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The 2018 HPTN Annual Meeting took place May 15-19 at the Grand Hyatt Washington and the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. With a conference theme entitled “The Way Forward”, nearly 600 participants from 21 countries engaged in a variety of study-specific meetings, Community Working Group (CWG) sessions, and scientific plenaries. Speakers discussed innovative interventions and strategies that will bring us closer to controlling the global HIV epidemic.

The meeting began on Tuesday (May 15) with a series of CWG capacity building sessions and scientific seminars. The day ended with a best practices expo for community engagement, community advisory board involvement, recruitment and retention. On Wednesday (May 16), there were several study-specific meetings and an AMP study plenary on the role of community engagement. The second day ended with a retention workshop for efficacy trials (including [HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#), [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#), [HPTN 083](#),

[HPTN 084](#)).

The first plenary session took place on Thursday (May 17) and featured a keynote from Anthony S. Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases on the state of the institute and priorities in HIV/AIDS research. Following Dr. Fauci's talk, HPTN co-Principal Investigator Mike Cohen, MD delivered the HPTN State of the Network. Other speakers' presentations addressed reaching special populations as a part of advancing the HPTN prevention agenda. Thursday's plenary also featured presentations from the HPTN Laboratory Center, Statistical and Data Management Center and HPTN Scholars Program. Later in the evening, Network leadership hosted a poster session and welcome gathering.

On Friday (May 18) the second plenary session took place and featured speakers discussing several critical areas relevant to the HIV prevention research agenda including sexually transmitted infections, the opioid epidemic, contributions from social science and engaging women. To close the plenary, keynote speaker Ambassador-at-Large Deborah L. Birx, MD, coordinator of the U.S. President's Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), delivered a talk on the state of PEPFAR and the global HIV epidemic. The morning session concluded with the Network awards presentation ceremony.

The week-long event concluded on Saturday (May 19) with an HPTN Scientific Advisory Group meeting. The group met to discuss the scientific agenda and its various initiatives. Group members provided HPTN leadership with their insights regarding ongoing and potential future directions.

[View Presentations](#)

The next HPTN Annual Meeting will take place June 1-5, 2019 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC.



## Quarraisha Abdool Karim Receives Ward Cates Spirit Award

Quarraisha Abdool Karim, PhD, associate scientific director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and principal investigator of the CAPRISA Clinical Trials Unit in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, received the 2018 Ward Cates Spirit Award during the Thursday general plenary session. Dr. Abdool Karim was acknowledged for her outstanding contributions to HPTN's mission through public health advocacy, leadership and mentoring. The award honors the legacy of Willard (Ward) Cates Jr., MD, MPH. Dr. Cates was a dedicated steward of HPTN 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.

Dr. Abdool Karim holds professorships in clinical epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York and in public health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She is currently a member of the HPTN Leadership Group, Executive Committee, Performance Evaluation Committee and Manuscript Review Committee. Dr. Abdool Karim was HPTN co-principal investigator from 2006-2012.



## Network Performance Awards Winners Announced

The HPTN Network Performance Awards, recognizing top performers in study participant retention, laboratory performance, community engagement and staff excellence in leadership, were announced at the conclusion of Friday's general plenary session. The HPTN would like to congratulate all award winners for their achievements.

[Read more](#)

## Shout-Outs

### New Tool Helps Identify Metrics to Assess Substance Use in HIV Settings

Based on a meta-analysis reviewing substance use measures, a new web-based tool was developed for researchers to find the most reliable, valid and accurate tests for diagnostic purposes. The [Substance Use Measure Identification \(SUMI\) Tool](#) is the latest actualization of scientific research outcomes to be made available to the public. The SUMI is expected to improve the productivity of scientists

**Substance Use Measure Identification Tool**  
by HPTN Substance Use Scientific Committee [Home](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Help](#)

The Substance Use Scientific Committee (USSC) at HIV Prevention and Trials Network (HPTN) has developed a web-based, interactive Substance Use Measure Identification (SUMI) tool to assist researchers to identify the proper measures and survey behavioral tools to assess substance use in the setting of HIV. Based on the parameters entered by the user, the tool will list appropriate survey instruments relevant to particular substance use domains that the user plans to measure. This free, web-based tool will be available to researchers around the globe.

All Criteria Satisfied [View All Measures](#)

Please turn on the toggle of each parameter to enable your search, check the checkbox first before changing the sub-parameter if applicable.

[Expand All](#)

Targeted Populations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language(s) type	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recall Period	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women Exclusively	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study Location	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interview Administered by	<input type="checkbox"/>
Objective of Interview	<input type="checkbox"/>
Questionnaire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Region	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>

by producing credible and reliable instruments for substance use research.

Under the direction of the HPTN Substance Use Scientific Committee, developers designed the web-based interactive tool to assist health professionals and researchers in identifying the proper measures and survey instruments to assess substance use in HIV settings.

An estimated 62 million people worldwide exhibited a drug use disorder in 2016, while an estimated 100.4 million individuals had an alcohol use disorder. Substance use is associated with an elevated risk for HIV infection due to various behaviors. Direct pathways include the use of heroin and stimulant drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine, where HIV may be spread through needle sharing. Indirect pathways involve substance-related sexual risk behaviors, including less condom use, condom failure and high numbers of sexual partners.

## Network Member Spotlight



**María del Rosario (MaR) León, MS**, is head of the Community Involvement Unit at *Asociación Civil Impacta Salud y Educación (IMPACTA)* in Peru. MaR has supported several HIV prevention and treatment studies through the NIAID networks (HVTN, HPTN, ACTG, MTN) for more than 10 years. She is a community representative for [HPTN 083](#) and [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#) (AMP) and a member of the HPTN Performance Evaluation Committee. MaR received a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Lima and a master's degree in social investment from Universidad del Pacifico in Lima, Peru.

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

When I started working as a community educator at IMPACTA in 2005, Principal Investigator Jorge Sánchez mentioned one of the trials I would be involved with was [HPTN 039](#). I had the opportunity to develop communications and education materials, media training for the researchers and organize appreciation events for study participants.

[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

Kilburn K, Ranganathan M, Stoner MCD, Hughes JP, Macphail C, Agyei Y, Gomez-Olive FX, Kahn K, Pettifor A. [Transactional sex and incident HIV infection in a cohort of young women from rural South Africa enrolled in HPTN 068](#). AIDS. 2018 May 11.

Dyer TV, Khan MR, Regan R, Harawa NT, Nelson LE, Wilton L, Wang L, Peng L, San Ou S, Shoptaw S. [Differential Patterns of Risk and Vulnerability Suggest the Need for Novel Prevention Strategies for Black Bisexual Men in the HPTN 061 Study](#). J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2018 May 10.

Zhang Y, Fogel JM, Guo X, Clarke W, Breaud A, Cummings V, Hamilton EL, Ogendero A, Kayange N, Panchia R, Dominguez K, Chen YQ, Sandfort T, Eshleman SH. [Antiretroviral drug use and HIV drug resistance among men who have sex with men and transgender women in sub-Saharan Africa: HPTN 075 study](#). AIDS. 2018 May 1.



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