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## 22 SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### 22.1 Program Description

In 2010, the HPTN and the NIH initiated a US-based scholars program for early career investigators to nurture the professional development of clinical and behavioral scientists and to provide opportunities for future leadership roles within the HIV prevention research field. An international component of the program was introduced in 2015.

Eligibility criteria for both programs can be found on the [HPTN Scholars Program webpage](#).

Scholars work with a scientist mentor in the Network to complete a research project utilizing data from an existing HPTN research study. The list of studies approved for Scholar use is updated each year and is based on protocol teams' progress of primary analysis and publications (generally after at least the primary objectives have been published), available mentors affiliated with the HPTN and/or HPTN sites, and HPTN Leadership approval. Each Scholar is funded for an 18-month term and the solicitation for new Scholars is undertaken annually.

The HPTN Scholars Program is overseen by senior investigators in the HPTN as appointed by the HPTN Executive Committee and is coordinated by the HPTN Leadership and Operations Center (LOC) liaison.

### 22.2 Tenants of the Scholars Program:

- Scholars will develop a research project using data from a completed or ongoing HPTN HIV prevention study and complete their project within the 18-month program cycle.
- Scholars are expected to attend an orientation to the program, usually coinciding with the HPTN Annual Meeting.
- Scholars are expected to attend and present the results of their research project at an HPTN Annual Meeting during the scholarship period, and at one national or international conference, if possible.
- Scholars are expected to participate in a series of group activities designed for further career development, including monthly conference calls to discuss ongoing research projects, new funding sources for career development, and opportunities for wider collaboration as well as additional training and skills building activities.
- Scholars will submit at least one first-authored manuscript at the end of the scholarship cycle.
- Scholars will be invited to join an HPTN Science Committee or Working Group as an observer, ideally for the duration of the program tenure. This affords each Scholar an opportunity to contribute and learn from the discussions as they build their capacity as an independent investigator and become further acquainted with the processes of the Network.
- Scholars are provided funding to cover a portion of their time (typically ~ 10-30%) and expenses, including travel and research materials/supplies.
- Expectations and guidelines are further detailed in the HPTN Scholars Program and Mentorship Manuals.

### 22.3 Scholar Publication Guidelines

All publications developed by the Scholar (manuscripts, conference abstracts, posters, and oral presentations) that include data from an HPTN study must be reviewed and approved by the Scholar's mentor(s) and any listed co-authors, prior to submission to the HPTN LOC Scholars Program liaison to initiate the required HPTN reviews.

Once submitted, the publication will undergo review by the respective HPTN study publications team (or designated reviewers, if the study team publication team is no longer intact) in which the data is based, Scholars Program Leadership and the HPTN Manuscript Review Committee (MRC) prior to being submitted for publication or presentation.

The Scholar, with the support of their mentor(s) is responsible for monitoring the timelines set forth in the HPTN Scholars Program Manual and for reporting updates and/or delays in deliverables, in a timely fashion, to the HPTN LOC Scholars Program liaison and Scholars Program Leadership.

### 22.4 Authorship Guidelines for Scholars

The Scholar, in consultation with their mentor(s), is responsible for identifying a writing team to support and contribute to development of their publication. All members of the writing team must review and approve a publication before it can be submitted to the HPTN LOC Scholars Program liaison for review by the respective study team, Scholars Program Leadership, and the MRC.

The following guidelines should be used to determine publication authorship and review requirements for Scholar publications:

For HPTN studies in which the **primary paper was published within three years prior** to the Scholar submitting their first authored publication to the Manuscript Review Committee (MRC):

- The first author should be the Scholar, who is leading interpretation of the analysis and is writing the publication.
- The scholar's mentor(s) should be given consideration for inclusion as a co-author.
- In consultation with the scholar's mentor(s), additional study team members should be consulted and given the option of being included as a co-author:
  - A representative from the Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC; this includes the statistical research associate (SRA) assigned to support the scholar), the Laboratory Center (LC), HPTN LOC and/or qualitative team who supported creation and analysis of qualitative data within the original study
  - The Protocol Chair/Co-Chair for the HPTN study in which the project is based
  - If feasible, a member of each site team, designated by site PI(s), should be approached to determine whether they would like to be included as co-authors.

For HPTN studies in which the **primary paper was published three or more years prior** to the Scholar submitting their first authored publication to the MRC:

- The first author should be the Scholar, who is leading interpretation of the analysis and is writing the publication.
- The scholar's mentor(s) should be given consideration for inclusion as a co-author.
- In consultation with the scholar's mentor(s), additional study team members should be given the option of being included as a co-author, including:
  - The Protocol Chair/Co-Chair for the HPTN study in which the project is based

- A representative from the Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC; this includes the statistical research associate (SRA) assigned to support the scholar), the Laboratory Center (LC), HPTN LOC and/or qualitative team who supported creation and analysis of qualitative data within the original study

All Scholar publications must include a statement acknowledging the HPTN and NIH support for the work. The most current acknowledgement language that should be included in all Scholar publications is available on the [HPTN website](#).

The guidelines above are to be applied to any publication (abstract, poster, presentation, or manuscript) resulting from the Scholar's use of HPTN data.

Additional details are provided in the HPTN Scholars Program and Mentorship Manuals. The HPTN Publications Policy, Section 21 of the HPTN MOP, should also be referenced.