



Network News • October 2012 • Issue No. 9

HPTN Awards



HPTN 061

The HPTN is proud to announce that HPTN 061 Co-Chairs, Drs. Beryl Koblin, Ken Mayer, Darrell Wheeler and the entire HPTN 061 study team have been selected to receive the Founders Award from the Us Helping Us, People into Living,

Inc. The award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership and demonstrated service in support of HIV prevention in the African-American community. In making the announcement Us Helping Us President and CEO Ron Simmons said, "The HPTN 061 study of black gay and bisexual men is the first of its kind and worthy of recognition. The fight has been difficult but your dedication and hard work has made us more committed to fight for the end of this epidemic that disproportionately impacts African-Americans." Us Helping Us was incorporated in Washington, DC as a community-based organization dedicated to fighting HIV/AIDS in the African-American community.

Former HPTN Leader Recognized

Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim is the recipient of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), 2012 Prize for Medical Sciences "for her exceptional and distinguished contributions to HIV prevention and women's health." The former HPTN Co-Principal Investigator is being recognized by

Study Updates

HPTN 067

The Emavundleni Centre for HIV Research (Cape Town, South Africa) completed enrollment for the HPTN 067/ADAPT study. [HPTN 067](#) is a non-daily PrEP study designed to determine which dosing regimens best foster healthy sexual practices and pill-taking behavior in people at risk of HIV infection. HPTN 067/ADAPT is an essential step toward determining whether taking PrEP less frequently than daily can be a viable HIV prevention strategy. The other study sites include the CDC TUC Silom Community Clinic in Bangkok, Thailand and the Harlem Prevention Center in Harlem, New York, USA.

HPTN Poster Highlights from AIDS 2012

One Year of Buprenorphine-Naloxone Treatment Supported by Counseling for HIV Prevention in Opiate Dependent Injecting Drug Users Showed Efficacy in Reducing Opiate Use and Injection Frequency: HPTN 058 in Thailand and China

While methadone treatment has been recognized as an effective tool in helping opiate dependent injectors reduce their risk of HIV infection, few other medications and strategies have been evaluated for

the Academy for her significant scientific contributions spanning two decades of the HIV epidemic in southern Africa, in particular her ground-breaking research on tenofovir gel as the first HIV prevention technology for women. This research, which was first presented at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna, was hailed by *Science* as one of the Top 10 Scientific Breakthroughs of 2010.



Dr. Abdool Karim with Dr. Mike Cohen at the HPTN annual meeting.

HIV prevention. HPTN 058 was designed to assess the ability of buprenorphine/naloxone and drug counseling to prevent HIV infection and mortality among opiate dependent injectors.

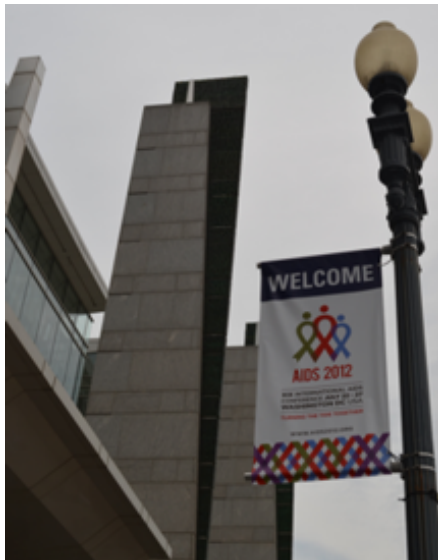
Those who met inclusion criteria for the study completed enrollment procedures and were randomized at a 1:1 ratio to either: 1) the long-term medication assisted treatment (LT-MAT) arm that offered one year of three times per week dosing and counseling; or, 2) the short-term medication assisted treatment arm (ST-MAT) that offered an 18 day detoxification phase with one year of drug counseling with a second opportunity for detoxification after six months. Participants in both arms were encouraged to participate in individual behavioral drug and risk counseling (BDRC). The counseling was delivered by trained staff with weekly sessions scheduled for the first 12 weeks followed by 9 monthly counseling sessions.

Conclusions:

- While fewer incident HIV infections were observed in the LT-MAT arm (2 vs.5), the overall incidence was much lower than planned. Too few endpoints were seen to evaluate the study's primary objective.
- LT-MAT with buprenorphine/naloxone is feasible, safe, and significantly more effective than ST-MAT in reducing injection opiate use during treatment.
- For those assigned to the LT-MAT arm, there was a rapid return to opiate use following treatment.
- Self-reported risk behaviors were significantly reduced in both groups during treatment and these reductions were sustained through week 104. BDRC may be associated with sustained reductions in injection related risk.
- ST-MAT is feasible, safe and associated with sustained reductions in HIV risk behavior.

