



# Prevention NOW!

April 2018 - Issue 40



The HPTN Annual Meeting is right around the corner. The week-long meeting will include a variety of speakers discussing important and informative HIV prevention research topics during protocol team meetings, Community Working Group events, and plenary sessions.

Meeting highlights include a Thursday (May 17) keynote presentation from Anthony S. Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), followed by a plenary session focused on addressing special populations while advancing the HPTN prevention agenda. Other plenary sessions feature presentations from the HPTN Laboratory Center, Statistical and Data Management Center, and HPTN Scholars. A poster session and reception will be held later that evening. On Friday (May 18) the plenary session will include presentations on sexually transmitted infections, engaging women and youth, and the opioid epidemic. Keynote speaker, Ambassador-at-Large Deborah L. Birx, MD, coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, will provide an update on the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The session will conclude with a special Network awards presentation.

The Annual Meeting will also feature meetings led by the HPTN Community Working Group, where emphasis will be on discussions regarding the HPTN scientific agenda, study specific meetings, community engagement updates, and capacity building. We look forward to seeing you May 15-19, 2018, in Washington, DC!

[View Meeting Details & Agendas](#)

## Call for Concepts



We are eager to continue growing our scientific agenda and therefore solicit submission of new concepts. This call for research concepts is broad and welcomed from either HPTN or non-HPTN affiliated investigators and can focus on any non-vaccine prevention method. The intent is to identify either new prevention interventions or combinations of interventions that could have a positive impact on prevention of HIV transmission or acquisition. These could be vanguard studies (e.g., preparatory studies that aim to identify feasibility of recruitment and retention of potential study populations, feasibility and acceptability of interventions or exploring HIV incidence rates in specific populations) or definitive Phase II or Phase III clinical trials.

Concepts must be limited to five pages and include the following information: brief background and rationale, target population, study design, key outcomes, study assessments, estimated sample size, and potential impact on the target population. Click [here](#) to access the submission template.

Concepts should be emailed to Kathy Hinson ([khinson@fhi360.org](mailto:khinson@fhi360.org)) by August 15, 2018. These concepts will be forwarded to the relevant HPTN Scientific Committees for review and prioritization. Following the Scientific Committee review process, the concepts will undergo the Network review by the HPTN Executive Committee as per HPTN's established process. This review is anticipated to take place during the Fall of 2018 and will include feedback to the concept authors.

Should you have any questions, please send your queries to Kathy Hinson at [khinson@fhi360.org](mailto:khinson@fhi360.org).

## HPTN South America Regional Meeting: In Review



The HPTN South America Regional Meeting was held March 26–28, 2018, at the Swissotel in Lima, Peru. The event attracted representatives from clinical trials units and clinical research sites participating in [HPTN 083](#) and [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#) (AMP) including principal investigators, investigators of record, study coordinators, study clinicians/nurses, laboratory representatives, pharmacists, and staff responsible for community engagement, cohort recruitment, and retention. Additional participants included HPTN leadership, invited speakers, and study sponsors. After the first day of the meeting, time and space were allotted for networking and collaboration. The third day featured an HPTN 083 South America sites meeting.

[Read more](#)

