

BE THE **GENERATION**

TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

FROM THE EDITOR


As is tradition, December's BTG News is the World AIDS Day issue. In response to recent seismic funding cuts to global health by international donors, this year's World AIDS Day theme is "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response." This theme is a call to action - to governments to sustain (or re-invest in) international health funding, international cooperation, and human rights-centered public health, and to the rest of us to exert whatever pressures we can to achieve those ends. The need for collaboration, cooperation, and centering human rights is especially resonant for me in the context of this newsletter because the work that the HIV research networks are doing embraces these concepts. Just in this issue, you'll see a study for men in the American South whose entire design centers around collaboration with community, a video that captures the decades-long story of collaboration and cooperation in the search for an HIV vaccine and its importance to issues outside of HIV, and updates on studies that are working to develop more treatment and prevention methods that will support people's right to health and wellbeing. The settings may be different, but the concepts are the same - in government and within HIV clinical research collaboration, cooperation, and centering the needs and rights of the people who are impacted is how we create an impactful HIV response.

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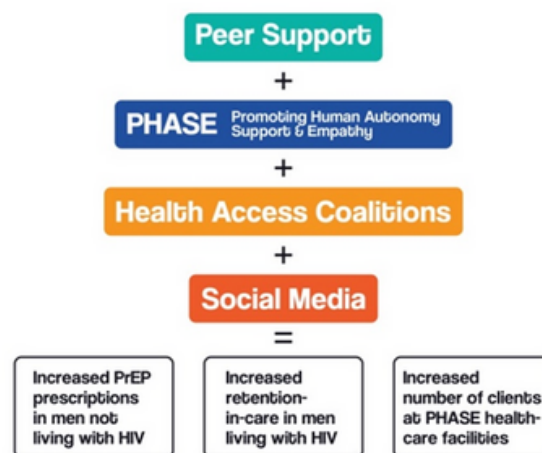
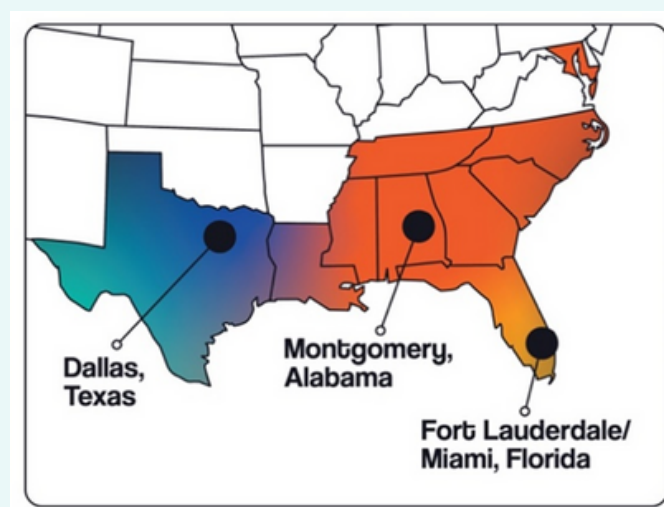
HPTN HIV Prevention
Trials Network

NETWORK NEWS

HIV PREVENTION TRIALS NETWORK (HPTN)

A Renewed Approach with HPTN 096: Building Empathy, Transforming Access (BETA)

HPTN 096 (BETA) is a revamped implementation study focused on providing increased support to men in the American South who are most vulnerable to HIV and who are living with HIV to improve access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care. At its heart, the HPTN 096 BETA study is about community, connection, and collaboration. It's a bold implementation study that will work with communities, not just in them.



The study is partnering with people and organizations at multiple levels, including advocates, healthcare providers, community organizations, clinics, local leaders, organizers, and influencers. HPTN 096 (BETA) will use four main strategies across three communities to improve access to HIV services:

- PHASE is focused on improving how people receive HIV prevention and treatment services in healthcare facilities, through a series of training and capacity-building activities.
- On the individual level, Peer Supporters are trained to offer 1:1 emotional support and practical advice to other men in their communities. Peer Supporters draw from lived or shared experiences to support clients and connect them to local resources.
- In each community, Health Access Coalitions are organized as a local response to the HIV epidemic and collaborate to identify and remove barriers within their communities. They raise awareness, fight stigma, and advocate for resources that support men impacted by HIV.
- The Social Media component engages with people online to share information about HIV testing, PrEP, and treatment. Campaigns are developed and implemented to promote healthy decision-making and connect followers to local resources.