High Prevalence of Incarceration

AIDS 2012 Highlights



After a 22-year absence, the United States welcomed back the International AIDS Conference. The HPTN was well represented at the conference with seven oral presentations, 19 posters and a satellite session focused on the domestic HIV epidemic.

HPTN 061 Study Results

The first study findings for HPTN 061 were released at AIDS 2012. The results showed greatly elevated HIV infection rates among young black gay and bisexual men in the U.S. The overall rate of new HIV infections among black men who have sex with men (MSM) in the study was 2.8% per year, a rate that

is nearly 50% higher than in white MSM in the U.S. Even more alarming, among young black men in the study—those 30 years of age and younger—the HIV infection rate was 5.9%.

HPTN 061 Study Co-Chair Dr. Beryl Koblin presented incidence data at a late breaker session: [Correlates of HIV incidence among black men who have sex with men in 6 U.S. cities \(HPTN 061\)](#)


HPTN 061 Study Co-Chair Dr. Ken Mayer presented: [An evolving concentrated epidemic: comparison of socioeconomic, behavioral and](#)

biological factors among newly diagnosed, previously diagnosed and HIV-negative black men who have sex with men in six US cities (HPTN 061).



Other early analysis of the data showed that HIV infection among HPTN 061 participants was associated with very high rates of untreated sexually transmitted infections and with poverty. Only a quarter of the men uninfected with HIV at time of enrollment reported getting an HIV test in the previous year, and almost 1 in 5 of the men who tested HIV positive for the first time at enrollment already had AIDS, suggesting they had been infected years earlier and were unaware of their infection.



 Dr. Darrell Wheeler

Among Black Men Who Have Sex With Men in HPTN 061

HPTN Scholar Russell Brewer presented one of six HPTN 061 posters at AIDS 2012. His poster focused on the high prevalence of incarceration among black men who have sex with men (BMSM) in the HPTN 061 cohort. Sixty percent of the men in the study reported having a history of incarceration, which was defined as having spent one day or more in jail or prison. This high prevalence reflects the U.S. incarceration rate for black men ages 20-34, which is 1 in 9. Brewer et al.'s analysis also explored topics such as childhood violence and childhood sexual experience, showing an association between childhood violence and incarceration history and thus supporting the need for mental health services for this cohort of BMSM. Future analyses are planned that will assess additional incarceration variables, such as duration and time since most recent incarceration. These analyses will also explore predictors of new incarceration during HPTN 061 follow-up, as well as the relationship between new incarcerations, incarceration history and frequency, and HIV seropositivity.

Substance Use in HPTN 064 ISIS

While substance use has long been associated with increased risk-taking behavior and increased risk of HIV acquisition, substance use patterns over time among high-risk heterosexual women and their association with HIV risk behaviors are not well defined. A poster presented by Dr. Irene Kuo, assessed substance use frequency and sexual risk behaviors of women from HPTN 064, the Women's HIV Seroincidence Study (ISIS).

ISIS recruited a cohort of 2,099 women at risk for HIV from specific geographic locations with high HIV prevalence and poverty. ISIS identified almost two-thirds (1882) of participants who self-reported any substance use in the past six months, excluding marijuana. Of this cohort 40.5% decreased their substance use frequency over time even though no specific intervention targeting substance use was included in the study. Women with

At a press conference following the oral presentations, Study Co-Chair Dr. Darrell Wheeler answers reporters' questions about the HPTN 061 study results. Commenting on the findings, Dr. Wheeler stated that, "While we have known black MSM are affected by HIV at disproportionately higher rates when compared to other MSM in the U.S., this study makes it clear we must urgently find and implement ways to stem the spread of HIV among black gay men in this country, and critically among young black gay men."

The HPTN 061 study results were featured in a variety of publications including the [Boston Globe](#), [USA Today](#) and the [Washington Post](#). An interview with Dr. Carlos del Rio, Investigator, HPTN 061 site in Atlanta, was broadcast on [CNN](#).

Further analysis of data from the study is ongoing to assess how HIV risk among black MSM might be affected by childhood experiences, social and sexual networks, discrimination, homophobia, incarceration and barriers to health care. These findings will help inform future research and prevention efforts.



