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June 2017 - Issue 33

SA AIDS 2017



The 8th Southern African AIDS Conference will be held from June 13-15, 2017 in Durban, South Africa. The Conference theme: **The Long Walk to Prevention: Every Voice Counts** provides a unique opportunity to ignite everyone's energy around the social and structural challenges of HIV prevention. Presenters will share the latest advances in basic science alongside an emphasis on how to be a part of lasting change to prevent new HIV infections. The HPTN 071 (PopART) team will present seven oral presentations and posters during this meeting.

Abstracts can be found [here](#)

NIH Call for Questions and Comments



Every seven years, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) competitively renews its funding of the HIV clinical research networks, including the HPTN, operating in the United States and internationally. NIH is taking a proactive approach to refining the research enterprise and driving HIV prevention and treatment discovery. Final funding decisions for the next grant cycle will be made in 2020. [Submit your thoughts, perspectives, and questions to NIH online.](#)

Study Shoutout



In a research article published in [PLOS Medicine](#), [HPTN 071 \(PopART\)](#) Protocol Chair Richard Hayes and colleagues estimate, after one year of the PopART intervention, the proportion of people in Zambia living with HIV who knew their infection status had increased from 52% to 78% in men and from 56% to 87% in women. Furthermore, the overall proportion of people in Zambia living with HIV receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART) had increased from 44% to 61%.

HPTN 071 (PopART) is a community-based, randomized study evaluating the impact of a combination HIV prevention package on HIV incidence. This study is the largest community-randomized trial – total estimated population 1 million – testing the universal HIV test and treat strategy and is being conducted across 21 high HIV burden, resource-limited urban settings in the Western Cape of South Africa and Zambia.

Network Member Spotlight



Richard Hayes, DSc, FMedSci, is a professor of Epidemiology and International Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London, England. He is a statistical epidemiologist who works on the epidemiology and control of HIV and related infections. Dr. Hayes has collaborated on HIV prevention trials in many parts of Africa and has a special interest in the design and analysis of cluster-randomized trials. He is principal investigator for the HPTN 071 (PopART) study, measuring the impact of universal HIV testing and treatment in Zambia and South Africa.

How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

Between 2010 and 2012, Sarah Fidler and I had been trying to get funding to evaluate universal testing and treatment (including immediate ART for all HIV-infected adults) in Africa. It may seem hard to believe now, but at that time this was a very controversial idea and it proved difficult to persuade UK-based funders to support this ambitious project. We had almost given up when Mike Cohen phoned me to say there was a new call for proposals in the U.S. for studies to evaluate combination prevention in Africa. We decided to put in an application with our colleagues and the rest is history!

[Read More](#)

Awareness Days



[HIV Long-Term Survivors Day](#)

June 5



[National Caribbean-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

June 8



[National HIV Testing Day](#)

June 27

Hot off the Press

Fogel JM, Piwowar-Manning E, Debevec B, Walsky T, Schlusser K, Laeyendecker O, Wilson EA, McCauley M, Gamble T, Tegha G, Biomed M, Soko D, Kumwenda J, Hosseinipour MC, Chen YQ, Cohen MS, Eshleman SH. [Impact of Early Antiretroviral Therapy on the Performance of HIV Rapid Tests and HIV Incidence](#)

[Assays](#). J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2017 Apr 26.

Shanaube K, Schaap A, Floyd S, Phiri M, Griffith S, Chaila J, Bock P, Hayes R, Fidler S, Ayles H; HPTN 071 (PopART) Study Team. [What Works-Reaching Universal HIV Testing: Lessons from HPTN 071 \(PopART\) Trial in Zambia](#). AIDS. 2017 May 3.

Palumbo PJ, Wilson EA, Piwowar-Manning E, McCauley M, Gamble T, Kumwenda N, MakhemaJ, Kumarasamy N, Chariyalertsak S, Hakim JG, Hosseinipour_MC, Melo_MG, Godbole_SV, PilottoJH, Grinsztejn B, Panchia R, Chen YQ, Cohen MS, Eshleman SH, Fogel JM. [Association of HIV Diversity and Virologic Outcomes in Early Antiretroviral Treatment: HPTN 052](#). PLoS One. 2017 May 8;12.



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