



HPTN

HIV Prevention
Trials Network

HPTN Scholars Program

History

Sten Vermund, MD, PhD

HPTN SSA Regional Meeting

Johannesburg, South Africa

Friday, 20 October 2017

The HPTN Scholars Program seeks to provide scholar recipients with the knowledge, skills, and connections to further their careers as independent investigators in the HIV prevention research field.

Program Basics since 2010

- The program period is 18 months
- The primary deliverable is a paper submitted for publication (the Scholar is usually the lead author)
- The Scholar works with a senior scientist in the HPTN network, who serves as a Mentor
- Funding from NIAID, with topic-specific funding from NIDA and NIMH

2 HPTN Scholar programs:

- US program - applicants must have received their terminal degree (MD, PhD, etc.)
- International program - current MD, PhD, and MBChB students may apply, along with individuals having already graduated with their terminal degree

Scholars should:

- Plan to complete their scholarship project within the program cycle
- Present the findings of their project at the HPTN Annual Meeting and submit a manuscript at the end of the scholarship cycle
- Budget for funding to cover a portion of their time (typically ~ 10-30%) and expenses including travel and research materials/supplies.

Domestic Program Goal

To develop the next generation of HIV prevention scientists from underrepresented racial/ethnic communities in the United States

Domestic Program History (1)

- The Scholars' program was established in 2010 with 6 Scholars in the 2010–2011 year.
- Year 2 of the Scholars' program welcomed back 5 of the previous 6 scholars for a second year.
- Year 3 of the Scholars' program brought in 7 new scholars, 3 of whom continued into year 4.
- Year 4 added 4 new scholars for a total of 7, all of whom finished a 6-month extension (vs. an extra full year).

Domestic Program History (2)

- Cohort 5 was the first 18-month cohort and included 4 new Scholars.
- Cohort 6 was comprised of 5 Scholars whose tenure ran until 30 November 2016.
- Cohort 7 Domestic accepted 6 Scholars and will run through 30 Nov 2017.
- Cohort 8 Domestic accepted 5 Scholars and runs from 1 April 2017 – 30 Sept 2018.

International Program Goal

To develop the next generation of internationally-based HIV prevention scientists in order to build research capacity at HPTN sites globally

International Program History

- The international component of the program was rolled out in late 2015.
- Cohort 1 International began 1 Dec 2015 and will continue until 30 April 2017 (2 Scholars).
- Cohort 2 International accepted 3 Scholars and began the same timeline as the Domestic Program (will end 30 Nov 2017).
- The current international cohort, Cohort 3 International, accepted 1 Scholar (1 April 2017 – 30 Sept 2018).

Previous Scholars

- **43 Scholars since 2010**
 - **Studies: 037, 039, 043, 058, 061, 063, 064, 065, 067, 068**
 - **43 Mentors have graciously provided their expertise and time**
 - **Just added 052 and 073**
- **HPTN involvement**
 - **Protocol Team Members (HPTN 073, 078)**
 - **Black Caucus**
 - **Scientific Committees**

Other Achievements

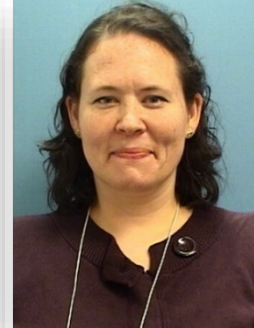
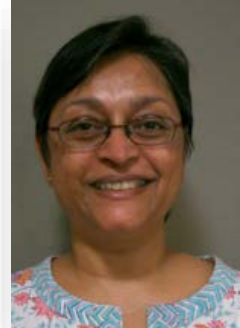
- Five K01 awards
- PI on R03
- PI on U01
- 2 R01s
- PIs on three R21s
- Guest at White House meetings
- Invited speakers/experts at NIH meetings
- Faculty position progression

Presentations & Publications

- **Oral and poster presentations related to Scholars product (IAS, APHA, etc.): 12+**
- **HPTN Scholar Publications**
 - **Published (first author): 18**
 - **In press: 2**
 - **Under journal review: 6**
 - **In preparation: 20**
 - **HPTN Publications (co-author): 7**

- Leadership

- Sten Vermund – Yale Univ. SPH, Connecticut, USA
- Darrell Wheeler – University at Albany (SUNY), Albany, NY, USA
- David Serwadda – Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
- Quarraisha Abdool-Karim – CAPRISA, Durban, South Africa
- Erica Hamilton – FHI 360, Durham, NC, USA
- Gabriela Salinas-Jimenez – FHI 360, Durham, NC, USA





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How to apply

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Use the HPTN website

- Main/landing page
 - General information
- Domestic and International pages
 - <https://hptn.org/research/scholars/international>
 - Application materials available
- Publications and Posters page
 - Check for overlap with what has already been done

Confirm eligibility

- From of a disadvantaged community and/or disadvantaged background
 - Examples: communities severely affected by HIV/AIDS, other pervasive public health problems, and/or poverty and hunger
- Be a current PhD, MD, or MChB/MBBS/etc. student, OR within 10 years of graduation with such a terminal degree
- Have experience and/or substantial potential in conducting research
- Support of host institution
- Communicate effectively in English (via speech, reading, and writing)
- Plan to continue working in the country in which h/she is located
- Not previously served as a PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award (e.g., R01 grant).
- Encouraged to apply: those of minority sexual orientation, minority gender identity, or from high-risk populations

Build a proposal **ONLY** on approved studies

- These are the available studies for this application cycle: HPTN 037, HPTN 039, HPTN 043, HPTN 052, HPTN 058, HPTN 063, HPTN 061, HPTN 064, HPTN 065, HPTN 068, or HPTN 073
 - 052 and 073 are new additions this cycle!
- Proposals based on studies not on this list will **not** be considered

Connect with a Mentor early

Many ways to accomplish this:

- Reach out to colleagues to see if anyone knows an HPTN investigator affiliated with your study of choice
- Look at the “Meet the Scholars” webpage (<https://hptn.org/research/scholars/scholars>) for previous Mentors
- Review the roster on your protocol of interest and reach out to an affiliated investigator independently
- Email Erica Hamilton (ehamilton@fhi360.org) and ask to be linked with a Mentor or co-Mentor who might fit your needs

Follow instructions

- Follow ALL instructions in the application
 - Pay particular attention to the naming of files
 - Make sure your letters of recommendation are sent directly to the Program Manager (Erica Hamilton)

Adhere to the due dates

- 5pm ET, 29 January 2018: Initial proposal drafts due
 - Proposal gets vetted with study leadership
- 5pm ET, 12 February 2018: Full applications due
 - Revised proposal (as necessary) + all other documents due

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