Dr. Beatriz Grinsztein

Additional HPTN 052 Analyses

A late breaker session featuring HPTN 052 investigator, Dr. Beatriz Grinsztein, focused on the [Effect of early versus delayed initiation of antiretroviral therapy \(ART\) on clinical outcomes in the HPTN 052 randomized clinical trial](#).

Additional analysis of HPTN 052 showed that providing antiretroviral treatment to HIV-infected individuals earlier when their immune systems are healthier significantly delays the time to AIDS-related health events, such as chronic herpes

simplex virus, tuberculosis and death.

Dr. Mina Hosseinipour, Investigator, HPTN 052 site in Lilongwe, Malawi addressed reporters at a late breaker press conference.



Dr. Mina Hosseinipour

Using an HIV microsimulation model (CEPAC-International) to further expand analysis of HPTN 052 data, Dr. Kenneth Freedberg from the Harvard School of Public Health revealed that [early HIV treatment is very cost-effective](#) in terms of increasing patient survival, preventing costly opportunistic infections, as well as averting transmission of the virus to uninfected individuals.

When the landmark results of HPTN 052 were released in 2011 showing that treatment can reduce HIV transmission by 96% in serodiscordant couples, questions were raised about the cost of early antiretroviral therapy (ART) and if it should be universally implemented. Data released at the XIX International AIDS Conference showed that treatment as prevention is a triple winner: HIV-infected patients do better, their partners are protected and it is very cost-effective.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Associate Director of the Program in Epidemiology and Outcomes Research at the Harvard Center for AIDS Research answered questions at a late breaker press conference. She told reporters that regardless of the country setting, over the long term treatment as prevention offers excellent return on investment across a wide range of assumptions about transmission and treatment effects.

household incomes lower than \$10,000 were more likely to decrease their substance in comparison to women who made more than \$20,000. There was no difference by age, race, education, and baseline number of sexual partners, concurrency, condom use at last sex, or mental health indicators.

Linkage-to-Care and ART Adherence Practices at Participating Sites in the HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) Study

HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus): A Study to Evaluate the Feasibility of an Enhanced Test, Link to Care, Plus Treat is an ongoing study in Washington, DC and the Bronx, NY that is evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of financial incentives for increasing linkage from testing HIV positive to HIV care and for sustaining viral suppression among patients in HIV care. Annual surveys are being conducted with participating HIV testing and HIV care sites in the study to collect key site characteristics as well as information on standard processes for linking patients who test HIV positive to care and support activities for anti-retroviral therapy (ART) adherence. Data from 2009 were analyzed in order to describe baseline practices and standard of care before the study started.

In 2009, Bronx and DC HIV testing and care sites participating in HPTN 065 used diverse strategies to support linkage-to-care and ART adherence. For linkage-to-care, most sites discussed the importance of linkage with patients (80%), directed patients to on-site (66%) or community (57%) care clinics, and escorted patients to care (60%). For ART adherence, most sites relied on counseling by a physician (92%), pill box reminder tools (92%), and provider encouragement (90%). Few sites used financial incentives or rewards (e.g. gift cards or household items) for either linkage-to-care (11%) or ART adherence (8%) before initiation of the study. Annual follow-up surveys will be conducted to monitor changes in practices throughout the conduct of the study.

Clinician Practices and Attitudes



Dr. Rochelle
Walensky

Dr. Walensky was interviewed about the findings on [NPR](#).

HPTN 052 also had two oral poster presentations: [HIV incidence determination in clade B epidemics: a multi-assay approach](#) and [Sustained treatment as prevention: continued decreases in unprotected sex and virological suppression after HAART initiation among participants in HPTN 052](#).

Satellite Session: Health Disparities, Hurdles and Hope: Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

Despite remarkable scientific advances, including the advent of rapid testing and potent once-daily anti-retroviral therapies, the annual number of new HIV infections in the U.S. has remained stable for more than 20 years. This satellite session sponsored by the HPTN explored the current landscape of the U.S. HIV epidemic, challenges in reaching and engaging at risk populations and exciting new evidence supporting new prevention interventions and research efforts that seek a better understanding of the epidemic and identifying new effective prevention interventions.

