



**HPTN**  
HIV Prevention  
Trials Network

# HPTN081/HVTN703/AMP Study Lessons Learnt



**Ernest MOSEKI – BA, PGD Bioethics**

# Study Design and Duration

- **A phase 2b double blind Placebo controlled study to evaluate the efficacy of VRC01 broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody in reducing acquisition of HIV-1 infection**

# Study Rationale

- Passive administration of VRC01 antibody will **reduce acquisition of HIV infection** in high risk populations;
- Doses selected will determine the **activity of the antibody** across a range of serum concentration in diverse populations across multiple geographic regions of the world;
- Level of VRC01 antibody required for protection will **vary by type of sexual exposure**;
- Concentration of antibody in serum will be directly associated with the rate of protection; that is, **higher levels of antibody will give greater rates of protection than lower levels**; and
- Breakthrough isolates will have greater resistance to neutralization and will exhibit molecular signatures associated with **escape from neutralization**.

# Study Objectives

## PRIMARY

- Safety & Tolerability of VRC01 infusion
    - Reactogenicity, AEs, SAEs, discontinuation rates
  - Efficacy to prevent HIV infection
    - HIV infection by week 80 in those HIV-negative at enrollment
- 

## SECONDARY

- Develop a marker(s) of VRC01 that correlates with the level and antigenic specificity of efficacy
  - Serum VRC01 concentration
  - Serum mAb effector functions
  - Breakthrough HIV viral sequences in infected people
  - VRC01 neutralization sensitivity of, & effector functions against, HIV strains from infected trial participants

# Study Population and Size

Cohort	Antibody (VRC 01) 10mg/kg	Antibody (VRC 01) 30mg/kg	Placebo	Total Population
<b>Americas*:</b> <b>United States, Peru &amp; Brazil</b>  MSM & TG people (Clade B)	800	800	800	2,400*
<b>Southern Africa:</b> <b>Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe</b>  Heterosexual women (Clades A, C, D, & CRFs)	500	500	500	1,500
<b>Total*</b>	1,300	1,300	1,300	3,900*

# Clinical Research Sites

- Gabarone, Botswana
- Kisumu, Kenya
- Blantyre, Malawi
- Lilongwe, Malawi
- Maputo, Mozambique
- Harare (3 clinics), Zimbabwe
- Mbeya, Tanzania
- Cape Town, RSA
- Durban (4 clinics), RSA
- Johannesburg, RSA
- Soweto, RSA
- Vulindlela, RSA
- Rustenberg
- Klerksdorp
- Pretoria
- Tembisa

# Gaborone CRS

- Started screening -21 July 2016
- First Enrolment-16 Aug 2016
- Screened to date - 141 (March 30, 2017)
- Enrolled to date - 52 (March 30, 2017)
- Average screenings per week-3.6
- Average enrolments per week-1.5

# Recruitment

- First contact?
  - utilized existing established relationships with clinics
  - contacted participants from previous studies
  - visited tertiary institutions
  - collaborations with HTC organizations



# Challenges and Solutions

- ❑ Some participants willing to join study but partners/parents not too sure
  - ✓ we are open to participant bringing in significant others
  - ✓ more information dispels myths about research

# Challenges and Solutions

## □ Contraception

- women not on hormonal contraception
  - fear of side effects
- ✓ we partnered with an organization which provides FP services

# Challenges and Solutions

- ❑ Women come as group
  - If one decides not to enroll, ALL go
  - ✓ To about individual

# Retention Strategies

- All our participants still on study
  - Bringing significant others
  - Bringing babies
  - Wifi
  - Snack
  - Television??
  - Small talk about how study going
  - CAB members interaction with study participants

# Community Engagement

- ❑ Continuous CE with various stakeholders
- ❑ Use of recruitment material
- ❑ Piggy back on national/local events
- ❑ Maintenance of established referral system with HTC organizations and advocacy groups
  - Periodic updates including successes and challenges
  - Effort recognition of individual organization

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The HIV Prevention Trials Network is sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, all components of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Stakeholders – MoH, Clinics

Community Members

HTC and other service organizations

Community and Religious leaders