



**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

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- **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

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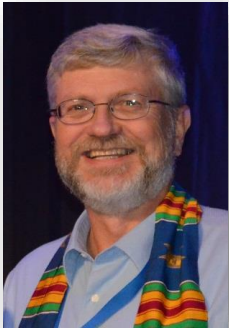
- Five K01 awards
- PI on R03
- PI on U01
- 2 R01s
- PIs on three R21s
- Guest at White House meetings
- Invited speakers/experts at NIH meetings
- Faculty position progression

# Presentations & Publications

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- **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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# HPTN International Scholars Program

**How to apply**

**Sten Vermund, MD, PhD**

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# Use the HPTN website

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- 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 (to be updated soon)



# Confirm eligibility

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- Be a current PhD, MD, or MBCChB/MBBS/etc. student, OR within 10 years of graduation with such a terminal degree
- OR have obtained a BDS or Mpharm
- OR hold a Masters, with special consideration from Study PI/Mentor
- 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

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- 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 067, 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

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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](mailto:ehamilton@fhi360.org)) and ask to be linked with a Mentor or co-Mentor who might fit your needs

# Follow instructions

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- 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

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- 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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The HIV Prevention Trials Network is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (UM1AI068619, UM1AI068613, UM1AI1068617), with co-funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, all components of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

