

BE THE **GENERATION**

TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello/Hola BTG readers,

I'm Joss, your new editor!

As I write my first issue of BTG News, I can't help but reflect on the remarkable transformation in how we respond to HIV/AIDS.

At the dawn of the AIDS epidemic, an HIV diagnosis was often a death sentence. But in the years since, so much has changed. Today, we have powerful HIV prevention tools, including multiple forms of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis). We also have antiretroviral medications that allow people living with HIV to live full, healthy lives and maintain an undetectable viral load, meaning they cannot transmit HIV to others. These are more than scientific breakthroughs. They are reasons to hope that we can end the HIV epidemic!

In this BTG issue, we highlight the HPTN and IMPAACT research helping move us closer to our goal.

From HPTN, we spotlight HPTN 096, an implementation study focused on improving HIV prevention and treatment among men in the U.S. South who are most impacted by HIV. We hear directly from the people building trust, community by community, to close gaps in prevention, treatment, and care access across the region. Their reflections are a reminder that implementation science is, at its core, relationship science, measured not only through outcomes, but through coalitions formed, conversations started, and stigma challenged.

From IMPAACT, we highlight several ongoing studies and share a recap of where IMPAACT science traveled this summer, from Rio de Janeiro, to the IMPAACT Annual Meeting, to CROI 2026, highlighting the contributions of Early Career Investigators along the way.

Kinda chic to be part of the generation ending HIV!

Until our next BTG issue,

Dr. Joss



HPTN HIV Prevention
Trials Network

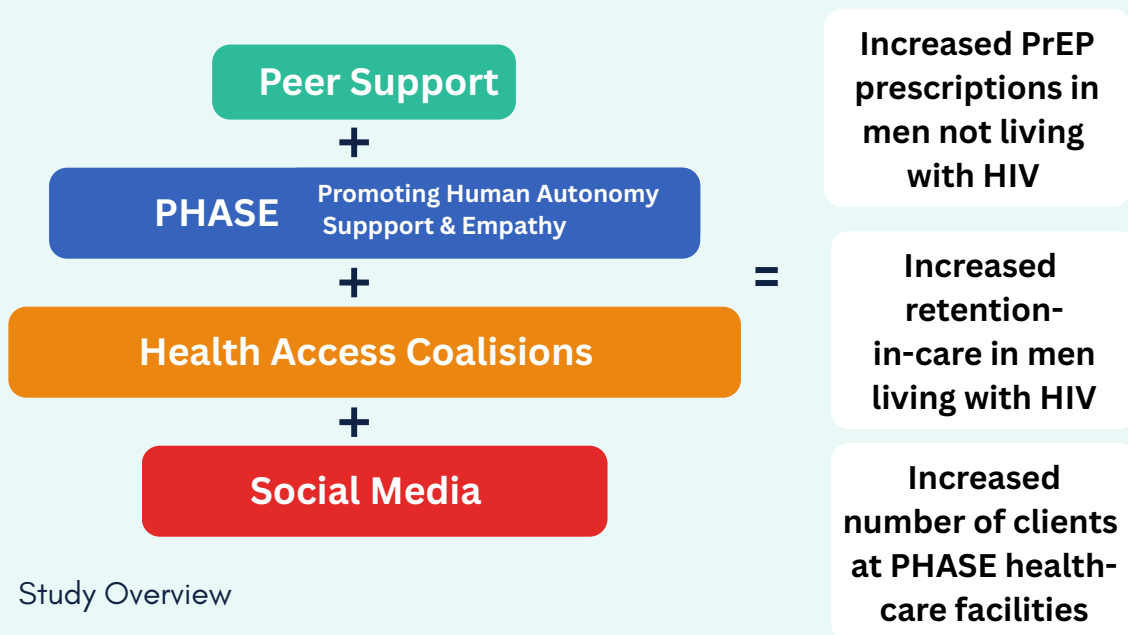
NETWORK NEWS

HIV PREVENTION TRIALS NETWORK (HPTN)

HPTN 096 Building Empathy Transforming Access (BETA)

HPTN 096 (BETA) is a study focused on helping men in the southern United States gain better access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care. Unlike a clinical trial that compares medicines, this study assesses how well programs and study interventions are implemented at the community, clinical, and individual levels in the real world.

The study is a constellation of partnerships representing several healthcare facilities, community-based organizations, universities, agencies, and individuals focused on HIV prevention and care across three states: Dallas, Texas; Montgomery, Alabama; Fort Lauderdale and Miami, Florida. These partnerships extend beyond in-person engagement through community-informed digital communication strategies, including social media, that help connect people with trusted information, reduce stigma, and increase awareness of HIV prevention, treatment, and care. Over the past year, that constellation has grown. The study team has continued to bring participating healthcare facilities online, enroll participants in the study's peer support program, develop community-resonant social media content, and assemble locally led coalitions in each study community. A lot has happened in one year!



HPTN 096
Building Empathy,
Transforming Access



HPTN HIV Prevention
Trials Network

NETWORK NEWS

HIV PREVENTION TRIALS NETWORK (HPTN)

We asked some of our study partners to share their experiences and thoughts about the study so far. Here's what they said:



"Being part of the HPTN 096 study isn't just research for me—it's personal. If sharing my story helps even one person feel less alone, get tested, stay in care, or believe their life should be joyful, then this work is bigger than me. It's about shifting awareness, opening doors to prevention and treatment, and honoring the lived experiences of our community. We deserve JOY period."

