

BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

BTG News

2024 Edition, Issue 1

From the Editor

The first BTG newsletter of 2024! With this first issue being released during Women’s History Month and leading up to National Women and Girl’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD) I feel that it’s only right to recognize all the incredible women making a difference in ending the HIV epidemic. From researchers, project managers, community members, statisticians and more, women are showing up and showing out! The theme for 2024’s NWAGHAAD is “Prevention and Testing at Every Age. Care and Treatment at Every Stage,” which I am especially excited about as we have seen a vast expansion in free HIV testing resources become available in the last few years. If you are living in the U.S there are state specific locations to receive free HIV testing, as well as free mail in self-testing kits available through various organizations like [TAKEMEHOME](#).

Free testing is one of many essential tools that we can use to Be the Generation to end the HIV epidemic, but read on to learn more about our what’s happening in HIV prevention research and how scientists and community members are working together to end the epidemic as well!

Thank you for being
the generation,

Gabriella Olague &
The Legacy Project

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HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN):

HPTN 096 at Code Red Gala



L-R, Martine Powell (lower left), Ederick Johnson (upper left), and Theresa Gamble (lower right) Justin Jones (upper right), president and founder of the Rapha Center.

The [HPTN 096](#) (BETA) study team recently attended the Rapha Center Code Red Gala in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The event recognized individuals who have contributed to building and leading community-led initiatives to end the HIV epidemic in South Florida. The Gala was sponsored in part by HPTN 096, a study testing an integrated strategy designed to improve access to and uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services for Black men who have sex with men (MSM) in the southern U.S.

Building Partnerships to Implement Peer Support in Dallas, Texas & Montgomery, Ala.



(L-R: Kameron Jacobs, Martine Harrington Powell, Sherri Johnson, Tracy Lyons, HPTN; Darren Whitfield, HPTN 096 Peer Support Co-Lead; DeAnne Turner, HPTN 096 Peer Support Co-Lead; Lesly McIntyre, MPU, Lead Peer Supporter; Emma McDaniel-Ellis, MPU, Educational Outreach Director; Meta Ellis, MPU Executive Director; Margeaux Hartline, MPU Administrative Assistant; Marco Mays, MPU Peer Support Program Director).

The [HPTN 096](#) Peer Support component leaders met with stakeholders from [Montgomery Pride United](#), [Normal Anomaly](#), and the [Center for Health Empowerment](#) to begin laying the groundwork for a collaborative implementation approach for the program in Montgomery and Dallas. The [HPTN 096 Peer Support Program](#) offers individual support to Black gay, bisexual, same-gender-loving, and other men who have sex with men in select communities as part of the study's integrated strategy.



HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK

HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN):

HVTN 807- Antiretroviral Analytical Treatment Interruption (ATI) in people living with HIV (PLWH)

In August of 2023, HVTN launched an ATI research study. An ATI is the temporary stopping of using HIV medicine in a structured research study that is carefully monitored. It can be used to assess the effects of interventions like vaccines to understand more, for example, about how long the virus takes to rebound, the size of the viral reservoir that an individual has, and to understand specific immune responses to HIV that could inform the development of HIV prevention and treatment interventions. An ATI is an experimental procedure that is only used in carefully monitored research and is not part of recommended healthcare for PLWH. The study will enroll 40 participants. The study participants will be divided into two groups. Participants in Group 1 will get 2 doses of the study vaccine and then will undergo an ATI (stop taking their HIV medicine), and their HIV and health will be carefully tracked to ensure their safety and wellbeing. Participants in Group 2 will also get 2 doses of the study vaccine, but they will not undergo an ATI. Volunteers will be able to choose which group they want to join because the visit schedules are quite different. The study is being conducted in the US at 8 clinical centers: Birmingham, AL, Boston, MA, Atlanta, GA, Decatur, GA, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Pittsburgh, PA, and Seattle, WA.

HVTN 605/A5421 – The Network's First Tuberculosis Vaccine Study

The HVTN opened HVTN 605/A5421, the network's first tuberculosis vaccine study, on January 12, 2024. This study is a collaboration with the Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally for HIV/AIDS and Other Infections (ACTG) to test the safety and immunologic response to an experimental TB vaccine called MTBVAC and compare it with the currently approved vaccine BCG both in people living with and without HIV. HVTN 605/A5421 will enroll about 276 participants at 16 sites in South Africa, aged 12 through 55 who have had a BCG vaccine during infancy.

As of February 13, the study has enrolled 12 participants, 3 living with HIV and 9 living without HIV. Enrollment is expected to be complete in May 2024. The results of HVTN 605/A5421 will help understanding of how the immune system responds to these vaccines and whether these vaccines are as safe in people living with HIV (PLWH) as they have been in people without HIV. In addition, the data from this study will directly inform how PLWH can be included in future efficacy trials.



International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent Aids Clinical Trials

(IMPAACT):

International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network:

Happy 2024! The IMPAACT Network is preparing to make this year a remarkable one as we persist in developing and evaluating methods to enhance healthy outcomes for infants, children, adolescents, pregnant, and postpartum individuals who are affected by or living with HIV and its complications.

2024 EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM AWARDEES

We are excited to announce [four early career investigators](#) who will complete a research project using data and laboratory samples from IMPAACT studies this year.

What is it? The Early Career Investigator Award Program is an exciting opportunity for researchers to gain valuable experience and contribute to important research efforts.

Why is it important? Through this program, researchers continue learning valuable insights from IMPAACT study data that can be used to inform medical and public health practices.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AT CROI 2024

Researchers from the IMPAACT Network are preparing to share study data during the [2024 Conference on Opportunistic Infections](#) (CROI) in Denver, Colorado from 3-6 March 2024.

Presentations will be available on the IMPAACT website after the conference has concluded and include data from:

- IMPAACT 2017/MOCHA
- IMPAACT 2010/VESTED
- IMPAACT P1115
- PROMISE 1077BF/FF
- P1078/TB APPRISE
- IMPAACT 2019/P1093
- IMPAACT 2009
- and more!

Stay connected! Follow the IMPAACT Network on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn (@IMPAACTNetwork). Visit our website to learn more and subscribe to our [quarterly newsletter](#).

HANC is pleased to share these updates and other resources:

- [Be the Generation website](#): the best place to go for trustworthy information on biomedical 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.
- The [H=H Podcast](#): The podcast that centers on the ‘Human’ in ‘HIV.’ This podcast is sponsored by the HANC Legacy Project and presents content on the human side of research, featuring scientists, community members, and affirming communities disproportionately affected by HIV.
- [Webinar Library](#): a collection of over 30 of our webinar recordings on topics such as Monkeypox, 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, and more.
- [Transgender Training Resources Homepage](#): the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has put all its amazing resources related to research with transgender communities in one place. All resources are free; you may just need to create a free account if you don’t have one already.

Important Dates

June 3-7: [HPTN Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, DC and virtual

June 5: [HIV Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day](#)

June 8: [National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

June 12-15: [ACTG Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, DC and virtually

June 19: [Juneteenth](#)

June 27: [National HIV Testing Day](#)

July 14: [International Non-Binary People’s Day](#)

August 20: [Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

August 29: [National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)