HPTN Awarded U.S. National Institutes of Health Funding to Continue Research Agenda

Drs. Myron S. Cohen and Wafaa M. El-Sadr, principal investigators of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), in collaboration with FHI 360, have received a seven-year award from the U.S. National Institutes of Health as part of the next funding cycle (2020-2027) for the Network. The core and protocol-specific funding will enable the HPTN to continue its HIV prevention research efforts focused on developing new biomedical prevention methods and optimizing the integration of proven biomedical, behavioral and structural interventions.

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HPTN 084 Study Demonstrates Injectable Cabotegravir Superiority
HPTN researchers announced on Monday, 9 November, HPTN 084 clinical trial data demonstrated that a regimen of long-acting cabotegravir injections was safe and superior to daily oral tenofovir/emtricitabine for HIV prevention among cisgender women in sub-Saharan Africa. During a planned review of study data, an independent data and safety monitoring board recommended the study sponsor stop the blinded phase of the trial and share results.

HPTN Leadership Update

The HPTN Executive Committee has expanded to include Drs. Sinead Delany-Moretiwe, Sybil Hosek, Raphy Landovitz, and Darrell Wheeler. Also, Dr. Nyaradzo Mgodi will assume an international HPTN leadership role. New committee leadership includes Dr. Nittaya Phanuphak Pungpapong, who will serve as the Sexual and Gender Minority Committee co-chair. Dr. Linda-Gail Bekker, will co-chair the Adolescent Committee. Drs. Steve Shoptaw and Nyaradzo Mgodi’s terms as investigator representatives ended 30 November. The solicitation for two new investigator representatives will take place in 2021.
The HPTN website login has been removed and private study documents (i.e., call summaries, SSP manuals) have been taken off the website and moved to Microsoft Teams. If you need access to these documents, email Laura Long (lsmith@fhi360.org) or Jeffrey Webb (jwebb@fhi360.org).

Dr. Deborah Donnell, the principal investigator of the HPTN’s Statistical and Data Management Center, was recently named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Donnell was acknowledged for her contributions to science in a field where she plays a pivotal role in analyzing clinical trial results of drugs that can prevent HIV infection.
Dr. Ariane van der Straten, chair of the HPTN Behavioral Research Working Group, is director of the San Francisco-based Women's Global Health Imperative program at RTI International. She is also an RTI senior fellow and professor at the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. Dr. van der Straten has more than 25 years of experience conducting socio-behavioral and biomedical research for sexual health and HIV prevention in women, including preclinical and Phase I to Phase III trials evaluating short and long-acting HIV prevention approaches (topical, oral, injectable, or implantable), and multipurpose prevention technologies for HIV and pregnancy prevention.

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