

BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

BTG News

2023 Edition, Issue 2

From the Editor

What is Be the Generation? As the newest editor of this newsletter, that's a question that's been rolling around my mind. Not only what *is* Be the Generation, but also what would it feel like to truly be a *part* of the generation that ends the HIV and AIDS epidemic. I was born in 1996, the same year that Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) completely changed the conversation around HIV and AIDS. Prior to HAART, a diagnosis of HIV was a death sentence, but now there was real hope in the community. Hope for the ability to live a full life, hope for future generations to live full lives and hope that we could truly end the epidemic.

In the 26 years since 1996, so much has changed. The life expectancy of someone in the United States living with HIV has grown from 18 months post diagnosis to now having the ability to live normal lifespans with treatment according to the NIH. The way the general public views people living with HIV has changed starkly as well. It was considered taboo when Princess Diana shook hands with a patient with AIDS in 1991. That reaction seems unfathomable and completely absurd now. *That's* what Be the Generation means to me. One day, we *will* be the generation to end the HIV and AIDS epidemic, but we already are the generation to restore the hope for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. There is certainly still room for growth, and after reflection on all that we've already accomplished, I can't wait to see the changes our generation will continue to make.

Thank you for being
the generation,

Gabriella Olague &
The Legacy Project

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HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN):

What is something that nearly every HIV trial in history has in common? Study participants. Without the assistance of trial participants, we would never have learned everything we know about HIV prevention, treatment and hopefully one day a cure. Making the decision on whether or not to participate in an HIV study can be complicated, especially if you have no prior experience with research. HPTN understands that this decision is complicated and deeply personal, and in order to help potential future trial participants understand more about what it means to be involved in a study they have released a new feature on their website. Follow the link below to hear directly from a participant in a study of a bimonthly shot that proved to prevent HIV (HPTN 083) and learn more about what it means to be a participant in a major HIV study!

[Participating in HIV Prevention Research | The HIV Prevention Trials Network \(hptn.org\)](https://www.hptn.org/participating-in-hiv-prevention-research)



HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK

HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN):

HVTN RAMP Scholar Program – Welcome RAMP Cohort 13!

The HVTN has accepted 17 scholars for the 2023-2024 RAMP Cohort 13 Scholar program! This is the largest cohort in program history! Previous cohorts have ranged from 4 to 9 students. We have 14 scholars in the general program and 3 scholars in the alumni program.

The program criteria have expanded to include students who identify as Native American/American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Islander, and individuals granted deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The HIV Vaccine Trials Network, in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, is investing in a young generation of HIV prevention researchers by providing them with opportunities to conduct independent research while receiving mentoring, project and salary funding, training, and professional development opportunities. Scholars will be working on their projects with sites in the US (Atlanta, Birmingham, and New York), Malawi (Lilongwe); South Africa (Cape Town and Soshanguve), and Zimbabwe (Harare).

To learn more about our scholars and the projects they will be working on, please visit the [RAMP Scholar Profiles](#).

For more information, please visit www.hvtn.org/ramp or contact Linda Oseso, RAMP Program Manager, at loseso@fredhutch.org



International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent Aids Clinical Trials

(IMPAACT):

We are excited to be featured for the first time in this newsletter as International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network! We are a global network of researchers, clinicians, and community advocates dedicated to improving the health and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant and postpartum people affected by HIV and other infectious diseases.

We have approximately 25 active studies across more than 50 global research sites. Some of these include evaluating injectable HIV treatment options in children and adolescents ([IMPAACT 2017/MOCHA](#) and [IMPAACT 2036/CRAYON](#)), testing oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis during pregnancy ([IMPAACT 2009](#)), evaluating methods to improve mental health and medication adherence among youth living with HIV ([IMPAACT 2016](#)), evaluating new medicines for children with drug-resistant tuberculosis (IMPAACT P1108, IMPAACT 2005, and IMPAACT 2034), and studying early intensive treatment to achieve HIV remission ([IMPAACT P1115](#)).

This research is critical because HIV and other infectious diseases disproportionately affect pregnant and postpartum people, children, and adolescents, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Through our research, we work to advance the science and practice of pediatric and maternal HIV care and treatment and to improve health outcomes for these populations around the world.

We invite you to [visit our website](#) to learn more about our organization, our research, and our mission. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn (@IMPAACTNetwork). Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by HIV and associated complications.

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](#)