

## HPTN at IAS 2021



The 11th [International AIDS Society \(IAS\) Conference on HIV Science](#) took place virtually July 18-21. German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivered the opening address. Other keynote speakers included Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director, U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization. During the four-day conference, HPTN researchers presented seven abstracts showcasing [HPTN 061](#), [HPTN 068](#), [HPTN 082](#), [HPTN 083-02](#), [HPTN 084](#), and [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#) (AMP).

[View Presentations](#)

## Community Insights on Barriers and Lessons Learned (So Far) From Two HPTN Studies Targeting Young People



In July 2020, HPTN researchers launched the first HPTN study to enroll U.S. adolescents under the age of 18 exclusively. [HPTN 083-01](#) evaluates the safety, tolerability, and acceptability of a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) regimen containing long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB LA) for adolescents assigned male at birth. The U.S.-based study is the first collaboration between the HPTN and the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions, part of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. A companion study, [HPTN 084-01](#), launched in November 2020. Also known as “LIFT,” this study examines whether injectable cabotegravir for PrEP is safe, tolerable, and acceptable for adolescents assigned female at birth under 18 years of age. LIFT is enrolling study participants at sites in South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Why focus HIV prevention research efforts on adolescents? According to UNAIDS, more than half of those newly infected with HIV are between 15 and 24. This population often

lacks critical information on protecting themselves from acquiring or transmitting HIV. Many young people are also at high or increased risk due to their social or economic situations.

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## Shoutouts

Dr. Theo Sandfort edited the recently published book “Male Same-sex Sexuality and HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa.” The book addresses the impact of HIV on populations of men who have sex with men in Africa and local responses to the issue. It documents the enduring existence of a wide variety of same-sex practices between men. More critically, it analyses how the denial and social rejection of same-sex sexuality, together with the legacy of criminalization by former colonial rulers, has not only fueled the transmission of HIV between men, but has also impeded an adequate response. Dr. Sandfort is a professor of clinical sociomedical sciences (in psychiatry) at Columbia University and a research scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute in New York. He was the protocol chair for [HPTN 075](#), a feasibility study that assessed recruitment and retention of cisgender men and transgender women who have sex with men in a multi-country prospective cohort study in preparation for HIV prevention studies in sub-Saharan Africa.





Daniel Gondwe, Brian Minalga, Russell Campbell, Erica Hamilton, and Jonathan Lucas contributed a chapter in the book entitled "Conducting HIV Research with Sexual and Gender Minorities in Sub-Saharan Africa: Experiences from Malawi," based on experiences in the HPTN 075 study. Daniel Gondwe is an assistant community engagement coordinator with the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences - Johns Hopkins Research Project in Blantyre, Malawi. He currently serves as a member of the [HPTN 084](#) Community Working Group. Brian Minalga is a project manager for the [Legacy Project](#), a program of the [Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination \(HANC\)](#) based at Fred Hutch in Seattle. Brian facilitates the Women's HIV Research Collaborative, manages the Be the Generation Project and represents HANC on the Division of AIDS Cross-Network Transgender Working Group. Russell Campbell is the deputy director of HANC and manages [Community Partners](#) (CP). Erica Hamilton is an HPTN clinical research manager at FHI 360, based in Durham, North Carolina, and managed HPTN 075. She currently manages both adolescent safety, tolerability, and acceptability studies using long-acting cabotegravir for prevention ([HPTN 083-01](#) and [HPTN 084-01](#)). Jonathan Lucas is director of Community Programs at FHI 360. Jonathan and his Community Programs colleagues support community participation and engagement efforts throughout all HPTN scientific research efforts.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has included Mexican-born Dr. Carlos del Rio as part of its “2021 Great Immigrants.” This recognition emphasizes service to society, helping others as medical providers and researchers, as advocates for the disadvantaged, disabled, and disenfranchised, and as changemakers in politics, voting rights, climate change, and teaching. Dr. del Rio is a distinguished professor of medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, and an HPTN site principal investigator, supporting several studies, including [HPTN 061](#), [HPTN 078](#), and [HPTN 083](#).



## Network Member Spotlight



Dr. Jeremy Sugarman, chair of the HPTN Ethics Working Group, is the Harvey M. Meyerhoff Professor of Bioethics and Medicine at the Berman Institute of Bioethics at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He is an internationally recognized leader in bioethics with expertise in applying empirical methods and evidence-based standards for evaluating and analyzing bioethical issues. His contributions to bioethics and policy include his work on the ethics of informed consent, umbilical cord blood banking, stem cell research, international HIV prevention research, global health, and research oversight.

### What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy working with the whole range of stakeholders in HIV prevention research since there are always opportunities to learn from them and gain new perspectives. I often think about how lucky I am to be part of different teams made up of intelligent, creative, and dedicated people.

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## Awareness Days



**August 29**

## Hot Off The Press

Chagomerana MB, Hosseinipour MC, Pilotto JH, Badal-Faesen S, Nyirenda M, Shava E, Godbole SV, Akelo V, Chariyalertsak S, Panchia R, Cohen M. [Sexually transmitted infections among HIV serodiscordant partners: A secondary analysis of HIV Prevention Trial Network 052](#). Int J STD AIDS. 2021 Jul 7.

Montgomery ET, Browne EN, Atujuna M, Boeri M, Mansfield C, Sindelo S, Hartmann M, Ndwayana S, Bekker LG, Minnis AM. [Long-Acting Injection and Implant Preferences and Trade-Offs for HIV Prevention Among South African Male Youth](#). J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2021 Jul 1.

Sivay MV, Palumbo PJ, Zhang Y, Cummings V, Guo X, Hamilton EL, McKinstry L, Ogendo A, Kayange N, Panchia R, Dominguez K, Chen YQ, Sandfort TGM, Eshleman SH. [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) Drug Resistance, Phylogenetic Analysis, and Superinfection Among Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender Women in Sub-Saharan Africa: HIV Prevention Trials Network \(HPTN\) 075 Study](#). Clin Infect Dis. 2021 Jul 1.



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