

## A World AIDS Day Message from HPTN

On this World AIDS Day, we reflect on the magnitude of the HIV epidemic, the progress made to confront it and the HPTN's efforts in advancing HIV prevention research. With approximately two million new infections worldwide each year, the development and evaluation of new interventions to prevent HIV is imperative. The HPTN research agenda remains focused on optimizing and developing new agents for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and integrating the use of various interventions to prevent HIV infection.

During the last year, HPTN 067 demonstrated that at risk men in Bangkok and Harlem, and young women in South Africa, adhered well to a daily PrEP regimen. Final results from HPTN 052 were presented confirming the value of ART for prevention. These studies have informed the new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. Additionally, our Network research demonstrated financial incentives did not show an effect on linkage to care or viral suppression in the U.S. (HPTN 065), and cash transfers conditional on schooling did not prevent HIV acquisition in young women in South Africa (HPTN 068). The latter findings motivate further research to identify the role of financial incentives for HIV prevention.

At present, the HPTN is conducting HPTN 071 (PopART), a landmark effort to determine the impact of a combination prevention package on HIV incidence at a community level. The study utilizes an integrated prevention strategy that includes home-based testing and counseling, immediate ART for all HIV positive individuals with linkage and adherence support and condom distribution with referrals for medical circumcision for HIV negative men. Focusing on people who inject drugs (PWID), a population often forgotten, HPTN is conducting HPTN 074, a vanguard study comparing an integrated intervention, including ART for prevention with other harm reduction support, to standard of care for PWID with the goal of garnering information that can inform a larger effectiveness study in the future. We have also launched an important vanguard study in sub-Saharan Africa (HPTN 075) aimed at determining the feasibility of recruitment and retention of men who have sex with men (MSM) in Kenya, Malawi and South Africa, a population that is at substantial risk for HIV and remains highly stigmatized.

In the coming year, we will gain new information on the optimization of emtricitabine and tenofovir (FTC/TDF) for PrEP among Black MSM (HPTN 073), as well as regarding new drugs for PrEP including maraviroc (HPTN 069), long acting rilpivirine, an investigational injectable non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (HPTN 076), and cabotegravir, an investigational injectable HIV integrase inhibitor (HPTN 077). We are



## Upcoming Events

### [National HIV Prevention Conference](#)

Dec. 6-9, 2015  
Atlanta, Ga.

### [CROI](#)

Feb. 22-25, 2016  
Boston, Mass.

## Study Updates

### HPTN 074

HPTN 074 has randomized 293 of 501 index participants. This study aims to determine the feasibility of a future trial that will assess whether an integrated intervention combining psychosocial counseling and supported referrals for antiretroviral therapy (ART) at

excited about launching four new studies focusing on different populations and utilizing different interventions. Two studies are evaluating the efficacy of new agents for PrEP on HIV incidence, one aimed at the evaluation of injectable cabotegravir compared to daily oral FTC/TDF for PrEP in HIV-uninfected men and transgender women who have sex with men (HPTN 083) and the second studying the safety and efficacy of VRC01, a broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody in reducing acquisition of HIV-1 infection (HVTN 703/HPTN 081). The other two studies are vanguard in nature and are aimed at answering important questions regarding use of ART for prevention among MSM with unsuppressed viral load in the US (HPTN 078) and the other aimed at gaining insights on uptake and adherence with FTC/TDF PrEP among young women in southern Africa.

As we forge ahead to discover and develop new and innovative research strategies to reduce the acquisition and transmission of HIV, we remain absolutely committed to the remarkable partnership with so many, most importantly with our communities, that have enabled the success of this Network over the decades. “The Time to Act is Now” is aptly stated in the theme for this year’s World AIDS Day.

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH  
Myron Cohen, MD  
HPTN Principal Investigators

any CD4 cell count and substance use treatment for HIV-infected people who inject drugs (PWID) will reduce HIV transmission to HIV-uninfected injection partners, as compared to routine care dictated by national guidelines for HIV-infected PWID. [Read more.](#)

### HPTN 075

HPTN 075 has enrolled 102 of 400 participants and recently activated a site in Kisumu, Kenya. This study aims to determine the feasibility of recruiting and retaining MSM in a multi-country prospective cohort study in preparation for HIV prevention studies in sub-Saharan Africa. [Read more.](#)

## NETWORK UPDATE



### Cape Town Plays Host to HPTN Regional Meeting

The inaugural HPTN regional meeting was held on October 23-24 in Cape Town, South Africa. Attendees included investigators, community educators, community advisory board members, and leadership and representatives from HPTN, HVTN and NIAID. Moderated by HPTN’s International Lead Investigator David Serwadda, attendees were provided an overview of the HPTN scientific agenda from Drs. Myron Cohen and Wafaa El-Sadr, Principal Investigators, HPTN. Network leadership will review recommendations for advancing the Network’s

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Williams JK, Wilton L, Magnus M, Wang L, Wang J, Dyer TP, Koblin BA, Hucks-Ortiz C, Fields SD, Shoptaw S, Stephenson R, O’Cleirigh C, Cummings V, and HIV Prevention Trials Network 061 Study Team. 2015. [Relation of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Intimate Partner Violence, and Depression to Risk Factors for HIV Among Black Men Who Have Sex With Men in 6 US Cities.](#) American Journal of Public Health 105:2473-2481.

## AWARENESS DAYS

scientific agenda that were discussed at the meeting. [Read more.](#)



## HPTN is Now Accepting Applications for the Domestic and International Scholars Program

The HPTN is proud to offer two scholarship programs for early-career investigators funded through a supplement from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The HPTN Scholars Program now includes two components: a domestic (U.S.) program and an international program. Both programs seek to increase opportunities for scientists from groups under-represented in HIV prevention research. In the domestic program, successful applicants will be investigators who have received their terminal degree (MD, PhD, etc). For the international version, current MD, PhD, and MBChB students may apply, along with individuals who have already graduated with their terminal degree. In both programs, applicants should desire to work with a mentor scientist in the Network to complete a research project based upon an existing HPTN research study. Links to application materials may be found on the [HPTN Scholars Program webpage](#).

## SPOTLIGHT ON NETWORK MEMBERS

### Wafaa El-Sadr Awarded Inaugural Professorship



HPTN Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr has been named the Dr. Mathilde Krim-amfAR Chair of Global Health at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. [Read more.](#)

### Conversations With the HPTN - Ntando Yola

Ntando Yola serves as the Co-chair of the HPTN Community Working Group. He is also a community liaison and education officer with the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation (DTHF) in Cape Town, South Africa. He works closely with



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national and international HIV prevention networks and various community stakeholders, developing and implementing community education programs, forming partnerships with health service providers and other community-based organizations. [Read more.](#)



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