

BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

FROM THE EDITOR

Sitting down to write this portion of the newsletter always puts me in a reflective mood, so I couldn't help but look back on past editions. In Issue 3 of the 2022 Edition, for the 3rd issue of this very newsletter Brian Minalga wrote about Monkeypox (Mpox) and their experience receiving the vaccine. It's strange to think that this was already two years ago, I'm sure many of you will agree with me that it seems like just yesterday. With mpox resurging in cases and being highlighted again in the media, I thought it was appropriate to retouch on what Brian spoke about two years ago. This newsletter does primarily focus on HIV and ending the HIV epidemic, but we will never end the HIV epidemic by ignoring how each of these pathogens, diseases, and forms of human suffering are interconnected. Both HIV and mpox disproportionately impact the same underrepresented communities and people who, at no fault of their own, were born without access to many of the medical facilities that I myself often take for granted. Two years ago, Brian wrote to you about their experience receiving an mpox vaccination here in the U.S and yet two years later many people living in Central and West Africa still do not have access to that same life saving preventive measure. As our colleagues in HVTN the HIV Vaccine Trials Network work to create an HIV vaccine, I can't help but think about what steps we can be taking now to ensure that we don't see this problem with vaccine availability repeat itself.


I think I will quote Brian's send off from 2022 here, as it has stood the test of time. "Yes, this newsletter is focused on the HIV epidemic in the U.S. But we will certainly fail to end the HIV epidemic if we continue to neglect the interconnectedness of our shared global health. Let us start by acknowledging that, here and now. Read on for updates in HIV prevention research—and remember that my struggle is yours, and yours is mine."


Cat Banobi & Gabriella Olague,
on behalf of the Legacy Project

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NETWORK NEWS

HIV PREVENTION TRIALS NETWORK (HPTN)



HPTN HIV Prevention
Trials Network



The 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024) took place July 22–26 in Munich and virtually. HPTN researchers presented key data during a satellite symposium ([HPTN 084](#)), oral presentation ([HPTN 083](#)), and 11 posters covering [HPTN 071](#), [HPTN 082](#), [HPTN 083](#), [HPTN 084-01](#), [HVTN 136/HPTN 092](#), [HPTN 094](#), [HPTN 096](#), and [HVTN 140/HPTN 101](#).



On Tuesday, July 23, Dr. Raphael Landovitz, incoming HPTN principal investigator and [HPTN 083](#) protocol chair, presented an analysis from HPTN 083. In an open-label extension of HPTN 083, a study among cisgender men and transgender women (TGW) who have sex with men, the clinical utility of RNA viral load testing during follow-up (as part of HIV testing algorithms) was examined in participants on long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB-LA). The analysis showed that a single, isolated positive HIV viral load test result, while uncommon, was frequently a false positive result. Repeat HIV viral load testing on a new blood sample can clarify whether the initial positive result indicates actual HIV infection.



On Thursday, July 25, Dr. Sinead Delany-Moretlwe, incoming HPTN principal investigator and [HPTN 084](#) protocol chair, and Dr. Mark Marzinke, HPTN Laboratory Center co-principal investigator presented new safety and pharmacokinetic (PK) findings for long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB-LA) when used before and during pregnancy. The findings show that CAB-LA used as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was generally well tolerated and generally safe for both pregnant cisgender women and their babies. In addition, PK findings suggest that no dose changes are needed when using CAB-LA during pregnancy. To date, none of the women who became pregnant and continued to receive CAB-LA acquired HIV during pregnancy.



(L-R) Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr, HPTN principal investigator, and Dr. Larry Corey, HVTN principal investigator. In addition to the presented data, the HPTN collaborated with the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) to host a 'networking zone' in the Global Village, where speakers discussed research priorities and prevention successes.

Presentations and posters will be added to the HPTN website when available.

The host city for AIDS 2026 will be announced later this year.

NETWORK NEWS

HIV VACCINE TRIALS NETWORK (HVTN)



HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK

The HVTN will be participating at the US Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA) in New Orleans, Sept. 11-15, 2024. The HVTN is a co-sponsor of the USCHA Interfaith Preconference hosted by the U.S. HIV/AIDS Faith Coalition, which is Chaired by HVTN Faith Initiative Program Director Dr. Ulysses Burley. The preconference will feature a presentation by HVTN External Relations Director Louis Shackelford on the latest in HIV vaccine and antibody research. The HVTN is also sponsoring the Black in the South Summit Preconference hosted at Xavier University of Louisiana, which aims to bring together community members in New Orleans, HIV activists, and various movement leaders to discuss the impact of HIV on the Black community in the Southern US.

