

# BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

**BTG News**

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## From the Editor

When I tell people that I work in HIV research, they usually picture me in a lab working with samples. The connection between clinical trials and social work (my education and training background) isn't always obvious. But when I describe social work as an evidence-based practice to foster transformation against systems of injustice, the link starts to become clearer. We need to acknowledge the unfairness, injustice, and oppression manifest in all systems and institutions—and science is no exception. There are reasons we have protections for clinical trials participants, such as those outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki and the Belmont Report. There are reasons that people of color in the US remain underrepresented in clinical trials. There are reasons that cisgender women and transgender people are excluded from research and have limited options for needed drugs. To end the HIV epidemic, we need to transform our systems that have been molded by injustice. We need to transform ourselves.

This World AIDS Day, I am celebrating the deep transformational work that our HIV prevention research enterprise is engaged in. We now have studies designed specifically for communities that have long been neglected. We're updating our language to be more inclusive. We're questioning the ways that science has always been conducted—and creating new and better systems. Read on to learn more.

For all you do to end the HIV epidemic, **thank you**. As always, share our [resources](#) and [stay in touch!](#)

Brian Minalga &  
The Legacy Project

[btg@hanc.info](mailto:btg@hanc.info)





## **HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)**

The HPTN has always kept it real, but the science has been particularly exciting this year with a handful of studies designed for specific priority populations. One such study is called INTEGRA, also known as HPTN 094, designed specifically for people who inject drugs. The INTEGRA study is currently enrolling in Houston; Los Angeles; New York City; Philadelphia; and Washington, DC. The HPTN recently released an inspiring story on this study and the people involved in it. Check out this featured story here: [“Meeting People Where They Are for HPTN 094.”](#)



HIV VACCINE  
TRIALS NETWORK

## **HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)**

HVTN is pleased to announce that the upcoming HVTN sub-Saharan Africa Regional Meeting will convene in Johannesburg, South Africa from February 6-8, 2023. This meeting will primarily focus on the studies taking place in sub-Saharan Africa. For more information, visit the [events page on our website](#).

Additionally, the HVTN is investing in the next generation of HIV prevention researchers by providing opportunities for African American/Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American/American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Islander medical students to conduct independent research while receiving mentoring, project and salary funding, training, and professional development opportunities. This program, called RAMP, includes:

- hands-on experience conducting HIV prevention research
- the opportunity to receive mentoring from experts in the HIV field
- training in immunology, vaccinology, basic science, and/or social-behavioral science, and
- the opportunity to explore a career in HIV vaccine research.

Scholars will have the opportunity to apply to a research project of their interest. Applications are due online by 5 p.m. Pacific on January 2, 2023. Further program details can be found at the [RAMP page](#) on our website.

To see projects of our current and former RAMP scholars, [check out their profiles](#).



## Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC)

HANC has a new Director! We are very lucky to have [Russell Campbell](#) at the helm of our small but mighty team. Congratulations, Russell!

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.
- [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.
- [Understanding Science Video Series](#): More than ever, communities need trustworthy information on the basics of science. HANC therefore formed a work group with international membership to develop videos on several important topics. Why is science essential? Why is research important in science? The short videos answer these and other questions, aiming to make understanding science and clinical research easier.
- [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.