To stay up to date with HPTN 096 BETA, follow the team on social media (@hptn096beta) and visit the study website at www.hptn096.org for the latest updates!



HPTN 096
Building Empathy,
Transforming Access



HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK

NETWORK NEWS

HIV VACCINE TRIALS NETWORK (HVTN)

The HVTN is proud to announce that the film “Ending HIV: The Journey to a Vaccine” won the Jury Award for Best Professional Documentary Feature (over 40 minutes) at the Raw Science Film Festival October 24-26, 2025, in New York, NY. The documentary is an incredibly timely film that captures one of the momentous scientific stories of our time over decades. It’s a story of the monumental challenge that is attempting to develop a vaccine against a virus that mutates at a uniquely rapid pace, of the teamwork amongst scientists and community, and of the enormous lifesaving benefit that the HVTN’s research has achieved in response to health challenges other than HIV, namely COVID-19.

Following the screening, audiences heard directly from leading voices in HIV vaccine research and advocacy, including Dr. Larry Corey, MD, Principal Investigator of HVTN, and the film team. The documentary is available at <https://www.helpendhiv.org/ending-hiv-documentary/>. You can also view additional content that was not included in the documentary at <https://www.helpendhiv.org/25-anniversary/#video-init>.



NETWORK NEWS

INTERNATIONAL MATERNAL PEDIATRIC ADOLESCENT AIDS CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK (IMPAACT)

The IMPAACT Network has been busy over the past few months! Check out just some of what's been happening in the network below:

Study Updates

Results from [IMPAACT P1115](#) were recently published in [The Lancet HIV](#) highlighting that four children remained in remission (i.e. free of detectable levels of HIV) for more than one year after their HIV treatment was paused. This was a small, early study, but is nonetheless an important proof of concept that early, intensive HIV treatment in infants can achieve remission. This concept is important because if long-term remission can be achieved without ongoing treatment, then people can avoid the financial, logistical, and health impacts that come with what would otherwise be lifelong treatment. Listen to Dr. Deborah Persaud, a researcher on the study, discuss the study's findings on the [podcast](#) [The Lancet HIV in conversation with](#).

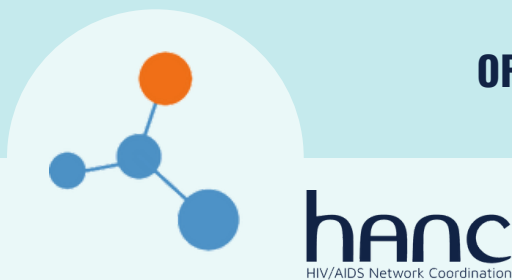
[IMPAACT 2037](#) began enrolling participants in August, and six study sites have been activated. The study is evaluating two broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs), which are antibodies that fight many strains of HIV, among infants at high risk for HIV. The study aims to enroll 48 newborns with their mothers at sites in Brazil, Kenya, and the United States.

Network Updates

The IMPAACT Network Annual Meeting held on 4 - 11 September had over 640 attendees. Next year's Annual Meeting will take place during the week of 7 June 2026. Please check the [Annual Meeting page](#) on the IMPAACT website for details in a few months.

HANC RESOURCES

OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS NETWORK COORDINATION (HANC)



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, mpox, and more.

Community Resources: Our one-stop shop of an abundance of resources for inclusive community involvement in HIV research. For community members who want to get involved in research, you'll find resources such as a tool for how to make sense of a research study protocol and links to videos about understanding science and what happens in a lab. For people who are already involved in research and want to make it more inclusive, take a look at resources such as recommendations for community engagement and tools that research teams can use to conduct inclusive research.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 1: World AIDS Day

February 22-25: Conference on Retrovirus and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Denver, CO

March 16-18: AIDSWatch in Washington, DC