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**HPTN**  
HIV Prevention  
Trials Network

# Prevention NOW!

June 2018 - Issue 42

## HPTN at AIDS 2018



The 22nd [International AIDS Conference](#) (AIDS 2018) will take place July 23-27 at the RAI Amsterdam Convention Centre in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. More than 15,000 people are expected to attend the week-long event as it provides a unique forum at the intersection of science, advocacy and human rights. The theme of AIDS 2018 is “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”, drawing attention to the need for rights-based approaches to more effectively reach key populations, including those in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and North Africa/the Middle East, where the epidemic is growing.

HPTN researchers will present 31 abstracts covering [HPTN 052](#), [HPTN 068](#), [HPTN 071](#) and [HPTN 075](#). Network leadership will also host a satellite session titled “HIV Prevention for Women” where presenters will share insights from HPTN studies conducted in HIV infected and uninfected women to evaluate interventions that may prevent the spread of HIV. In addition, HPTN members will host a booth (#604) in

the Global Village, featuring information about the Network as well as ongoing and planned clinical trials.

AIDS 2018 webcasts, e-posters and links to abstracts will be available [online](#) after their initial presentation at the conference.

[See HPTN Abstracts](#)

## Preliminary Findings from HPTN 078 Indicate High Levels of HIV and Syphilis in MSM and TGW



The [HPTN 078](#) study aims to determine how to find and recruit HIV-positive and virally unsuppressed men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW). The study also aims to determine the effectiveness of a case-manager intervention using motivational interviewing to encourage antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence and viral suppression. The study team finished enrolling participants in December 2017 and is following them while the data collected during screening and enrollment are analyzed.

[Read more](#)

[Shout-Outs](#)

HPTN Co-Principal Investigator (PI) Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA, has been included in CNN's list of immigrants who have helped to contribute to the betterment of the U.S. Dr. El-Sadr was raised in Cairo, finished her medical degree at Cairo University in Egypt, and then received master's degrees in public health and government at Columbia University in New York and Harvard University in Boston. In addition to serving as HPTN Co-PI, Dr. El-Sadr is also the founder and director of Columbia University's International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP). She has served as an adviser to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is a current adviser to the World Health Organization. Read the CNN article [here](#).



*(L-R) Obie McNair, My Brother's Keeper; Kimberly Parker, PhD, Texas Woman's University; Craig Hutchinson, MPH, Black Gay Research Group and HPTN Black Caucus co-chair; Tori Cooper, Positive Impact Health Centers and DeMarc Hickson, PhD, Us Helping Us and HPTN Scholar.*

The HPTN Black Caucus, in partnership with the Black Gay Research Group, recently hosted a panel discussion at the Saving Ourselves Symposium in Birmingham, AL. The discussion focused on the social determinants of health and HIV epidemiology among Black MSM and cisgender and transgender women in the southern U.S. The Saving Ourselves Symposium is an annual conference discussing the latest research, best practices and HIV/AIDS behavior change approaches intended to improve the lives of black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community members.

## Network Member Spotlight



**Nomtha Bell-Mandla, MPH**, is a project manager and study coordinator at the Desmond Tutu TB Centre (DTTC) at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa. She manages the South African *Population Cohort* (the longitudinal cohort being followed to measure HIV incidence and other outcomes in the study communities) for [HPTN 071](#) (PopART), a community-based, randomized study evaluating the impact of a combination HIV prevention package on HIV incidence in 12 communities in Zambia and nine communities in South Africa. Nomtha is also a young researcher and a PhD candidate at the DTTC.

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

I was recruited by DTTC in 2012 to work on HPTN 071. Our team was creating systems to support implementation of this huge trial, and working closely with local government partners, implementing partners, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Zambart, and the HPTN. I will never forget the operational brainstorming sessions that resulted in actual systems that contributed to the effective implementation of HPTN 071! We went from designing the electronic data capture device we *thought* we needed, to testing how it performed, to rolling it out during fieldwork and then revising and using an improved version. At the same time, we were sensitizing health services and communities about universal testing and treatment, which initially was only offered through the study, but is now national policy. This whole process exposed me to how much research can challenge practice.

[Read more](#)

## Awareness Days



## World Hepatitis Day

July 28

### Hot Off The Press

Ranganathan M, Heise L, MacPhail C, Stöckl H, Silverwood RJ, Kahn K, Selin A, Xavier Gómez-Olivé F, Watts C, Pettifor A. ['It's because I like things... it's a status and he buys me airtime': exploring the role of transactional sex in young women's consumption patterns in rural South Africa \(secondary findings from HPTN 068\)](#). *Reprod Health*. 2018 May 29;15(1).

Stoner MC, Edwards JK, Miller WC, Aiello AE, Halpern CT, Julien A, Rucinski KB, Selin A, Twine R, Hughes JP, Wang J, Agyei Y, Gómez-Olivé FX, Wagner RG, Laeyendecker O, Macphail C, Kahn K, Pettifor A. [Does partner selection mediate the relationship between school attendance and HIV/HSV-2 among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa: An analysis of HPTN 068 data](#). *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2018 May 22.



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