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April 2017 - Issue 32

HPTN Annual Meeting Highlights





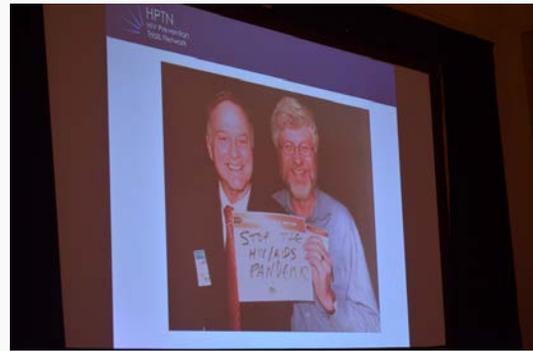
The HPTN held its annual meeting from April 8-13 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The event attracted more than 600 registered participants and featured an array of study-specific meetings, Community Working Group sessions, skills-building activities, and plenaries featuring speakers discussing current topics regarding targeted HIV prevention strategies.

During the Tuesday (April 11) plenary session, the HPTN Laboratory Center, Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC), and HPTN Scholars presented some of their current work. Later in the evening, Network leadership hosted a poster session and welcome gathering.

The following day we were thrilled to welcome back Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and Ambassador-at-Large Deborah L. Birx, M.D., coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and U.S. special representative for Global Health Diplomacy. Other speakers at the Wednesday plenary session focused on critical areas relevant to our research portfolio including a “State of the Network” update delivered by HPTN co-Principal Investigator Mike Cohen.

Plenary presentations can be found [here](#).

The next HPTN Annual Meeting will take place May 17-19, 2018 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.



Sten Vermund Wins Ward Cates Spirit Award

During the Wednesday plenary session, the 2017 Ward Cates Spirit Award was given to Sten Vermund, dean of the Yale School of Public Health, for his outstanding contributions to HPTN's mission through public health advocacy, leadership, and mentoring. The award honors the legacy of Willard (Ward) Cates Jr. who passed away last year. Ward was a dedicated steward of HPTN's scientific and research programs, a respected scientist who contributed to groundbreaking contraceptive and HIV prevention research, a prolific writer who authored or co-authored more than 450 scientific publications, and a committed mentor who helped several generations of young scientists produce and publish quality research.





Clinical Research Sites Honored at 2017 Network Awards

The 2017 HPTN Network Awards, recognizing top performers in study participant accrual and retention, laboratory performance, and community engagement, were announced at the HPTN Annual Meeting. The HPTN would like to congratulate all award winners for their achievements.

- **Best Accrual (Winner)** – Blantyre CRS in Blantyre, Malawi for HPTN 075
- **Best Accrual (Runners-up)** – Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy (UIPHP) CRS in Kiev, Ukraine and Health Center of Pho Yen, Thai Nguyen Province CRS in Hanoi, Vietnam for HPTN 074
- **Best Retention (Winner)** – Spilhaus CRS in Harare, Zimbabwe for HPTN 076
- **Best Retention (Runner-up)** – UCLA CARE Center CRS in Los Angeles, California
- **Best Laboratory Performance** – Vulindlela CRS in Durban, South Africa
- **Best Community Engagement** – ZAMBART CRS in Lusaka, Zambia and Desmond Tutu TB Centre CRS in Cape Town, South Africa for HPTN 071

Study Shout Outs

The [HPTN 083](#) team recently held a study training in Lima, Peru. Sites from Peru, Argentina and South Africa attended the training, which included protocol, laboratory, data collection, and community sessions. HPTN 083 is evaluating whether injectable cabotegravir can safely protect men who have sex with men and transgender women who have sex with men from acquiring HIV as well as daily oral tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) for pre-exposure prophylaxis.



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A research team at the University of California, Riverside has been approved for a \$250,000, two-year award through the Eugene Washington Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Engagement Awards program. The funds will support bringing together stakeholders in the Coachella Valley, Calif., around the topic of HIV and aging. **Brandon Brown**, an assistant professor in the Department of Social Medicine and Population Health in the School of Medicine and 2015-2016 HPTN Scholar, will lead the engagement project at UC Riverside.

Community Working Group (CWG) representative **Shipeng Chen** spoke at the HPTN Annual Meeting about a Substance Use Measurement Identification (SUMI) tool he is developing as a member of the HPTN Substance Use Committee (SUSC). His talk included an update on development and a system demonstration. The web-based SUMI tool will help researchers with the selection of substance use measures that have strong psychometric properties and are relevant to specific populations, geographies, and cultures. SUMI is scheduled to launch in July 2017.



Network Member Spotlight



Tonia Poteat, Ph.D., MPH, PA-C, is an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a 2015-2016 HPTN Scholar. She completed her Ph.D. in International Health at Johns Hopkins University. She holds an undergraduate degree in Biology from Yale University, a Master of Medical Science from Emory University, and a Master of Public Health from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Her research, teaching, and clinical practice focuses on HIV and LGBT health with particular attention on transgender health disparities. In addition to her academic work, Dr. Poteat provides medical care for people living with HIV in the Moore Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Her HPTN scholar project focused on sexual risk behavior among transgender women compared to cisgender women and MSM in HPTN 063.

How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

I got involved with the HPTN through the scholar program. In 2014, I had just joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and learned that both Larissa Jennings and Risha Irvin had been part of the scholar program. I had great conversations with each of them, and they encouraged me to apply. I

have enjoyed participating in Cohort 6 of HPTN Scholars.

[Read More](#)

Awareness Days



[HIV Vaccine Awareness Day](#)

May 18



[National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness](#)

Day

May 19

Hot off the Press

Smith LR, Strathdee SA, Metzger D, Latkin C. [Evaluating network-level predictors of behavior change among injection networks enrolled in the HPTN 037 randomized controlled trial](#). Drug and Alcohol Depend. 2017;175:164-70.

Eshleman SH, Wilson EA, Zhang XC, Ou SS, Piwowar-Manning E, Eron JJ, et al. [Virologic outcomes in early antiretroviral treatment: HPTN 052](#). HIV Clinical Trials. 2017:1-10.

Levy ME, Phillips G, 2nd, Magnus M, Kuo I, Beauchamp G, Emel L, et al. [A longitudinal analysis of treatment optimism and HIV acquisition and transmission risk behaviors among Black men who have sex with men in HPTN 061](#). AIDS and Behavior. 2017.

Sivay MV, Li M, Piwowar-Manning E, Zhang Y, Hudelson SE, Marzinke MA, et al. [Characterization of HIV seroconverters in a TDF/FTC PrEP study: HPTN 067/ADAPT](#). Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes. 2017.

Chen I, Zhang Y, Cummings V, Cloherty GA, Connor M, Beauchamp G, et al. [Analysis of HIV integrase resistance in Black men who have sex with men in the United States](#). AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses. 2017.



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