## Zambian Government Welcomes HPTN 071 (PopART) Adolescent HIV Prevention Study Findings



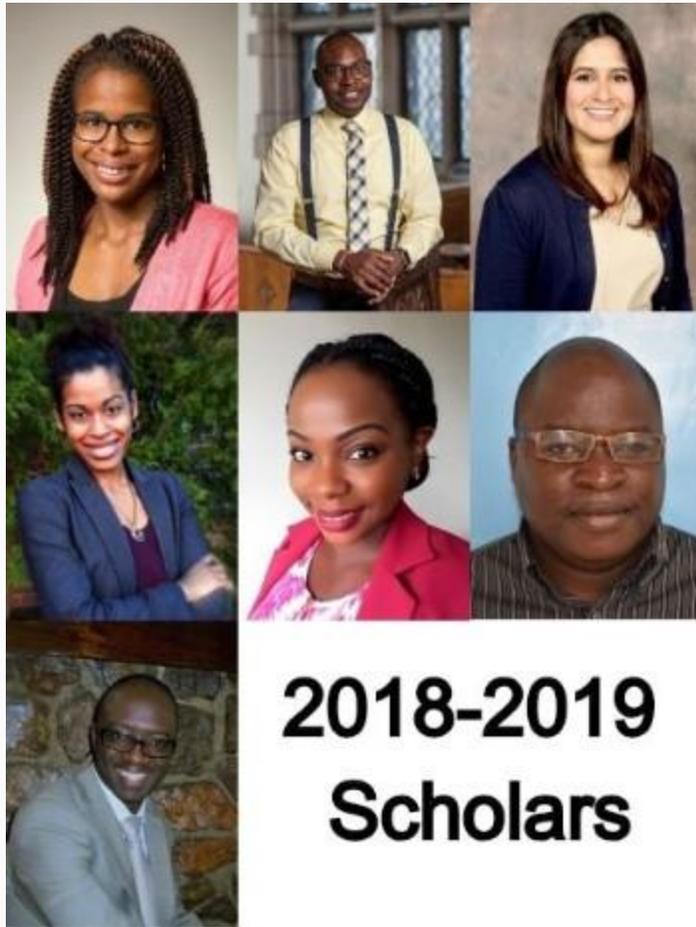
By Olga Manda

As the HIV epidemic continues to take its toll on Zambia, a recent HIV prevention study on young people has found most Zambian adolescents are HIV negative, but more needs to be done to keep them negative by increasing their access to treatment and prevention programs. This gives hope to researchers, policy makers and government representatives that the tide can be reversed against new HIV infections.

Researchers from the [HPTN 071](#) PopART for Youth (P-ART-Y) study in Lusaka recently announced study findings that demonstrate more youth-oriented treatment services are needed to strengthen retention of HIV positive adolescents and youth in care. The study researchers said adequate resource allocation is required for school-based comprehensive sexual education because schools are a primary source of HIV information for young people. Legal barriers hindering adolescents from receiving HIV testing services and other sexual and reproductive health services need to be addressed, in addition to creating more youth safe spaces within the communities.

[Read more](#)

Scholars Update



The HPTN Scholars Program is pleased to announce a new group of scholars. During the next 18 months, these scholars will conduct secondary analyses of HPTN study data, working alongside leading HIV prevention researchers affiliated with the Network. Their first engagement with the Network is the HPTN Annual Meeting in May, so please reach out to them and introduce yourself if you see them there!

[Read more](#)

[Study Shout-Outs](#)



The [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#) (AMP) South America sites recently convened for a meeting in Lima, Peru, in conjunction with the HPTN South America Regional Meeting. The AMP meeting included nearly 100 representatives from the six AMP sites in Peru and Brazil. Topics discussed included retention data and strategies, managing infusion reactions, and improving clinical data quality.



*Myron Cohen, M.D., HPTN co-principal investigator is joined by Jorge Sanchez, MD, MPH, lead investigator for the [HPTN 083](#) and HVTN 704/HPTN 085 protocols in Peru, and co-founder of the Asociación Civil Impacta Salud y Educación, and Nirupama Sista, PhD, MSc, HPTN director of the*

*Leadership and Operations Center (LOC), during a recent visit to the Barranco clinical research site in Lima, Peru.*

Members of the HPTN and HVTN Leadership and Operations Centers also conducted a tour of all five Peruvian AMP sites to observe study implementation in action. The AMP studies are evaluating the safety and efficacy of VRC01, a broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody in reducing acquisition of HIV infection among men and transgender persons who have sex with men in the U.S., Peru, Brazil, and Switzerland (HVTN 704/HPTN 085), and among women in sub-Saharan Africa ([HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#)). These are the first trials to assess whether antibodies can be used to prevent HIV infection, and are a global, cross-Network collaborative effort between the HPTN and the HVTN.



