

BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

FROM THE EDITOR

These days I'm thinking a lot about social and structural determinants of health (SDH). These are the features of our lives and societies that contribute to determining the status of our health, though they themselves are not an aspect of what we traditionally think of as health. Housing is a good example – not directly an aspect of health by itself, but access to affordable, high-quality, consistent housing allows people to be healthier. Because of the importance of SDH, the fact that sticks with me the most from my public health education is that the level of education of a person's mother is the single most influential SDH for that individual. We can see how the SDH can be pretty far removed from what we think of as an individual's own health – but we would do well to remember how influential they are. It'll take structural change to address SDH well enough to achieve our public health potential but even within the research sphere, where BTG resides, there's plenty that can be done.

One way is through implementation science, which studies how to most effectively move the findings from research (like a new HIV drug) into practice (all the people that could benefit from the new drug can access it). I see implementation science and SDH as fundamentally related because implementation science has to take SDH into account or it won't be fully successful. The NIH-funded HIV research networks, including those featured in this newsletter, seem to be on a path to incorporate more implementation science – a welcome development since we're seeing a truly exciting boom in development of new highly efficacious HIV prevention products. We'll need that additional attention to SDH and dedication to implementation science if we want all of these new tools to live up to their potential. I look forward to the progress that the combination of biomedical and implementation science will continue to make towards being the generation to end the HIV epidemic.

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HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK

NETWORK NEWS

HIV VACCINE TRIALS NETWORK (HVTN)

This is Cat, writing with some of my own reflections about HIV vaccine research. Due to its rapid speed of mutation and ability to evade the immune system, HIV has been notoriously difficult to develop a vaccine for. So, even though scientists have been working to develop a vaccine for decades, we're still without one today. But scientists (with the help of people who participate in studies!) are continuing the effort to develop a vaccine every day. The HVTN is conducting several early-stage trials testing new vaccine concepts. Though it can seem like we're starting over every time a vaccine candidate doesn't work out, scientists are actually learning a lot, no matter the results of a study, and that helps inform subsequent vaccine attempts. This is what progress looks like and I'm so thankful for the work of the scientists and the participation of study volunteers continuing to push this effort along.



IMPAACT Study Updates

Various IMPAACT studies completed follow-up (meaning all participants have completed their course of the product that's being studied and have completed all their study visits) in the last few months. Learn about a selection of those studies here:

[IMPAACT 2026](#) completed follow-up on July 10, 2025. This 400-person study is looking at how certain HIV and tuberculosis drugs move through the body during and after pregnancy. Participants enrolled across 23 sites in Brazil, India, Kenya, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, and the United States.

[IMPAACT 2023](#) completed follow-up on May 22, 2025. This small study is evaluating an HIV medication called dolutegravir in infants exposed to HIV. Forty-eight mother-infant pairs enrolled at 15 sites across the United States, South Africa, and Thailand.

[IMPAACT 2017](#) completed follow-up on April 22, 2025. This study evaluated two long-acting injectable HIV treatment drugs among adolescents with HIV. Participants enrolled across 18 sites in Botswana, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, and the United States. Previously these treatments were only approved for adults, but results from this study led to [licensure](#) of these products in adolescents!



HPTN HIV Prevention
Trials Network

Cat again – In keeping with the SDH and implementation science theme, I want to feature an HPTN study whose results were presented back in March at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). The study, [HPTN 094 \(“INTEGRA”\)](#), looked at how best to provide health services for opioid use disorder and HIV prevention and treatment for people who inject drugs. The study tested providing integrated services (think services for HIV, opioid use disorder, and other health needs all in one place) in a mobile unit, as well as peer navigation for other essential services. Participants, many of whom were in unstable housing situations and facing many overlapping healthcare needs, could access many essential services at once in a mobile unit that came to them, “confronting structural and systemic barriers that hinder access to care for addiction and HIV, as well as prevention of HIV” as Dr. Steven Shoptaw, HPTN 094 Co-Chair, put it.

I’m glad to see this recent example of SDH-centric implementation science and hope to see this become more and more common as we work to confront structural barriers and achieve widespread access to all the amazing HIV prevention tools that are becoming available.



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RESOURCES

Be the Generation website: the best place to go for trustworthy information on 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 webinar recordings on topics such as 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, Monkeypox, and more.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 4-7: United States Conference on HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC

September 4-5 and 9-11: IMPAACT Annual Meeting (virtual; application required)

September 9: National African Immigrants and Refugee HIV and Hepatitis Awareness Day

September 18: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

September 27: National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

October 15: National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day