The satellite session was co-chaired by Drs. Wafaa El-Sadr and Kenneth Mayer. Presenters included:

- Grant Colfax, MD, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy
- Chris Collins, Vice president and Director of Public Policy at amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research
- Dázon Dixon Diallo, MPH, Founder and President of Sister Love
- Sally Hodder, MD, Director of HIV Programs and Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine at the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
- Melissa Turner, MSW, LICSW, U.S. domestic HPTN Community Working Group Co-Chair and Social Worker Coordinator for National Programs in HIV Clinical Research at the Washington Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Research Service/Infectious Disease Section
- Sten Vermund, MD, PhD, Director for the Vanderbilt University Institute for Global Health.
- Darrell Wheeler, MPH, PhD, Dean at the Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work.
- Richard Wolitski, PhD, Senior Advisor for Strategic Indicators for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.
- Sheryl Zwierski, MSN, Medical Officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of NIH.

Topics discussed:

- Why the Domestic HIV Agenda Matters
- HIV and US Women: Understanding the Challenges
- Black MSM in the U.S.: Addressing the Social and Cultural Contexts
- Looking Ahead: A Commitment to Fighting the Epidemic Panel Session

The PowerPoint presentations are available [here](#).

The HPTN wishes to extend its gratitude to all who made the conference a huge success!

Regarding Early Antiretroviral Therapy in the U.S.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART)-prescribing providers from 38 HIV care sites participating in HPTN 065, were invited to complete a 29-item, internet-based, anonymous survey. This baseline survey was designed to assess clinician practices and attitudes toward ART initiation. Baseline clinician responses were received prior to initiation of HPTN 065 study activities, as well as prior to the release of HPTN 052 results and the 2012 DHHS treatment guideline update.

A total of 165 providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) from Washington, DC and Bronx, NY HIV care sites completed the survey. Clinicians tended to be white (66%), females (59%), who described themselves as "HIV specialists" (77%). Mean provider age was 46 years and they had been providing HIV care for a median of 13 years.

- 95% of respondents "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that early ART initiation "can slow the spread of HIV in a community by making patients less infectious to others."
- 75% of respondents indicated that they would initiate ART earlier than they would otherwise for patients in HIV discordant sexual partnerships.
- 43% of respondents reported concern over a patient developing a "resistant virus if ART is initiated too early."

These baseline data will be compared with data from a second provider survey to be administered once relevant HPNT 065 study activities have concluded.

View all the HPTN [065 posters](#) from AIDS 2012.

Hot Off the Press

Chen YQ, Masse B, Wang L, Ou SS, Li X, Donnell D, McCauley M, Gamble T, Ribauldo HJ, Cohen MS,

HPTN Annual Meeting Highlights

Just three weeks prior to AIDS 2012, the HPTN held its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. More than 500 people attended the meeting. HIV prevention researchers, advocates and collaborators from around the world had a chance to come together to share successes and challenges in the HIV prevention field.

Network Updates

Co-Principal Investigator Wafaa El-Sadr provided an update on Network structures and priorities and Greg Millet with the Centers for Disease Control, presented on Prevention Priorities and Challenges in the U.S. He noted that achieving an AIDS-free generation may be possible but not easy and that implementation science is critical to determine how best to apply new technologies in combination with other prevention and care models.



Greg Millet



Sarah Fidler

Sarah Fidler with Imperial College presented on HPTN 071, PopART, a study designed to look at universal testing, linkage to care and immediate treatment to reduce population level HIV incidence in a generalized epidemic. She made the case that the 071 study will help determine if universal test and treat can be delivered with high enough uptake and acceptability to enable population level changes in HIV incidence. HPTN 071 will also be able to measure the cost and benefits of this combination prevention strategy.

Division of AIDS Director, NIAID, Carl Dieffenbach's presentation focused on HIV/AIDS prevention priorities. While no single prevention strategy is enough, he said HIV testing is the entry point for individually focused prevention interventions and that HIV treatment is a critical component of prevention.



Carl Dieffenbach



Grant Colfax

Grant Colfax, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy provided an update on implementation of the national HIV strategy. He noted that President Obama's 2013 budget for HIV is \$22.3 billion for domestic HIV prevention care and treatment, with a \$776 million increase for HIV/AIDS care and prevention, and \$1 billion for ADAP. Dr. Colfax noted that along with reducing the number of people who become infected with HIV, some of the domestic priorities include reducing HIV related health disparities and increasing access to

care to optimize health outcomes.

The annual meeting presentations are posted on the HPTN [website](#).

