The Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) takes place virtually from February 12-16, with symposia February 22-24. The entire program will be accessible live and via on-demand playback to all registered attendees through the conference platform. HPTN researchers will present abstracts covering HPTN 069, HPTN 071, HPTN 082, HPTN 083, HPTN 084, HVTN 130/HPTN 089, HVTN 405/HPTN 1901, HPTN Modelling Centre, and CoVPN 5002. Presentations will be available online after their initial presentation at hptn.org/presentedresearch.

HPTN Studies Inform FDA’s Approval of CAB-LA Injections for HIV Prevention
In late December 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved long-acting cabotegravir, or CAB-LA, injections for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of HIV acquisition among adults and adolescents weighing at least 35 kg. The approval was based primarily on efficacy data from HPTN 083 and HPTN 084. Additional safety and acceptability data are being collected through open-label study extensions and two adolescent sub-studies, HPTN 083-01 and HPTN 084-01. Marketed by ViiV Healthcare under the brand name Apretude, CAB-LA offers adults and adolescents a new PrEP option for HIV prevention.

View Press Release

The HPTN has partnered with Learning Pool, an e-learning solutions provider, to streamline clinical research education and network member training within a single online platform. Expected to launch in Q1 2022, the new learning management system, HELP (HPTN Education Learning Portal), will offer study-specific training for study team
members and network training for HPTN investigators and others. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Shoutouts

Dr. Sten H. Vermund, chair of the HPTN Scientific Review Committee and HPTN Executive Committee member has been elected vice president/president-elect of the Connecticut Academy of Science & Engineering (CASE). He will serve as CASE vice president beginning July 1, 2022, and as president starting July 1, 2024. Dr. Vermund is the dean and Anna M.R. Lauder Professor of Public Health; professor of epidemiology (microbial diseases); and professor of pediatrics at the Yale School of Public Health in New Haven, Conn. He served as HPTN principal investigator from 2006-2012.

The HPTN Ethics Working Group (EWG) recently updated the HPTN Ethics Guidance for Research, which now includes an appendix (“Interim Guidance Memorandum on HIV Prevention Research Disrupted Due to COVID-19: Points to Consider Under Extenuating Circumstances”). The EWG first
developed the guidance document in 2003.

Network Member Spotlight

Dr. Manya Magnus, District of Columbia clinical trial unit leader, has been site principal investor for HPTN 083 among other HPTN studies, since 2008. She is a professor and interim chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Magnus is also the co-director of the school’s MPH Epidemiology Program and co-director of the Clinical and Population Sciences Core of the NIH-funded District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research (DC CFAR). Dr. Magnus received her B.A. in social psychology from the University of California, San Diego, and her M.P.H. and Ph.D. in epidemiology from Tulane University in New Orleans. She also earned a nursing degree (L.V.N.) from the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif.

What would you say most motivates you to do what you do?

I continue to hope for a day when we can prevent HIV acquisition. I play a small role in the HPTN but teaching others to do this work and continuing to do it better each day motivates me since I believe that we can achieve this goal together.


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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