Rameses Frederick, HPTN 096 Social Media Consultant



"... I'm most looking forward to the momentum becoming even more tangible. There's a shift happening — people are talking more openly, asking more questions, and showing up for themselves in ways that feel powerful. I'm excited to see...more clients staying connected to care because they feel supported, not judged. More partnerships are forming with local organizations, barbershops, nightlife spaces, and community hubs. More stigma is breaking down as prevention and care become normalized parts of wellness. More empowerment as clients recognize their own agency and see themselves reflected in the work. There's a real opportunity for long-term transformation, and I'm proud to be part of that growth."

Brandon Huey, HPTN 096 Peer Support Component



"My experience so far has focused on building connections, understanding community needs, and learning more about the barriers that prevent people from engaging with services. I can see the value of the study in bringing people together and identifying challenges. I hope this helps make the work stronger as we move forward."

Kai Sola, HPTN 096 PHASE Component

Learn more about the study and stay connected to what's happening by visiting the study website (www.hptn096.org), subscribing to the study newsletter, and following @hptn096beta on social media.



IMPAACT Study Updates

- [IMPAACT 2050](#) is looking at how two long-acting HIV medicines, cabotegravir (CAB) and rilpivirine (RPV), work in women living with HIV during pregnancy and after childbirth. The findings could help expand treatment options for women living with HIV and support healthy outcomes for both mothers and babies.
- [IMPAACT 2044](#) is looking at how two antibiotics used to treat syphilis, ceftriaxone and benzathine penicillin G, work in pregnant women and how safe they are. Researchers will also follow some infants after birth to better understand congenital syphilis, which occurs when syphilis is passed from a pregnant person to their baby during pregnancy.
- [IMPAACT 2046](#) is exploring how mothers living with HIV make decisions about infant feeding and the factors that influence those choices. The study will also help establish a national registry of women living with HIV who breastfeed in the United States, providing valuable information to guide future care and support.
- [IMPAACT 2037](#) is studying two broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) given shortly after birth to infants at higher risk of acquiring HIV during delivery or breastfeeding. Researchers hope these antibodies may offer an additional layer of protection during the earliest stages of life.



IMPAACT Around the World

IMPAACT at AIDS 2026 and the 18th International Workshop on Pediatrics & HIV 2026

Researchers from the IMPAACT Network presented data at AIDS 2026 and the 18th International Workshop on Pediatrics & HIV 2026, taking place 24 – 31 July in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and virtually. Five abstracts were accepted to AIDS 2026, one as an oral presentation and four as posters; three were accepted as posters to the Pediatrics Workshop. IMPAACT data being presented came from [PROMISE](#), [IMPAACT 2010/VESTED](#), and [P1078](#). Notably, five IMPAACT Early Career Investigators presented their research.

2026 IMPAACT Annual Meeting

The 2026 IMPAACT Annual Meeting took place virtually from 4-11 June with Community Advisory Board and Network Plenaries. If you registered for the meeting and wish to rewatch the presentations, you may do so [here](#). The 2027 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 2-7 May 2027. Meeting information and details will be posted on the [Annual Meeting page](#) as they become available.

IMPAACT at CROI 2026

IMPAACT colleagues presented 18 abstracts with data from 12 studies (2 as oral presentations, 1 as a poster with themed discussion, and 15 as poster presentations) at CROI 2026. Presentations include data from [IMPAACT P1115](#), [IMPAACT 2042/Tatelo Plus](#), [IMPAACT 2010/VESTED](#), [IMPAACT 2016](#), and others. You can view all abstracts and presentation materials [here](#)

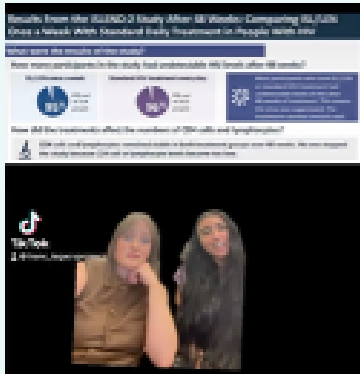


hanc
HIV/AIDS Network Coordination

HANC NEWS

OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS NETWORK COORDINATION (HANC)

Social Media Post of the Month



Gabriella and Murph break down the ISLEND study, in which researchers investigated whether people could take an HIV medication once a week instead of every day.

Check out our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [TikTok](#) to learn more!

HIV news



HVTN 706/HPX3002 (Mosaico): When “No” Still Moves Science Forward

The Mosaico HIV vaccine did not prevent HIV, but the lessons learned are helping scientists design the next generation of HIV vaccines.



HPTN 094 (INTEGRA): Bringing HIV Prevention and Addiction Care to People Where They are

HPTN 094 asks whether a clinic on wheels, combined with trusted peer support, can bring HIV prevention, addiction treatment, and other essential health services directly to people who need them.



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

September 17-20: United States Conference on HIV/AIDS in Anaheim, CA

September 17: National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

September 18: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

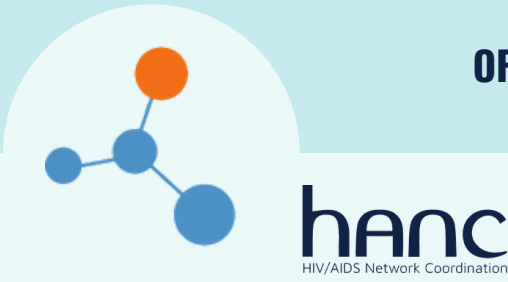
October 15: National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day

October 19-20: HVTN's 10th Translational HIV Vaccine Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Conference
in San Antonio, TX

December 1: World AIDS Day

HANC RESOURCES

OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS NETWORK COORDINATION (HANC)



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