

# BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

## FROM THE EDITOR

Every year on December 1st we observe World AIDS Day, a day meant as an opportunity to spread awareness about the worldwide HIV epidemic, including the state of prevention. Thanks to the tireless efforts of researchers, research participants, and community over the past four decades, the landscape of prevention options has expanded significantly, giving people an important element of choice to decide what prevention options will work best for them. These are critical and exciting developments, and some are featured in this issue of *BTG News*. Read on to learn about studies of new on-demand prevention options, longer-acting prevention methods, and opportunities for new researchers to bring their ideas to the table!

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Take the *rights* path," an urgent reminder that we can end the HIV epidemic, but doing so requires the protection of everyone's rights. The avenues of protecting rights are many, but one in the HIV prevention space is to ensure that people from all walks of life have the opportunity to participate in prevention research so that all communities will be able to benefit from the results. This issue of *BTG News* showcases a wonderful example of research that is trans-inclusive and will be able to produce results that benefit trans and cis people alike. With more work like this, we move towards Being the Generation to end the epidemic.

This World AIDS Day, I'm grateful for new research, new researchers, and you, *BTG News* readers.


Cat Banobi,  
on behalf of the Legacy Project

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## KEEP IN TOUCH

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**HPTN** HIV Prevention  
Trials Network

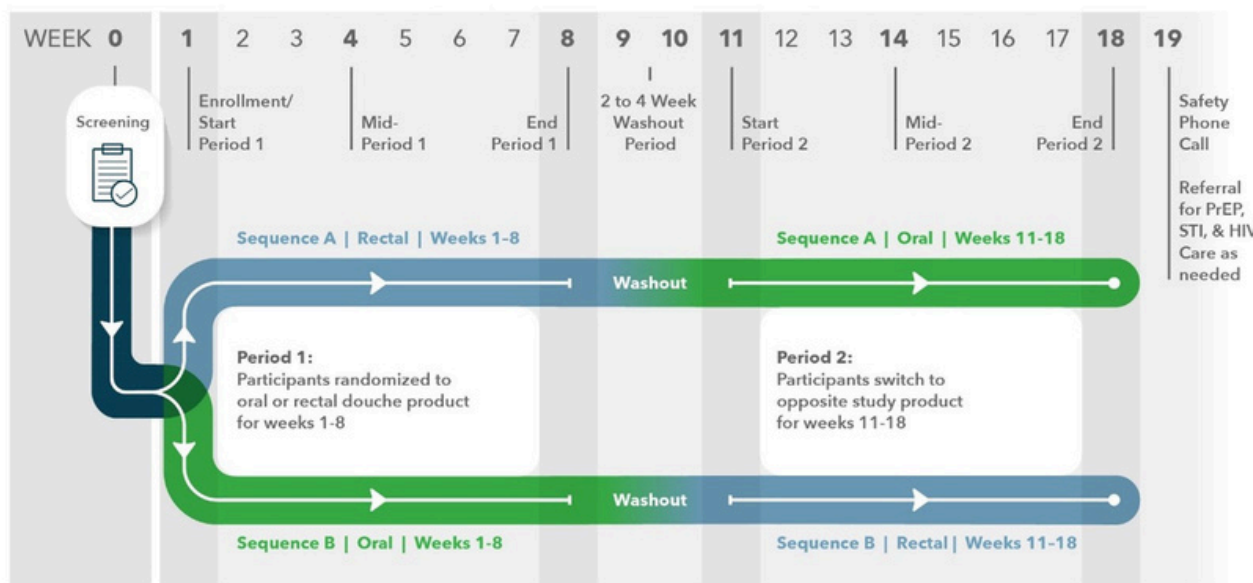
# NETWORK NEWS

## HIV PREVENTION TRIALS NETWORK (HPTN)

### HPTN 106 (REV UP) Begins Enrolling U.S. Participants



HPTN 106 (REV UP), a Phase 2 crossover study evaluating the safety and acceptability of a rectal douche containing an antiretroviral drug for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), has started enrolling participants in the U.S. The study involves a novel tenofovir rectal douche to be used “on-demand,” right before receptive anal intercourse, to rapidly reach the rectum where HIV could be transmitted. HPTN 106 will compare the on-demand tenofovir rectal douche with on-demand oral tenofovir/emtricitabine PrEP, commonly referred to as “2-1-1,” which has been proven effective as PrEP in men who have sex with men.



