

HPTN Scholars Program

HPTN Regional Meeting
Cape Town, South Africa
September 2023



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

Program Activities

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 MBCChB/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 supplements, 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

Review Criteria and Selection Process

- 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

Acknowledgments

- Overall support for the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) is provided by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Office of the Director (OD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) under Award Numbers UM1AI068619-15 (HPTN Leadership and Operations Center), UM1AI068617-15 (HPTN Statistical and Data Management Center), and UM1AI068613-15 (HPTN Laboratory Center).
- The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.