During the conference, a panel discussion with Gail Broder, Dr. Huub Gelderblom, Sally Bock, and Jonathan Lucas from the HPTN will cover “Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies (bnAbs) 101: HIV prevention’s newest option.” In keeping with the conference focus on the American South, HVTN community educators Jarissa Greenard of the Vanderbilt CRS, Anthwen Washington of the University of Alabama-Birmingham CRS, and Rafael Gonzalez from the HVTN will present “Understanding and Addressing Vaccine-Induced Seropositivity (VISP) in the Southern U.S. HIV Epidemic.” Rafael Gonzalez will also present on “Promoting Language Access and Ethical Participation in HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials.”

The HVTN External Relations and Marketing teams will also host a workshop highlighting HVTN’s partnerships with social media influencers to increase research engagement. This workshop will include a panel discussion headlined by the HVTN’s three influencer partners: Conscious Lee (George Lee), Hope Giselle, and Jai the Gentleman, host of the Dear Black Gay Men Podcast. Additionally, HVTN External Relations Director Louis Shackelford and Dr. Burley are partnering with NMAC to host a pathway at USCHA engaging Cisgender Heterosexual (CisHet) men. The CisHet pathway will feature two workshops, one focused on CisHet discussing sex, sexuality, and masculinity, and the second examining CisHet models of masculinity that are positive and healing.

Finally, the HVTN is partnering with the DC-based organization Us Helping Us, People Into Living to host a celebration at USCHA that will include entertainment and education around HIV research.



We are gearing up for our Annual Meeting, which will be held 22 - 27 September 2024 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA and virtually! Check out our [agenda](#), and we look forward to sharing presentation materials post-meeting. Stay tuned!

IMPAACT Data Leads to the EMA Approving Triumeq PD for Infants and Young Children

The International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Network (IMPAACT) is pleased to announce that, based on IMPAACT study data, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has approved Triumeq PD[®] for infants and children as young as 3 months of age who weigh at least 6 kg.

Triumeq PD[®] is a child-friendly dispersible tablet that contains three medicines for HIV: dolutegravir, abacavir, and lamivudine. The tablet is dispersed in drinking water for children who cannot swallow whole tablets.

·Why is this important?

Data from the IMPAACT 2019 study showed that the tablets are safe, well tolerated, and effective for controlling HIV when taken once per day. This represents an important advance for young children, who might otherwise need to be given multiple tablets or liquid medicines twice per day.

Early Career Investigator Program

Applications are now open for the IMPAACT Early Career Investigator (ECI) Program! Approved applicants will receive funding for a period of two years and work with a mentor scientist in the Network to complete a research project based on existing IMPAACT data. If you or someone you know is interested, learn more about the ECI program and application process [here](#). The deadline to submit an application is 01 October 2024.

·Why is this important?

Through the program, early career investigators will build research skills and support IMPAACT's goal to improve health outcomes for infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant and postpartum people who are impacted by or living with HIV, tuberculosis, and other HIV-related conditions.

Stay connected! Follow the IMPAACT Network on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn (@IMPAACTNetwork). Visit our [website](#) to learn more and subscribe to our [quarterly newsletter](#).

HANC RESOURCES

OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS NETWORK COORDINATION (HANC)



hanc
HIV/AIDS Network Coordination

RESOURCES

HANC is pleased to share these updates and other resources:

- Be the Generation website: the best place to go for trustworthy information on biomedical HIV prevention research. Features sections on PrEP, U=U, Microbicides, HIV vaccine research, inspiring videos from researchers and community members, and even a quiz to test your knowledge of HIV prevention research.
- Webinar Library: a collection of over 30 of our webinar recordings on topics such as Monkeypox, HIV & race, HIV & women, HIV genetic sequencing, HIV & aging, outreach & marketing, Native Americans & HIV, microbicides research, pregnancy & lactation in HIV research, HIV in the Latinx community, community engagement, and more.
- Resources for Trans and Gender-Diverse Inclusion: HANC has collected an array of helpful and informative resources related to research with transgender and gender-diverse communities. Access them for free on our website!

IMPORTANT DATES

September 12-15: U.S Conference on HIV/AIDS

September 21-25: IMPAACT Annual Network Meeting

October 6-10: HIV Research for Prevention Conference

December 1: World AIDS Day