

BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

BTG News

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From the Editors

We think you're exceptional! But if you need proof, see if you can beat the average score of 67% on our online [HIV prevention research quiz](#). Those who have taken the [quiz in Spanish](#) have an average score of 73%. With the rapidly evolving science of HIV prevention, knowledge is power in the face of the mission to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Tell your colleagues and friends what you've learned about PrEP, TasP, microbicides, and vaccines, and drop us a line on our [Facebook page](#) too.

In this issue of *BTG News*, we bring you updates from the HIV Prevention Trials Network, HIV Vaccine Trials Network, Microbicide Trials Network, and Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC). Folks from all three research Networks and HANC will be traveling around the US and the world to advance the science of HIV prevention and connect with *you*, the people and communities without which we stand no chance of ending the epidemic. We welcome you to get in touch with us and let us know how we can continue to empower one another.

Enjoy the issue and, as always, thank you for all you do to be the generation to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Your friends,

Brian Minalga &
Louis Shackelford

btg@hanc.info



HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)

The HPTN Black Caucus, in partnership with the Black Gay Research Group, will host a panel discussion at the Saving Ourselves Symposium (SOS) in Birmingham, Alabama on Friday, June 8. The discussion will focus on the social determinants of health and HIV epidemiology among Black men who have sex with men as well as cisgender and transgender women in the southern US. SOS is an annual conference designed to provide information on cutting-edge research, promising treatment and prevention methods, and HIV/AIDS behavior change techniques to educate, encourage, and empower the Black LGBTQ community. The HPTN also held its annual meeting in Washington, DC, May 15-19.

HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)

The HVTN held its Full Group Meeting in Washington, DC, May 14-16. The Network continues its exciting research agenda with four concurrent HIV vaccine efficacy trials. Two of these trials are testing different approaches for vaccine regimens (HVTN 702 and HVTN 705/HPX2008), and two trials studying antibody mediated prevention (the AMP Studies: HVTN 703/HPTN 081 and HVTN704/HPTN 085) will inform future design and development of preventive vaccines and other prevention strategies. All together, these four trials will be enrolling 12,500 study volunteers! The HVTN is also ramping up community engagement and recruitment efforts for its Phase I study portfolio. The continued participation and support from the community enables the HVTN to advance the search for an HIV vaccine and other prevention strategies.



The HVTN takes it to the dance floor at the Full Group Meeting.

Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)

MTN will be co-hosting a two-hour satellite session on anal health at the upcoming [AIDS 2018](#) meeting in Amsterdam, July 23-27. The session, *Anal Sex from Top to Bottom: Beliefs, behaviors and policies for better health*, will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on July 26. It is being conducted in partnership with AVAC, IRMA, European AIDS Treatment Group (Belgium), Anova Health Institute (South Africa), UHAI EASHRI (Kenya), GayLatino (Paraguay) and APCOM (Thailand). The session will address the many facets of global anal health, including basic anal and rectal anatomy, the prevention and treatment of anal conditions, topical HIV prevention candidates in the research pipeline and, of course, pleasure. Session speakers will also address customs and laws related to sexuality and anal sex that can facilitate or impede access to care. Importantly, attendees will be engaged in a discussion on how best to shed stigma, scientific misinformation, and punishing policies to ultimately improve anal health in communities most vulnerable to HIV.



Stakeholders provide input at the MTN-042 consultation in Johannesburg.

In April, MTN held a stakeholders consultation in Johannesburg on [MTN-042](#), a study that will evaluate the maternal and infant safety of daily [oral PrEP](#) and the monthly [dapivirine vaginal ring](#) during pregnancy. The meeting was a unique opportunity to share information about the study design, its objectives and

overall scientific framework, as well as address questions about specific aspects of the study. The consultation, which MTN hosted in partnership with AVAC, was held two days prior to the MTN-042 protocol development team meeting so that stakeholder feedback could be considered in those deliberations. MTN-042, which the MTN will conduct at four African sites, will enroll 750 HIV-negative pregnant women at different times during their pregnancy. Participants will be randomly assigned to use either PrEP or the ring until delivery. The 35 stakeholders at the consultation hailed from Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

MTN is excited to announce the launch of the network's latest rectal microbicide study, [MTN-033](#). The study joins the ongoing and currently enrolling rectal microbicide study, [MTN-026](#). Both studies are evaluating the rectal safety and pharmacokinetics of dapivirine gel. MTN-033, taking place at the University of Pittsburgh, will measure and compare the safety and distribution of the gel in rectal tissue when used with an applicator and a dildo.

MTN has launched a newly designed web site to make it easier for users to access information. Features include a publications page, easy access to study protocols, and a direct feed from the network's social media accounts. Check out the new site at www.mtnstopshiv.org.

Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC)

The HANC Legacy Project is on the road! Check out our summer schedule and be sure to [say hi](#) if we're in a city near you:

- June 3-6, Indianapolis, IN: [HIV is Not a Crime National Training Academy](#). Brian Minalga presents, "Using Research to Win the HIV is Not a Crime Movement" with Robert Suttle, Alex McClelland, and Chad Clarke from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. on June 4.
- June 6-10, Birmingham, AL: [Saving Ourselves Symposium](#). Louis Shackelford hosts, "HIV Lens and Prevention through Kink Exploration" with presenter Rodney McCoy.
- June 16-24, Washington, DC: [IMPAACT Network Annual Meeting](#). Brian Minalga facilitates a capacity-building training, "Cultural Humility: Affirming Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation" for the IMPAACT Leadership Group

Community Advisory Board, June 17 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This session includes two training modules developed by the NIH Division of AIDS Cross-Network Transgender Working Group: “An Introduction to Transgender Communities” and “Creating a Gender-Affirming Research Environment.”

- June 20-24, Washington, DC: [ACTG Network Annual Meeting](#). Brian Minalga and Michele Andrasik present, “Trauma-Informed Care for Transgender Research Participants,” and “HIV in Transgender Communities,” June 20 at 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. respectively. These trainings were developed by the NIH Division of AIDS Cross-Network Transgender Working Group. The Women’s HIV Research Collaborative also hosts an information session on June 20 at 2 p.m.

Please enjoy the Legacy Project’s latest [webinar recordings](#), including, “Outreach and Marketing Fundamentals in Clinical Research.”

HANC’s Youth Prevention Research Working Group will be hosting a satellite symposium at the [International AIDS Conference](#) on July 25 at 7am. The title of the satellite session is, “Prevention Solutions for the Next Generation: Highlight Adolescent Research in the NIH HIV/AIDS Clinical Trial Networks and the Adolescent Trials Network.” This symposium will highlight NIH-sponsored adolescent prevention research, including HPTN 082-Evaluation of Daily Oral PrEP as a Primary Prevention Strategy for Young African Women; MTN-034/IPM 045-Phase 2a study that seeks to understand the HIV prevention needs and preferences of adolescent girls and young women; IMPAACT 2009-Feasibility, Acceptability and Safety of Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Primary HIV Prevention during Pregnancy and Breast Feeding in Adolescents and Young Women; and studies of mobile technology to prevent HIV in adolescents. Presenters for the session will be Dr. Connie Celum (HPTN 082), Dr. Kenneth Ngunjiri (MTN 034), Dr. Lynda Stranix-Chibanda (IMPAACT 2009), and Dr. Lisa Hightow-Weidman (ATN iTech).