



Prevention NOW!

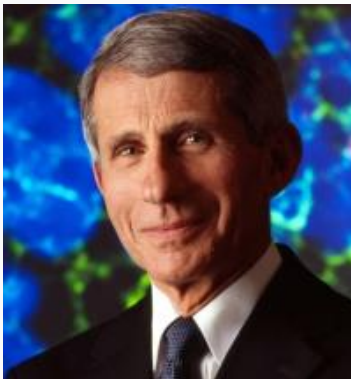
October 1, 2020 - Issue 61

A graphic for the 2020 HPTN Update Webinar. On the left, a laptop displays a dashboard with charts and icons representing people, a calendar, and a lightbulb. On the right, the text "2020 HPTN Update Webinar" is written in large white letters, followed by "6 October" in green. Below this, the times "7 a.m. PDT", "10 a.m. EDT", and "4 p.m. SAST" are listed with vertical dots between them.

2020 HPTN Update Webinar

6 October

7 a.m. PDT : 10 a.m. EDT : 4 p.m. SAST



In place of the HPTN Annual Meeting, we will hold an update webinar. Join us to learn about the state of the Network, critical study updates, and next steps for 2020 and beyond. Keynote speaker, **Dr. Anthony S. Fauci**, will discuss COVID-19 public health and scientific challenges. Translation services will be provided.

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The Role of Proof of Concept Studies in HIV Prevention Research



The clinical research process involves a progression of studies that build upon one another. These studies are designed to answer specific research questions. For pharmaceutical product development studies, this includes evaluating dose-response, safety, efficacy and acceptability. Proof-of-concept clinical trials, also known as test-of-concept studies, play an essential role in the product discovery and development process.

Proof-of-concept (or PoC) studies are typically early-stage clinical trials conducted to understand whether an investigational product elicits a pathophysiologic signal, that is, does it produce the expected response in individuals. These studies usually include a placebo arm (i.e., an inert treatment or substance that has no known effects) to determine whether the investigational product has a real physiological effect. The effect's magnitude is evaluated to determine a product's potential for further studies, including dose-escalation and efficacy trials. Put simply, the ultimate research question to answer in a proof-of-concept study is whether the concept or idea is worth pursuing further.

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Network Member Spotlight

Mia Ryan Porter, a member of the [HPTN 083](#) and [HPTN 091](#) community working groups, is a lay health promoter and outreach worker at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). She is the founder and executive director of [Sister to Sister](#), a support group for trans-binary and non-binary individuals and allies. Mia is also a member of [Transgender Ally Collective \(TAC\)](#), a group of grassroots nonprofits working to provide safe spaces and create more awareness regarding the state of crisis many binary transgender women find themselves in.



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Hot Off The Press

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Broder GB, Lucas JP, Davis J, Wallace SE, Luthuli N, Baepanye K, White RR, Bolton M, Blanchette C, Andrasik MP. [Standardized metrics can reveal region-specific opportunities in community engagement to aid recruitment in HIV prevention trials](#). PLoS One. 2020 Sep 17;15(9):e0239276.

Abrams JA, Odlum M, Tillett E, Haley D, Justman J, Hodder S, Vo L, O'Leary A, Frew PM; HIV Prevention Trials Network 064 (HTPN) Study Team. [Strategies for increasing impact, engagement, and accessibility in HIV prevention programs: suggestions from women in urban high HIV burden counties in the Eastern United States \(HPTN 064\)](#). BMC Public Health. 2020 Sep 3;20(1):1340.



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