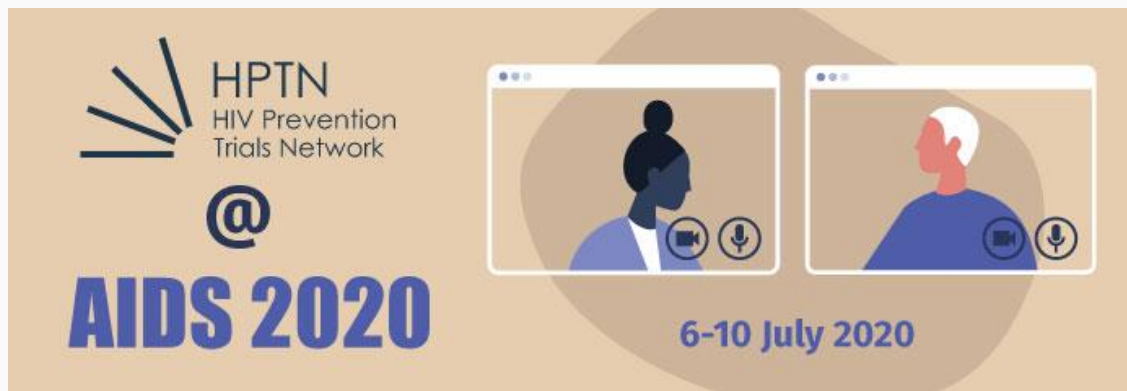




Prevention NOW!

June 2020 - Issue 58



The 23rd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2020) will take place virtually from 6-10 July. The conference will feature a combination of satellite sessions, community networking events, exhibitions, workshops and a Global Village.

HPTN researchers will present 17 abstracts covering [HPTN 068](#), [HPTN 069](#), [HPTN 071](#), [HPTN 074](#), [HPTN 078](#), [HPTN 083](#), [HPTN 084](#), and the [Modelling Centre](#). The HPTN [Scholars Program](#) will host a satellite session entitled “The Next Generation of Emerging Leaders of Color in the HIV Prevention Landscape,” featuring three presentations from current and past scholars with a Q&A session to follow. A second satellite session, entitled “Spotlight on Zambia PopART (HPTN 071-2) Phylogenetics Study,” includes presentations from four researchers discussing different study results aspects.

HPTN members will host two virtual booths: one in the exhibition space and the other in the Global Village. Each will feature information about the Network, our community engagement efforts, and current studies and those in development. The Global Village booth will also include frequently asked questions about our two long-acting injectable cabotegravir for PrEP studies (HPTN 083 and HPTN 084).

AIDS 2020 webcasts, e-posters and links to abstracts will be available online after their initial presentation at this link: <https://www.hptn.org/presentedresearch/AIDS2020>

Statement on the HPTN Community Working Group and Fighting Pandemics

AS WE BEGAN A NEW DECADE JUST SIX MONTHS AGO, no one could have imagined the upheaval the world is facing today. The coronavirus is a formidable public health threat that has interrupted day-to-day life throughout the world, curtailed progress in clinical trials and the pace of our work in the HPTN. Fear of contagion and questioning our every movement, weighing risks and benefits of every interaction and every destination in an effort to protect ourselves and each other from an unseen, dangerous virus has derailed our way of life in most places.

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New PrEP Injection a Testament to HIV Prevention Research and Community Partnerships



HIV prevention research continues to play a critical role in generating knowledge on how South Africa should respond to public health crises. These efforts contribute to developing needed solutions that help in achieving healthy nations. In a Health-e News editorial, Ntando Yola, co-chair of the HPTN Community Working Group and community liaison and education officer with the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation

(DTHF) in Cape Town, South Africa, discusses the impact of community partnerships and the recent advances in HIV prevention research, including long-acting injectable cabotegravir for PrEP ([HPTN 083](#)).

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Mourning Amanda Marfree



Amanda Marfree, a respected leader and outspoken advocate for transgender women in São Paulo, Brazil, sadly passed away due to complications from COVID-19. She conducted HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease prevention work and provided social assistance for transgender people released from prison. Amanda was also a socio-educational counselor at the Centro de Referência e Defesa da Cidadania in downtown São Paulo, where she provided social assistance to LGBTQI people. We regret her untimely passing and hope to continue her transformative work to make the world a better and safer place for transgender people.

Shoutouts

Dr. Salim Abdool Karim, director of CAPRISA, and Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, 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, recently received the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award. The Gairdner Foundation, established in 1957, recognizes and rewards international excellence in fundamental research that impacts human health. Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim is a member of the HPTN Leadership Group, Executive Committee, Performance Evaluation Committee and Manuscript Review Committee. She was an HPTN co-principal investigator from 2006-2012. Dr. Salim Abdool



Karim was the [HPTN 035](#) protocol chair.



Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim was also recently awarded the 2020 Christophe Mérieux Prize. She was recognized for her research, policy and programmatic contributions to understanding the evolving HIV epidemic, emphasizing factors influencing HIV acquisition in African adolescent girls and young women.

Network Member Spotlight

Cissy Ssuuna, an HPTN Community Working Group member and [HPTN 084](#) protocol representative, is a community educator at the Baylor Uganda Clinical Research Site in Kampala, Uganda. Working in HIV/AIDS prevention for almost 20 years, she has vast experience overseeing community engagement programs, outreach, training on sexual health, adolescent and youth health, and liaising with research investigators and program managers to link them with targeted communities. Cissy has a degree in social work and social administration, and a diploma in counseling and guidance and nursing.



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Hot Off The Press

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What would you like to see from our newsletters? Please e-mail us with your thoughts and ideas at news@hptn.org.

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