. This work helped to inform the development of the HPTN 075 study.

“Both substance use and substance use-related stigma are key factors that limit uptake and successful engagement in HIV care for these populations,” said Smith. “My experience as an SUSC invited observer is allowing me to build my understanding of how I might better assess and subsequently address these barriers.”

Hear more about the HPTN Scholar experience from former Scholars Russell Brewer and LaRon Nelson in this [HPTN StoryCorps Conversation](#).

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Upcoming Conferences

[BGRG Summit](#)

Jan. 14
Atlanta, GA

[NAESM](#)

Jan. 15-18
Atlanta, Georgia

[CROI](#)

Feb. 23-26
Seattle, WA
Late-breaking abstract submission deadline: (1/8)

[IAS 2015](#)

July 19-22
Vancouver, Canada
Abstract submission deadline: 1/27
Late-breaking deadline: 5/20

[USCA](#)

Sept. 10-13
Washington, DC

Hot Off the Press

Brewer RA, Magnus M, Kuo I, Wang L, Liu TY, and Mayer KH. 2014. [The High Prevalence of Incarceration History Among Black Men Who Have Sex With Men in the United States: Associations and Implications](#). American Journal of Public Health. 104(3):448-454.

Harawa N, Wilton L, Wang L, Mao C, Kuo I, Penniman T, Shoptaw S, Griffith S, Williams JK, Cummings V, Mayer K, Koblin B, HPTN 061. [Types of female partners reported by Black men who have sex with men and women \(MSMW\) and associations with intercourse frequency, unprotected sex and HIV and STD prevalence](#). AIDS

The HPTN Scholars Program offers a scholarship for applicants. The program and scholarship are funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). For more information, visit the [HPTN Scholars page](#). Also see the [program flyer](#).

Applications for the 2015-2016 HPTN Scholars Program are due **Jan. 16**.

HPTN Researchers Appointed to US Institute of Medicine



The HIV Prevention Trials Network congratulates [Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim](#) and [Dr. Chris Beyrer](#) for their appointment to the prestigious US Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Dr. Karim is Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA, Adjunct Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, and Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University. She is a former Co-principal Investigator with HPTN and current member of the HPTN Executive Committee. She was Co-principal Investigator of the CAPRISA 004 trial that demonstrated the efficacy of topical microbicide, 1% tenofovir gel, for HIV prevention.



Dr. Beyrer currently serves as President of the International AIDS Society. He directs the Johns Hopkins Training Program in HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Science and is a member of the MSM Working Group at HPTN. He has extensive experience in conducting international collaborative research and training programs in HIV/AIDS and other infectious

disease epidemiology. He has served as advisor to the PEPFAR Program and a number of other organizations.

For a full list of new IOM members, see the [IOM announcement](#).

HPTN at R4P 2014

and Behavior. 18(8):1548-59.

Irvin R, Wilton L, Scott H, Beauchamp G, Wang L, Betancourt J, Lubensky M, Wallace J, Buchbinder S, on behalf of HPTN 061. 2014. [A Study of Perceived Racial Discrimination in Black Men Who Have Sex with Men \(MSM\) and Its Association with Healthcare Utilization and HIV Testing](#). AIDS and Behavior. 18(7): 1272-8.

Jennings L, Rompalo A, Wang J, Hughes J, Adimora A, Hodder S, Soto-Torres L, Frew P, Haley D, HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN 064) Women's HIV Seroincidence Study (ISIS). 2014. [Prevalence and correlates of knowledge of male partner HIV testing and serostatus among African-American women living in high poverty, high HIV prevalence communities \(HPTN 064\)](#). AIDS and Behavior. [Epub ahead of print.]

Mannheimer S, Wang L, Wilton L, Tieu HV, del Rio C, Buchbinder S, Fields S, Glick S, Cummings V, Eshleman SH, Koblin B, and Mayer KH on behalf of the HPTN 061 Study Team. 2014. [Infrequent HIV Testing and Late HIV Diagnosis Are Common Among US Black Men Who Have Sex with Men \(BMSM\)](#). JAIDS. 67(4):438-45.

Naranbhai V, Moodley D, Chipato T, Stranix-Chipato L, Nakabaiito C, Kamateeka M, Musoke P, Manji K, George K, Emel L, Richardson P, Andrew P, Fowler MG, Fletcher H, McShane H, Coovadia H, Hill A, for the HPTN 046 Protocol Team. 2014. [Brief Report: The association between the ratio of monocytes: lymphocytes and risk of tuberculosis\(TB\) amongst HIV infected postpartum women](#). JAIDS. 67(5):573-5.



The HPTN had many oral and poster presentations at the world's first conference dedicated exclusively to HIV prevention research. The conference was held October 28-31 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Oral Presentations

Watch video at the links below

- [Characteristics of Young Black Men Who Have Sex with Men Enrolled in HPTN 061](#). *Watson C, Lucas J, Fields S, Wheeler D, on behalf of HPTN Black Caucus*
- [The Utilization of Good Participatory Practice During the Planning and Implementation of a PrEP Study among Black MSM](#). *Lucas J, King G, Watkins P, Watson C, Hutchinson C, Rogers C, Wakefield S, Fields S.*
- [Facing the realities of HIV Universal Test and Treat: Early lessons learnt from the delivery of the HPTN 071/PopART study intervention](#). *Shanaube K, Griffith S, Simwinga M, Ngulube C, Sakala E, Simbeza S, Mutonyi M, Fidler S, Hayes R, Ayles H.*

Poster Presentations from the HPTN 065 study:

- Understanding of viral load among participants in a study of a financial incentive intervention of ART adherence. *Greene E, Taylor J, Pack A, Stanton J, Shelus V, Tolley E, D'Angelo L, El-Sadr W, Gamble T.*
- Unanticipated impact of financial incentives on HIV patients and providers. *Pack A, Stanton J, Greene E, Taylor J, Shelus V, Tolley E, Brown ST, El-Sadr W, Gamble T.*
- Acceptability of financial incentives for HIV viral suppression. *Pack A, Stanton J, Greene E, Taylor J, Shelus V, Tolley E, Rakhmanina N, El-Sadr W, Gamble T.*
- The impact of implementing a financial incentive program for viral suppression on the clinic environment. *Greene E, Gamble T, Tolley E, Pack A, Stanton J, Taylor J, Shelus V, Leider J, El-Sadr W, Branson B.*



Dr. Tom Fleming delivered a lecture series last month on "[Key Topics in the Design, Conduct and Analysis of Clinical Trials](#)." The series was organized by the HPTN Scholars Program and HIV Vaccine Trials Network. [Watch video](#).

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- Geographic analysis of gift card use for financial incentives given to encourage viral suppression. *Gamble T, Corcoran P, Stanton J, Watkins P, Greene E, Farrior J, Elion R, Amenichi-Enahoro S, El-Sadr W.*

For a full conference recap, visit hivr4p.org.

Send story ideas and announcements to news@hptn.org for consideration