The [HPTN 083](#) study team conducted a one-day refresher protocol training in Lima, Peru immediately following the HPTN South America Regional Meeting. The teams from two sites in Argentina, four sites in Brazil, and five sites in Peru spent the day discussing key aspects of the study in preparation for activation. Two of the sites – one in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and one in Buenos Aires, Argentina – are already activated and shared their insights about study implementation so far. The five sites in Peru and an additional site in Brazil have activated since the training, and the remaining sites are expected to be activated soon. HPTN 083 is testing the safety and efficacy of injectable cabotegravir for HIV prevention in 4,500 men who have sex with men and transgender women who have sex with men in seven countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa.



Mark Barnes, JD, LLM, a member of the HPTN Ethics Working Group and [HPTN 071](#) protocol team, received the 2018 “Inspiring Yale” award for Yale Law School in New Haven, CT. Now in its fourth year, Inspiring Yale is a one-day event, sponsored by the Yale School of Graduate Studies, that showcases the appreciation and work of thought leaders from the 13 graduate and professional schools at the university. Mark is a partner in the health care practice at law firm Ropes & Gray and currently holds a faculty position at Yale Law School where he teaches health care law and finance, and public health law. He also teaches history of the regulation of the medical profession, medical malpractice, and medical privacy at the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, CT.

## Network Member Spotlight



Blia Yang is currently the project manager for the intervention component of [HPTN 071](#) in South Africa at the Desmond Tutu Tuberculosis (TB) Centre, Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa. HPTN 071 is a three-arm community randomized trial in 12 communities in Zambia and nine communities in South Africa, with an estimated total study population of about 1 million people. Blia moved to South Africa in 2009 and has been working on HIV prevention and TB studies for more than nine years.

### How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

I was working on a Zambia and South Africa TB and HIV reduction study when Professor Nulda Beyers, at that time, the director of the Desmond Tutu TB Centre, and currently one of the site principal investigators of HPTN 071, mentioned one of the trial countries would be South Africa

[Read more](#)

## Awareness Days



### HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

May 18

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### National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

May 19

## Hot Off The Press

Bock P, Fatti G, Ford N, Jennings K, Kruger J, Gunst C, Louis F, Grobelaar N, Shanaube K, Floyd S, Grimwood A, Hayes R, Ayles H, Fidler S, Beyers N; HPTN 071 (PopART) trial team. [Attrition when providing antiretroviral treatment at CD4 counts >500cells/ \$\mu\$ L at three government clinics included in the HPTN 071 \(PopART\) trial in South Africa.](#) PLoS One. 2018 Apr 19;13(4).

Bradley J, Floyd S, Piwo war-Manning E, Laeyendecker O, Young A, Bell-Mandla N, Bwalya J, Bock P, Fidler S, Ayles H, Hayes RJ; HPTN 071 (PopART) Study Team. [Sexually Transmitted Bedfellows: Exquisite Association between HIV and HSV2 in 21 Communities in Southern Africa in the HPTN 071 \(PopART\) Study.](#) J Infect Dis. 2018 Apr 6.

Rosenberg M, Pettifor A, Duta M, Demeyere N, Wagner RG, Selin A, MacPhail C, Laeyendecker O, Hughes JP, Stein A, Tollman S, Kahn K. [Executive function associated with sexual risk in young South African women: Findings from the HPTN 068 cohort.](#) PLoS One. 2018 Apr 2;13(4).

Sabapathy K, Mulubwa C, Mathema H, Mubekapi-Musadaidzwa C, Schaap A, Hoddinott G, Hargreaves J, Floyd S, Ayles H, Hayes R; HPTN 071 (PopART) Study Team. [Is home-based HIV testing universally acceptable? Findings from a case-control study nested within the HPTN 071 \(PopART\) trial.](#) Trop Med Int Health. 2018 Apr 2.



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