



Prevention NOW!

June 2019 - Issue 49



The 2019 HPTN Annual Meeting took place 1-5 June at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. More than 650 attendees gathered to discuss our progress as well as consider future strategies to reduce the acquisition and transmission of HIV. The full agenda covered the latest developments in prevention research and novel approaches critical to furthering the HPTN research portfolio.

The HPTN Community Working Group (CWG) kicked-off this year's meeting on Saturday (1 June) with a series of talks covering best practices for community engagement, community advisory board involvement, study participant recruitment, and retention. The CWG program concluded on Sunday (2 June) with regional roundtable discussions and capacity building sessions on evaluating community engagement programs, transgender health, and working with media.

Monday's (3 June) general plenary session featured talks covering the sexually transmitted infections crisis, multipurpose prevention technologies, sexual health messaging, and the HPTN Scholars plenary. After a break, Dr. Maureen Goodenow discussed the NIH directions for HIV prevention research, followed by a presentation on user characteristics and preferences in HIV prevention agents. The session ended with presentations highlighting findings and lessons learned from [HPTN 071](#) (PopART). Later in the evening, attendees were treated to a poster session and welcome gathering.

The second general plenary session took place on Tuesday (4 June) and featured talks from Dr. Anthony Fauci on the NIAID priorities in HIV/AIDS research and Dr. Myron Cohen on the state of the HPTN. Other presenters discussed eliminating new HIV infections in the U.S., the promise of integrated care for HIV/AIDS and drug use, and sexualized drug use. The session ended with a laboratory plenary. Later in the afternoon, representatives from DAIDS shared lessons learned from recent audits.

Wednesday's plenary (5 June) featured talks covering HIV prevention visualization, mobile technologies in clinical trials, and ethical considerations in designing HIV prevention trials. The session ended with the Network awards presentation and a statistical plenary. During the afternoon, DAIDS representatives gave presentations on the revised common rule as well as policy updates on the informed consent process, age and identity verification, delegation of duties logs, and clinical quality management plans.

[View Presentations](#)



Dr. Hakim (second from left), is joined by (L-R) Drs. Carl Dieffenbach, Myron Cohen, and Wafaa El-Sadr

James Gita Hakim Receives 2019 Ward Cates Spirit Award

Dr. James Gita Hakim received the 2019 Ward Cates Spirit Award during the Tuesday general plenary session. He was acknowledged for his outstanding commitment and leadership to health as a right, scientific excellence, and generosity in mentorship and support. The award honors the legacy of Dr. Willard (Ward) Cates Jr., a dedicated steward of the HPTN scientific and research programs, and respected scientist who contributed to groundbreaking contraceptive and HIV prevention research. Dr. Hakim is a professor of medicine at University of Zimbabwe (UZ) College of Health Sciences, director of the UZ Clinical Research Centre, and co-principal investigator at the UZ College of Health Science Clinical Trial Center (UZCHS-CTRC) in Harare, Zimbabwe.



Dr. Kenneth Bridbord (left) is joined by Drs. Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Kevin De Cock

Kenneth Bridbord Receives 2019 Leadership Award

Dr. Kenneth Bridbord received the 2019 HPTN Leadership Award during a special presentation as part of the Tuesday general plenary session. A senior scientist emeritus at the NIH Fogarty International Center in Bethesda, Md., Dr. Bridbord was honored for his 31 years of distinguished leadership in global HIV research training and capacity building. He is widely recognized for his contributions to disease prevention and global health. Two highlights in his career epitomize his leadership and political courage: 1) promotion of the initial federal health-based regulation to remove lead from gasoline, and 2) enhancing the global and country-level responses to HIV/AIDS by training more than 2,000 scientists from 100 nations, and sponsoring workshops and courses benefiting more than 50,000 scientists globally.



HPTN Network Performance Awards

The HPTN Network Performance Awards, recognizing top performers in community engagement, laboratory performance, study participant enrollment and retention, and staff excellence in leadership, were announced at the recent HPTN Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. We would like to congratulate all award recipients for their achievements.

