

# BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

*BTG News*

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## From the Editors

We are so excited to announce in this World AIDS Day issue of *BTG News* that **we have a brand new website!** Starting today, you will be redirected from our old website to a fresh interface that spotlights the three main areas of biomedical HIV prevention research: microbicides, PrEP & TasP, and vaccines. This new website also features an interactive quiz, reorganized video content, and a news section that we will update regularly. We are proud to offer the website in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). We trust that this website will not only contribute to this year's World AIDS Day theme, "increasing impact through transparency, accountability, and partnerships," but that it will also serve as a long-term, valuable tool for community education, demystifying HIV prevention research, and increasing scientific literacy. We are the generation tasked with ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic; may this new website empower and embolden us to be that generation. We truly hope you love the new website as much as we do. You can find it at the links above, and our web address remains the same: [www.bethegeneration.org](http://www.bethegeneration.org). Please share it widely!

In this final issue of 2017, we also have some exciting updates from the HIV Prevention Trials Network, HIV Vaccine Trials Network, Microbicide Trials Network, and Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination. Please enjoy. We wish you healthy holidays, a thoughtful World AIDS Day, and a happy new year.

Your friends,

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Louis Shackelford

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### **HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)**

The HPTN offers two scholarship programs—one for the US and one international program—that seek to increase opportunities for scientists who belong to groups that are underrepresented in HIV prevention research. The HPTN International Scholars Program held an information session for potential applicants at the recent HPTN Regional Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. Speakers included Sten Vermund and David Serwadda from the Scholars Leadership team; Jesne Kistan, a Cohort 1 International Scholar; and Linda-Gail Bekker, a mentor in the program. The HPTN is now accepting applications for the next cycle of scholars in both the US program and the international program. To learn more, visit <https://hptn.org/research/scholars>.

### **HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)**

The HVTN will soon release the next issue of its *Community Compass* magazine. Please check the [HVTN's website](#) for previous issues, and stay tuned for the upcoming issue.

HVTN will present on the current state and future direction of HIV vaccine research during the upcoming NMAC Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit in New Orleans. The summit will take place December 4-5 with the HVTN presenting on the 5th. Learn more about the summit at <https://www.biomedicalhivsummit.org>.

### **Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)**

The MTN has launched the first study of dapivirine gel as a rectal microbicide. The study, [MTN-026](#), is a Phase I study evaluating whether a gel formulation of the antiretroviral, dapivirine, is safe for use in the rectum. It will include approximately 27 cisgender and transgender men and women at two sites in the US (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Birmingham, Alabama) and one site in Bangkok, Thailand.

MTN researchers have completed a Phase 1 study ([MTN-030/IPM 041](#)) of a dual-purpose ring using dapivirine for HIV prevention plus levonorgestrel for contraception. The study enrolled 24 cisgender women at the University of

Pittsburgh and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. It was conducted in close collaboration with the nonprofit, International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM). We expect results to be available by mid-2018.

In September, the MTN held a stakeholder consultation in Kampala, Uganda for the [MTN-034/IPM 045 \(REACH\)](#) study of the dapivirine vaginal ring and oral PrEP in adolescent girls and young women. MTN partnered with AVAC, IPM, and the Society of Adolescent Health in Uganda to conduct the meeting. During the meeting, young women and teens shared their views about the upcoming study. They also learned about the study design, products, and timelines. In anticipation of the launch of the REACH study in Uganda, the Youth Services Clinic at The Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University (MU-JHU) Research Collaboration in Kampala was officially opened. The clinic will serve as a site for the REACH study, which is expected to launch in mid-2018.



Dapivirine, dapivirine, dapivirine! Get used to the word; the dapivirine vaginal ring for HIV prevention is under review for licensure.

MTN's Regional Meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa, September 19-21. Presentations and plenaries at the meeting focused on the involvement and engagement of adolescents in HIV prevention; the regulatory pathway for the

dapivirine vaginal ring; contraceptive counseling in the [HOPE](#) vaginal ring trial; and the path ahead for the development and testing of rectal microbicides. You may access presentations from the meeting on the [MTN website](#). You may also follow the [MTN's Facebook page](#) for more photos and info from this meeting.

The MTN hosted a workshop, *Let's Get Lubricated: Lube safety, access and advocacy*, at the 2017 United States Conference on AIDS. The workshop addressed the need for clear public health messaging around the use and safety of lubes in the US by gay men and other men who have sex with men. The session also provided an update on the development of lube-based HIV prevention products. Slides from the session are available on the [2017 USCA app](#).



Bring in the lube experts! Craig Hendrix, Pedro Carniero, Jim Pickett, and Rob Newells present at USCA.

### **[Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination \(HANC\)](#)**

The HANC Legacy Project, which manages Be the Generation, is now on social media! Follow us on Facebook [@HANCLegacyProject](#), Twitter [@HANC\\_Legacy](#), and Instagram [@hanc\\_legacy](#) for photos, webinars, and other resources.



Members of the Legacy Project team at the October HVTN meeting in Seattle

Recordings of HANC's latest webinars are now available:

- [HIV in the Latinx Community – Part 2](#)
- [Adolescent PrEP Delivery: Strategies and Tools to Maximize Adherence](#)
- Many more from the [Legacy Project](#) and [Youth Prevention Research Working Group](#)

HANC is collaborating with the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), and the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) on a research literacy training entitled, "Getting Your HIV Science Fleeky: A research literacy workshop." The three Networks and HANC will conduct the training at the upcoming [National African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice](#) organized by NAESM. This is the largest national conference in the United States that is focused on African American MSM. In addition to the cross-network research literacy training, the HANC Legacy Project will facilitate two 90-minute workshops at the conference:

- "Black and Latino MSM: Partnerships to Address HIV" and
- "T Cells & Jail Cells: HIV Research & Criminalization"

The NAESM conference will take place in Atlanta, GA, January 18-21.

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