A Look Back at 2019

The work accomplished by our Network during 2019 would not be possible without the support of and cooperation from research teams, study participants, funders, community partners, and other key stakeholders.

A Learning Journey:
Perspective from an HPTN Scholar
The HPTN Scholars Program increases opportunities for scientists from groups underrepresented in HIV prevention research. Since forming in 2010, Scholars have generated more than 32 primary-authored publications, and recently two Scholars were named first-time protocol co-chairs for two HPTN studies in development. HPTN Scholars Program applications will be open in mid-March. New Scholars will begin their tenure on December 1. Please check the website for more details.

By Wilfred T. Gurupira

I thought by the time my response to the HPTN Scholars Program application came, I would be ready. I was not. An e-mail came on a Friday afternoon with an attachment, three days after my birthday. While I was hoping it was good news – I was still in the birthday buzz – I was apprehensive, as my application had been unsuccessful before. The title of the email indicated it was a response to my Scholars Program application. However, the body of the email did not tell me what the decision was. I had to open the attached letter to find out. I was nervous as I clicked to open it. It took a while to open it for some reason, most likely due to my shaky fingers. When it finally opened, I began to read, only the word ‘congratulations’ stood out. I was finally an HPTN Scholar!
New to the HPTN? Need a refresher on where to find HPTN-branded templates? Or where to change your password on the HPTN website? We’ve got you. See below for some helpful links:

- HPTN Letterhead, Poster Templates, Slide Decks, and Logos
- HPTN Website Account Creation or Password Change
- Submitting a Concept and/or Ancillary Study Application
- Manual of Operations
- Research Tools
- Shoutouts
Congratulations to the HPTN 083-01 and HPTN 084-01 study teams for reaching protocol V1.0. Both are sub-studies of HPTN 083 and HPTN 084, investigating safety, tolerability, and acceptability of the long-acting cabotegravir (CAB LA) injection in adolescent men who have sex with men in the U.S. (HPTN 083-01) and adolescent women in sub-Saharan Africa (HPTN 084-01). Screening and enrollment are expected to begin in February 2020 for HPTN 083-01 and May 2020 for HPTN 084-01.

Dr. Carlos del Rio, HPTN site principal investigator and executive associate dean for Emory University School of Medicine at Grady Health System in Atlanta, has been elected as the next foreign secretary of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). As foreign secretary, Dr. del Rio will serve as a senior adviser on international matters to the NAM president and governing council, and as liaison to global academies of medicine and science.

Dr. Jonatan Gioia and Mia Ryan were featured in the OutSmart Magazine article entitled, "A New Generation of Queer Activists." Dr. Gioia is an HPTN 083 study team member and research associate at the Houston HIV/AIDS Research Team at the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHealth) in Houston. Mia Ryan is an HPTN 083 Community Working Group member and HPTN 091 community protocol representative. Mia is also a lay health promoter and outreach worker for UTHealth in Houston. OutSmart is Houston's award-winning LGBTQ magazine.
We thank Luciana Kamel for her 14 years supporting several HPTN studies including HPTN 052, HPTN 083 and HVTN 704/HPTN 085 (AMP). Since 2005, Luciana has been involved with community education, building community skills, and empowering those deemed at risk for acquiring HIV at the Rio de Janeiro’s Laboratory of Clinical Research (LaPClin)/Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz). Through her efforts, LGBTQI+ community awareness concerning HIV biomedical prevention strategies has increased. Luciana recently joined the HVTN as a community engagement project manager, where she will continue supporting the AMP study and other HIV prevention initiatives.

Network Member Spotlight

Travis Love, a member of the HVTN 704/HPTN 085 (AMP) and HPTN 083 community working groups and HPTN Community Working Group Evaluation Committee, is a community educator for the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Clinical Research Center in Newark, NJ. His position provides him the opportunity to communicate across disciplines, advocate for cultural competence within clinical spaces, and encourage community participation and feedback concerning clinical trials. By shifting the narrative, Travis has been able to foster meaningful relationships to celebrate those with devalued identities while promoting HIV prevention research studies. He was recently honored for his community engagement efforts at the 2019 Newark PROUD Awards.

How did you first get involved with the HPTN?

I first got involved with HPTN through the AMP study, recruiting and retaining clients and promoting the research site to stakeholders and community members in the greater city of Newark.


Phillips G 2nd, Feinstein BA, Levy M, Kuo I, Glick SN, Fields SD, Dyer TV, Felt D, Magnus M. Changes in Sexual and Gender Identity and Their Associations with Internalized Homophobia Among Black Men Who Have Sex with Men in
the HPTN 061 BROTHERS Cohort. Arch Sex Behav. 2020 Jan 2.


What would you like to see from our newsletters? Please e-mail us with your thoughts and ideas at news@hptn.org.
Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.