

BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

BTG News

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From the Editor

HIV prevention research remains our best hope for ending the epidemic. We at the Legacy Project believe that *you*—the current generation of community members and scientists—are the generation that will end the HIV epidemic. *Be the Generation* remains committed to supporting you in the movement.

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. You will find new trainings and webinars available to download, our focus on women and indigenous peoples at the upcoming United States Conference on AIDS, and exciting news about a vaginal ring for HIV prevention. You will read about topics that are crucial to ending the epidemic, such as engaging transgender people in HIV prevention research and conducting stakeholder symposia to develop new studies. We think this work is bold and tenacious in the movement to end the epidemic. What do you think? Join the conversation on our [Facebook page](#), and visit our website for more at www.bethegeneration.org.

Thanks for all you do to Be the Generation to end the HIV epidemic!

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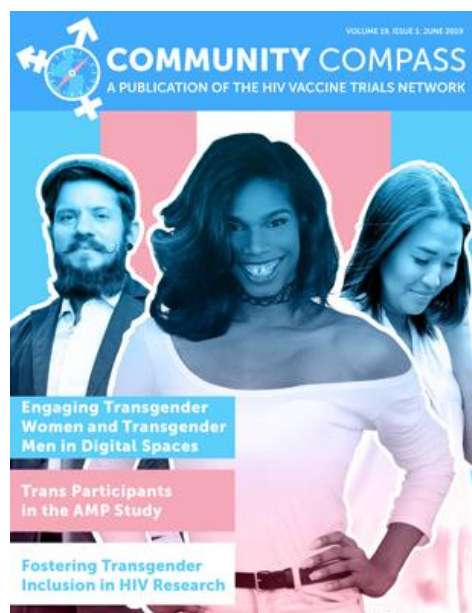


HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)

Representatives from the HPTN and HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), together with colleagues from the US National Institutes of Health and the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) visited Cape Town, South Africa, August 6-7 for a stakeholder symposium and protocol development meeting for HVTN 804/HPTN 095 (AMP Analytical Antiretroviral Treatment Interruption Study). Stakeholder symposium sessions introduced and explored HIV remission research, bioethics, and community and clinical perspectives on HIV remission research and ART interruptions. The protocol development team will use information gained from the symposium for the development of HVTN 804/HPTN 095 to ensure cultural and scientific appropriateness.

HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)

Community Compass is the HVTN's periodical on topics related to the HVTN community. **Community Compass Volume 19, Issue 1** is now available! In this issue, we dive deeper into some of the considerations, perspectives, and best practices for the engagement of transgender populations in our research. It is our hope that this issue enhances understanding of the dynamic lives of transgender people, and gives a glimpse into the topics and concerns that should be considered when engaging transgender persons in HIV prevention research. In this issue, we offer perspectives from transgender people in the US and Peru, overviews of research done with transgender populations, profiles of HVTN members, and more. [Read the current issue >](#)



Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)

In July, MTN co-principal investigator, Dr. Jared Baeten, presented the final results of the [HOPE](#) open-label study of the dapivirine vaginal ring at the IAS 2019 meeting in Mexico City. The HOPE study (HIV Open-label Prevention Extension, or MTN-025) was designed to provide former participants of the [ASPIRE](#) (MTN-020) study the opportunity to use the monthly vaginal ring for one year while researchers collected additional information about its safety and use. Results indicated the ring was very well-tolerated and used persistently by participants for the entire year of the study. More than 90 percent of participants chose the ring at the start of the study, and the majority continued to use the ring for the duration of HOPE. Using a method of statistical modeling that draws from the placebo group in ASPIRE, the researchers estimated a 39 percent reduction in HIV risk for the women in this study of the dapivirine vaginal ring for HIV prevention. HOPE results were also highlighted in a [NIAID press release](#) and were the topic of several news stories. HOPE was conducted between July 2016 and October 2018 and enrolled 1,456 cisgender women at 14 trial sites in Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. To be eligible, participants needed to be HIV-negative, not be pregnant or breastfeeding, and agree to use contraception during the study. The ring, which participants inserted and replaced themselves, slowly releases the ARV drug dapivirine into the vagina during the month it is used. The nonprofit, International Partnership for Microbicides, developed the dapivirine ring and is seeking its regulatory approval.

In June, MTN held a stakeholder consultation in Kampala, Uganda on two HIV prevention studies currently being planned – [DELIVER](#) (MTN-042), for pregnant women, and [B-PROTECTED](#) (MTN-043), for women who are breastfeeding. The meeting included 60 stakeholders who shared their thoughts about the studies, which will evaluate the safety of the monthly dapivirine vaginal ring and daily use of Truvada as PrEP. The meetings provided stakeholders with the opportunity to share their views about the studies before their anticipated start later this year or early 2020. Topics addressed during the meetings included regulatory plans, study implementation and community engagement. MTN is extremely grateful to all who attended and shared their views, with special thanks to meeting co-hosts AVAC, [The White Ribbon Alliance](#) Uganda, [ICW Eastern Africa](#), and the Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University Research Collaboration.



Clemensia Nakabiito, the DELIVER Investigator of Record, at a stakeholder meeting in Kampala, Uganda.

MTN principal investigator, Dr. Sharon Hillier, was honored as the [2019 Pittsburgh Women who Rock Award](#) recipient for her work to empower women with agency over their bodies, health and safety. The award was given at a concert in Pittsburgh on May 30 featuring the performer Shelia E.

Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC)

The HANC Legacy Project and Women’s HIV Research Collaborative (WHRC) are back on the road working with community members, researchers, and many more folks who make an end to the HIV epidemic possible. We hope to see you at these upcoming sessions we’re leading around the country:

When	Where	What
September 5, 2 to 4 p.m.	United States Conference on AIDS in Washington, DC	“The Future is Female: Women of Color Leadership in the HIV Movement”
September 6, 9 to 11 a.m.	United States Conference on AIDS in Washington, DC	“Indigenous People, Historical Trauma, and Sexually Transmitted/Bloodborne Infections/HIV”
September 8, 9 to 11 a.m.	United States Conference on AIDS in Washington, DC	“All About Us: Women & Biomedical HIV Prevention”
November 9, 11:45 a.m.	Association of Nurses in AIDS Care annual conference in Portland, OR	“Women in HIV Cure-Related Research”

The Legacy Project and WHRC are also pleased to share the following new trainings and webinar recordings:

- **Women & HIV Cure-Related Research:** a comprehensive training on the state of HIV cure-related research and the meaningful involvement of cisgender and transgender women in this research. [Slides](#) and [Speakers' Notes](#) are available to download.
- [HIV Cure Research Updates](#): a webinar featuring Dr. Karl Salzwedel on the topic of the science of HIV cure-related research.
- [Community Perspectives of HIV Cure-Related Research](#): a webinar featuring Laurie Sylla and Bré Rivera.
- [Webinar Library](#): a collection of over 30 of our webinar recordings on topics such as HIV & race, HIV genetic sequencing, HIV & aging, outreach & marketing, Native Americans and HIV, microbicides research, pregnancy and lactation in HIV research, HIV in the Latinx community, community engagement, and more.