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 Mission

• US Domestic Program, established 2010
  • To develop the next generation of HIV prevention scientists from underrepresented racial/ethnic communities in the United States

• International Program, established 2015
  • To develop the next generation of internationally-based HIV prevention scientists to build research capacity at HPTN sites globally
During the 18-month program, HPTN Scholars will…
• Work with a senior scientist/researcher in the HPTN, who serves as a mentor/co-mentor
• Acquire new knowledge, skills and connections
• Complete a research project and submit a manuscript for publication
• Become knowledgeable of the process of doing research in NIH-funded HIV networks
• Participate in a series of activities including monthly conference calls to discuss ongoing research projects, new funding sources for career development, and skills-building and networking opportunities for wider collaboration as well as additional training activities.
Scholar Responsibilities

• Develop a research project that makes use of data from a completed or ongoing HPTN study
• Collaborate with applicable study team/Network partners (Statistical and Data Management Center [SDMC]) to support project completion
• Develop at least one first-authored manuscript to be submitted for peer-review
• Present research project findings at an HPTN Annual Meeting and at least one scientific conference
Mentor Responsibilities

• Support the Scholar in:
  • Providing appropriate experiences, guidance, exposure, advice, introductions, encouragement, support, and learning opportunities
  • Identifying the highest priority areas in which the Scholars’ individual knowledge, skills, and connections can be improved

• Support manuscript development
Eligibility Criteria

• Experience and/or substantial potential in conducting research with populations most affected/impacted
• Demonstrated plans to work with and be mentored by an investigator actively involved in HPTN research
• Have the support of their host academic or work institutions that would allow them the time to participate in the mentored research program
Eligibility Requirements

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

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

Applicants must not have previously competed successfully as Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) for a substantial NIH independent research award (e.g., R01 grant).
Program History (At-A-Glance)

- International Program established in 2015
  - 18 Scholars to date

- US Domestic Program established in 2010
  - 57 Scholars to date

- 70+ Scholars since 2010 (some were in multiple cohorts)
  - 67% women; 33% men
  - 20 datasets: HPTN 037-HPTN 082
  - 50+ mentors

- Achievements
  - K01, K23 awards, PI on R03, PIs on R01, R21s, R34s, CFAR supplments, invited speakers/experts at NIH meetings, faculty position progression, 35+ first-authored HPTN manuscripts, oral and poster presentations related to Scholars projects (IAS, APHA, etc.)
  - Published- first authored: 43 (more in development)
How To Apply

• Visit the main HPTN Scholars Program webpage
  • General information, Solicitation Announcement, HPTN studies available
  • Application Materials and Due Dates
  • https://www.hptn.org/research/scholars

• Preview the Publications and Posters page to check for overlap with what has already been done (updated on an ongoing basis)
  • https://www.hptn.org/research/publications
Identifying a Mentor

• Start as early as possible

• How to go about identifying a possible mentor:
  • 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
Applications Materials

- Scholars Program Application
- Project Proposal
- PHS 398/Detailed Budget Package
- Letters of Recommendations/Support
- GCP/HSP certifications
- Institution Financial Audit
- Mentorship Agreement
• 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/institution supervisor
• Appropriate and complete budget package
For more information, inquiries concerning this funding opportunity are welcomed and may be directed to the following:

• Scholars Program Management Team: Scholarspm@hptn.org

• Scholars Program Leadership:
  • International Program Leadership
    • David Serwadda, MD, MPH, dserwada@infocom.co.ug
    • Quarraisha Abdool-Karim, PhD, quarraisha.abdoolkarim@caprisa.org

• Domestic Program Leadership
  • Darrell Wheeler, PhD, MPH, MSW, wheelerd@newpaltz.edu
  • Sten H. Vermund, MD, PhD, sten.vermund@yale.edu
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• The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.