StoryCorps and HPTN

The HPTN was excited to have NPR's Story Corps project on-site to capture compelling stories

Fleming TR. **Statistical considerations for the HPTN 052 Study to evaluate the effectiveness of early versus delayed antiretroviral strategies to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV-1 in serodiscordant couples.** *Contemp Clin Trials*. 2012. PMID: PMC Journal - In Process. PMID: 22813645. NIHMS: 394596.

Eshleman S, Hughes J, Laeyendecker O, Wang J, Brookmeyer R, Johnson-Lewis L, Mullis C, Hackett J, Vallari A, Justman J, Hodder S. **Use of a multifaceted approach to assess HIV incidence in a cohort study of women in the United States.** *J Infect Dis*. 2012; In press. PMID: PMC Journal – In Process.

Hodder SL, Justman J, Hughes J, Wang J, Haley DF, Adimora AA, Del Rio C, Golin CE, Kuo I, Rompalo A, Soto-Torres L, Mannheimer S, Johnson-Lewis L, Eshleman SH, El-Sadr WM, HIV Prevention Trials Network 064 (ISIS) Study Team. **HIV acquisition among women from selected areas of the United States.** Submitted, 2012.

Pettifor A, Bekker L-G. **Adolescent enrollment in HIV prevention trials.** Letter to editor. *Lancet*. 2012;380(9842):646. PMID:22901878.

Laeyendecker O, Brookmeyer R, Cousins M, Mullis C, Konikoff J, Donnell D, Celum C, Buchbinder S, Seage G, Kirk G, Mehta S, Astemborski J, Jacobson L, Margolick J, Brown J, Quinn T, Eshleman S. **HIV incidence determination in clade B epidemics: a multi-assay approach.** *J Infect Dis*. 2012; In press. PMID: PMC Journal – In Process

Want to Read More?

HIV Prevention Trials Network
<http://www.hptn.org/index.htm>

HPTN 046
http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn046.asp

about our history, research, and how our robust HIV prevention scientific portfolio is moving us closer to an AIDS free generation. The HPTN has never attempted to tell its story in this unique oral history fashion.

 FHI 360's Dr. Ward Cates being interviewed by NPR

These recordings will live soon on the HPTN's newly designed website and will serve as useful resources to share with our partners, collaborators and study participants. All of the conversations will also be archived with the Library of Congress.

Network Awards

Best Lab Performance: Research Institute for Health Services, Chiang Mai, Thailand/ Chiang Mai University AIDS Prevention CRS

Best Retention for 2010 and 2011: KEMRI/CDC CRS, Kisumu, Kenya, RIHES, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Best Data Management: Xinjiang Autonomous Region Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Xinjiang, China

Best Community Engagement, Emavundleni Center Cape Town, S. Africa



Best Community Engagement Award Recipients.

HPTN Scholars

HPTN scholars were also recognized for their research efforts. The scholars program was established in 2010 in an effort to increase the number of trained and mentored scholars from

 HPTN scholars with their mentors

under reported racial and ethnic groups committed to HIV prevention

HPTN 052
http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn052.asp

HPTN 064
http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn064.asp

HPTN 065
http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn065.asp

HPTN 067
http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn067.asp

HPTN 068
http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn068.asp

HPTN 069
http://www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn069.asp

HPTN Scholars Program
<http://www.hptn.org/web%20documents/IndexDocs/Y3HPTNScholars.pdf>

HIV/AIDS Network Coordination
<http://www.hanc.info/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact Us

We would love to hear your comments on the newsletter, answer any questions you have about its content, or consider your ideas for future articles. Please contact us at news@hptn.org.

You can also like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

facebook.

twitter

Was this email forwarded to you? You can subscribe [here](#).

research. Thirteen scholars have been selected since the program's inception. The 2011-2012 scholars and mentors include:

- Russell Brewer – Manya Magnus, Ken Mayer
- Yvonne Carter – Ada Adimora
- Risha Irvin – Susan Buchbinder
- LaRon Nelson – Ken Mayer
- Typhanye Penniman – Steve Shoptaw

 Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Sten Vermund

Paying Tribute

The HPTN also paid special tribute to outgoing Co-Principal Investigators Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Sten Vermund. During their tenure great strides were made in HIV prevention research with two large-scale HPTN studies: HPTN 052 and 043. The Network presented both with

an engraved glass bowl and a photo album to thank them for their remarkable leadership and dedication.