The clinical trial will enroll about 150 adults assigned male sex at birth, including transgender women, who have regular experience using a rectal douche before receptive anal intercourse. Participants will self-administer the on-demand rectal tenofovir douche for eight weeks and an on-demand oral PrEP for another eight weeks. All participants will be monitored closely for safety. The study will also assess participants’ acceptability, adherence, and product preference for the two on-demand PrEP methods.



### New Concepts in HIV Prevention

#### **From the Editor**

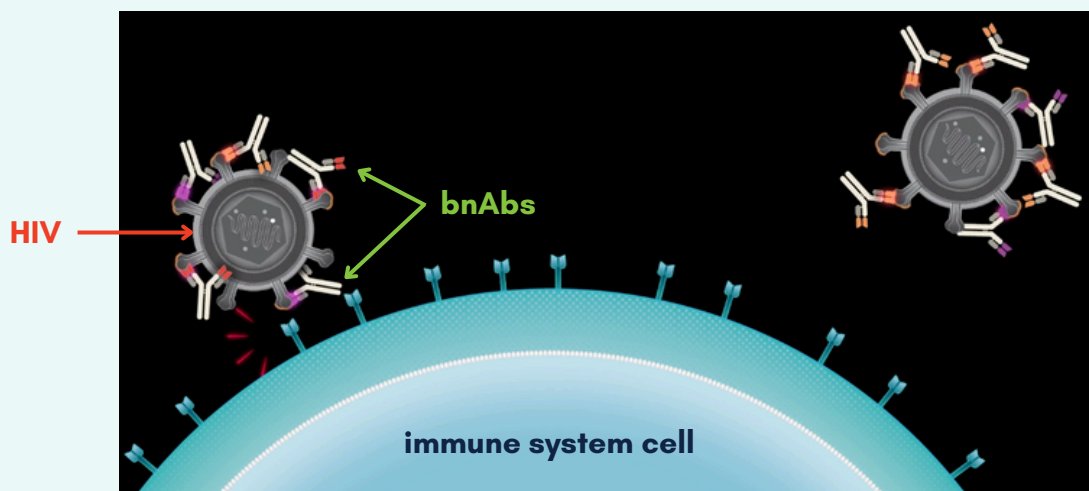
This is Cat Banobi again, writing with some reflections on the amazing HIV prevention research that is taking place in the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN).

One of the HIV prevention methods that is being studied in these networks involves broadly neutralizing antibodies, or bnAbs. These antibodies are referred to as broadly neutralizing because they can block many different strains of HIV. Some bnAb studies have already been completed and show that bnAbs could theoretically work to prevent HIV, but that one bnAb is likely not enough by itself. Current and future studies are looking at combinations of antibodies, as well as how often the bnAbs need to be given to people. Studies are also being done to see if vaccines can be used to teach the immune system to produce bnAbs directly.

These are exciting developments because using bnAbs is a relatively new concept to HIV prevention, and it shows a lot of promise. Because it's so new there is a lot to be learned and we're all eager to understand more as the research continues. For now, take a look at this [quick video](#) (available in many languages) to see how bnAbs work!

#### **HVTN/HPTN Training on bnAbs**

The HVTN and HPTN have collaborated to prepare new training about their work on bnAbs and the role bnAbs could play in the current prevention environment. This training is being rolled out to network and research site staff in November and December 2024, and they plan to offer it to communities and other external collaborators in the new year. Stay tuned for more information!





### **Annual Network Meeting**

IMPAACT hosted their Annual Meeting from 22 - 27 September 2024 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA, USA, with over 700 attendees who participated in-person or virtually! Check out their [website](#) for recordings and presentation materials.

### **IMPAACT Network Co-Chair Applications**

Self-nominations for the IMPAACT Network Co-Chair are being accepted and reviewed in Quarter 4 of 2024. Applicants were asked to summarize their interest in and vision for the network and its scientific agenda for 2027 and beyond, as well as detailing the applicant's experience in preparing grant applications and managing large, complex grants. More information can be found [here](#).

**Why is this important?** The next funding cycle is expected to begin on or about 1 December 2027 and continue for seven years thereafter. To ensure a smooth transition and adequate time to gain network leadership experience, the Co-Chair-elect will join the IMPAACT Scientific Leadership Group (SLG) and the IMPAACT Management Oversight Group (MOG) in early 2025.

### **Stay connected!**

Follow the IMPAACT Network on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn (@IMPAACTNetwork). Visit their [website](#) to learn more and subscribe to their [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 webinar recordings on topics such as Mpox, 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

**December 1:** World AIDS Day

**January 20:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**February 1:** Black History Month begins

**February 7:** National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

**February 28:** HIV Is Not a Crime Awareness Day

**March 1:** Women's History Month begins