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The 10th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2019) will take place 21-24 July at the Centro Citibanamex in Mexico City. More than 6,000 scientists, clinicians, public health experts, and community leaders are expected to attend. The scientific program will focus on advances in HIV treatment and cure research, new research on HIV co-infections, the latest progress in biomedical HIV prevention, and insights on vulnerable populations. HPTN researchers will present 18 abstracts covering [HPTN 062](#), [HPTN 065](#), [HPTN 067](#), [HPTN 068](#), [HPTN 071](#), [HPTN 078](#), [HPTN 082](#), and AMP ([HVTN 703/HPTN 081](#) and [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#)).

On Monday, 22 July, HPTN researchers will participate in a symposia session focused on results and lessons learned from HPTN 071 (PopART). In a second Monday symposia session, Dr. Myron Cohen, HPTN co-principal investigator, and Dr. Nyaradzo Mgodhi will discuss new prevention products in the pipeline including long-acting injectables and broadly neutralizing antibodies. Also, Dr. Connie Celum will discuss HPTN 082 during a satellite session on prevention solutions for the next generation. On Tuesday, 23 July, Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr, HPTN co-principal investigator and Dr. Ken Mayer will co-chair an oral abstract session entitled, "Hot off the Press: What's New in HIV Prevention."

IAS 2019 webcasts, e-posters and links to abstracts will be available online after their initial presentation at the conference.

2019-2020 Scholars



The HPTN Scholars Program is pleased to announce the next group of talented scholars. During the next 18 months, they will conduct secondary analyses of HPTN study data, working alongside leading HIV prevention researchers affiliated with the Network.

[Meet the Scholars](#)

Shoutouts

[HPTN 083](#) has reached a significant milestone, enrolling more than 4,000 participants. The target enrollment is 4,500 participants. The study is evaluating the efficacy of the long-acting injectable agent, cabotegravir (CAB LA), for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in HIV-uninfected men and transgender women who have sex with men in the Americas, Asia and South Africa.



The [HPTN 084/LIFE](#) study has achieved another notable milestone – more than 1,600 participants enrolled, or 50% of the target enrollment of 3,200 participants. The study is evaluating long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB LA) compared to daily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in HIV-negative women in sub-Saharan Africa.

HPTN International Scholar Dr. Yamikani Mbilizi was selected as a Mark Wainberg Fellow, an initiative of the IAS Educational Fund. The program offers in-depth training for clinicians committed to careers in HIV clinical service delivery in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Mbilizi is a study coordinator at the Malawi College of Medicine-Johns Hopkins University Research Project in Blantyre, Malawi. She is currently working with Drs. Theo Sandfort and Sufia Dadabhai on [HPTN 075](#) qualitative data for her HPTN Scholars project.



Network Member Spotlight



Teopista Nakayanzi is a member of the [HPTN 084](#) Community Working Group and a community liaison with the Johns Hopkins University Research Collaboration at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. She was a co-principal investigator for the Academic Community Partnership NICHD/NIH supported grant that explored community-based participatory research methods in generating maternal and pediatric HIV disparities, research agenda, and dissemination strategies. Ms. Nakayanzi holds a bachelor's degree in education and a post-graduate diploma in organizational psychology.

How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

My first involvement with HPTN was with [HPTN 046](#) and [HPTN 027](#), obtaining views from the community advisory board (CAB) and discussing the language used in the informed consents. Together with the CAB, we held community dialogues in preparation for the first infant HIV vaccine research study in Africa, which was conducted in Uganda.

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Hot Off The Press

Landovitz RJ, Zangeneh SZ, Chau G, Grinsztejn B, Eron JJ, Dawood H, Magnus M, Liu AY, Panchia R, Hosseini MC, Kofron R, Margolis DA, Rinehart A, Adeyeye A, Burns D, McCauley M, Cohen MS, Currier JS. [Cabotegravir is Not Associated with Weight Gain in HIV-uninfected Individuals in HPTN 077](#). Clin Infect Dis. 2019 May 24.

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