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.
Rationale

• Increase pipeline of HIV prevention researchers from:
  – Underrepresented groups in the US
  – International groups from low and middle income countries (LMICs)
Two HPTN Scholar programs:

• US program - applicants must have received their terminal degree (MD, PhD, etc.)

• International program – both current MD, PhD, and MBChB students may apply, as well as individuals having already graduated with their terminal degree
Program Basics since 2010

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

• 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.
New Cohort 9 Domestic Scholars

- Cohort 9 Domestic will accept 4 new Scholars for a term from 1 May 2018 through 31 Oct 2019
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).
New Cohort 4 International Scholars

- Cohort 4 International will accept 3 new Scholars for a term from 1 May 2018 through 31 Oct 2019
Achievements

• 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, 073, and 075 (qual)

• 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): 23
  – In press: 2
  – Under journal review: 4
  – In preparation: 18

• 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
HPTN International Scholars Program

How to apply

Niru Sista
HPTN South America Regional Meeting
Lima, Peru
Friday, 27 March 2018
Use the HPTN website

• Main/landing page
  – General information
• Domestic and International pages
  – https://hptn.org/research/scholars
  – Application materials available
• Publications and Posters page
  – Check for overlap with what has already been done (to be updated soon)
Confirm eligibility

- Be a current PhD, MD, or MBChB/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
Approved 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, 073, and 075 (qual) are new additions this cycle!

Proposals based on studies not on this list will not be considered
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

• Program materials are usually posted in October of each year
• Due dates are in January or February of the following year

START APPLICATION PROCESS EARLY
Scholar Selection Criteria

- Evaluated by a team assembled by the Scholarship Leadership
- Potential for the candidate to contribute to the scientific objectives of the HPTN prevention agenda
- Quality of the project proposed by the scholar
- Appropriate personal and professional background
- Commitment of the candidate, host HPTN investigator and mentor, and home supervisor
- Appropriate budget package (following the guidelines and adequately supports the proposed scoped of work)
Cohort 2 International  
(1 June 2016 – 30 Nov 2017)

• **Nomhle Khoza**
  – WRHI, Johannesburg, South Africa
  – Mentors: Sinead Delany-Moretlwe, University of Witwatersrand, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital & Catherine MacPhail, University of Wollongong, NSW Australia
  – *HPTN 068: The social consequences of female-directed cash transfers: A qualitative study*
    - **UNDER REVIEW with PLOS ONE**

• **Emily Makunike-Shava**
  – Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership, Gaborone, Botswana
  – Mentors: Yuhua Ruan, National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Beijing, China & Yiming Shao, National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Beijing, China
  – *HPTN 058: Describing sexual risk behaviour amongst injection drug users and its association with drug taking risk: Secondary data analysis of the HPTN 058 study*
    - **JAIDS (in press)**
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