

# BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

**Be the Generation eNewsletter**

**Issue 2017, Volume 1**

## **New Website**

The *Be the Generation* (BTG) team is thrilled to announce that we are renovating our website, <http://www.bethegeneration.org/>! The HIV Prevention Trials Network, HIV Vaccine Trials Network, Microbicide Trials Network, and the Legacy Project at the Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination are working with the Communications team at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center to build you a sleek new website with the latest information on HIV prevention research from the NIH HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks. The new website will not only look and feel more appealing; it will also give all of us more knowledge and power than ever to make a difference--to be the generation to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. From all of us, thanks for everything you do to make an end to the epidemic a reality. Check back regularly for updates as we plan to launch the new website this summer. Questions about the website or BTG in general? Contact Brian Minalga at [bminalga@fredhutch.org](mailto:bminalga@fredhutch.org).

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

The 24th annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) was held February 13 - 16, 2017, in Seattle, Washington, at the Washington State Convention Center. HPTN researchers presented 17 abstracts covering HPTN 037, 052, 065, 067, 068, 069, 071, 073 and 076.

The 14th [National AIDS Education and Services for Minorities \(NAESM\) conference](#) was held January 19-22, 2017, in Dallas, Texas. The event attracted several hundred healthcare providers, government officials, people living with HIV/AIDS, researchers and community members for four days of education, professional/personal development, and networking. The HPTN co-hosted and co-sponsored a presentation and plenary session along with the HVTN and MTN. "From Top to Bottom: Everything You Need to Know About Anal Health" presented the many facets of anal health among Black MSM and transgender people, including beliefs and barriers that negatively affect access to care.

After the presentation, attendees engaged in a discussion about the best ways to improve anal health in communities most at risk for HIV. The breakfast plenary, "HIV Prevention Research Studies Engaging Black MSM and Transgender Persons," provided updates on [HVTN 704/HPTN 085](#), also known as AMP, and [HPTN 083](#), seeking to advance HIV prevention options available for Black MSM and transgender men and women who have sex with men.



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

The HVTN will hold an African Regional Meeting in Johannesburg February 28 – March 1 and will focus on the two large efficacy trials we are currently conducting in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): HVTN 703/HPTN 081 (The AMP Study) and HVTN 702 (Uhambo).

HVTN 703/HPTN 081 is a phase 2b trial enrolling 1500 women at 21 sites in SSA. It is testing to see if a broadly neutralizing antibody that was shown to be effective at neutralizing HIV in the lab can prevent HIV infections in these women. This trial is being conducted jointly by the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) and the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN). It has a sister trial, HVTN 704/HPTN 085, being conducted in the United States, Peru, Brazil, and Switzerland that is enrolling 2700 men and transgender individuals who have sex with men. This is the first efficacy trial of any method of biomedical HIV prevention that has specifically included transgender men who have sex with men as an eligible population.

HVTN 702 is a phase 2b/3 efficacy trial enrolling 5400 at-risk men and women. It builds on RV144, also known as the Thai Trial, which was the first HIV vaccine efficacy trial to show modest effect in preventing HIV infections. The vaccine regimen has been customized to Clade C, the strain of HIV that is most common in South Africa, and an additional booster shot at the one year mark has been added. Scientists hope these changes will produce stronger immune responses that will last longer than was seen in the Thai Trial. HVTN 702 is being conducted at 15 clinical trial sites in South Africa.

The success of the HVTN's work in sub-Saharan Africa relies on the successful engagement of those communities most impacted by HIV there. In the HVTN, community engagement succeeds thanks in no small part to people like our Lead Community Education Training Manager, Nandi Luthuli, who received the 2016 Omololu Falobi Award for Excellence in HIV Prevention Research Community Advocacy. This award honors individuals who have shown leadership and commitment to HIV prevention research advocacy and inspired others to action. Nandi was profiled and honored at the HIV Research for Prevention (R4P) Conference that was held in Chicago in October, 2016.

### **Materials for Consumers and Staff Education**

The HVTN celebrates our Be the Generation partnerships and looks forward to working with you as we move into the spring and summer events. Please note that our staff are available to work with you for events that might occur for commemorative days such as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (May 18) or HIV Testing Day (June 27). You may contact Steve Wakefield at [swakefield@fredhutch.org](mailto:swakefield@fredhutch.org). Please visit the following links for initial information and contact us to follow up:

<http://ampstudy.org/>

<http://www.hvtn.org/en/participants/HIV-myths-facts.html>

<http://www.hvtn.org/en/community/community-compass.html>

<http://bethegeneration.org/LearnMore/materials.html>

### **Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)**

A new report from an MTN-convened stakeholders consultation on the MTN-034/IPM 045 (REACH) open-label safety and adherence study of the dapivirine vaginal ring and oral PrEP in adolescent girls and young women is now available. The meeting took place September 29-30, 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and included more than 40 attendees. Meeting attendees represented civil society and advocates focused on HIV prevention, women's reproductive health and girls empowerment; ethicists and Institutional Review Board/Ethics Committee chairs; national HIV program officers; and African women between the ages of 16 and 25. The meeting report, [Meeting the HIV Prevention Needs of Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Stakeholders consultation on REACH \(MTN-034\)](#), is available on MTN's website.

Two follow-up REACH stakeholder engagement consultations are being held in February in Harare, Zimbabwe and in Johannesburg, South Africa. Similar meetings are being planned for Kenya in the coming months. These meetings will provide an update on study status and timelines. They will also engage with a broad base of stakeholders in each trial site country about issues that may affect in-country approvals and study implementation. In particular, MTN is seeking to understand views on contraception requirements for enrollment and different options to be offered--especially long-acting reversible contraceptives, such as IUDs and implants. Pending all approvals, the REACH study is slated to begin in mid-2017 and will be enrolling 300 young women ages 16-21 at sites in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

The 2017 MTN Annual Meeting is taking place March 19-22 in Bethesda, Maryland. The [agenda](#) is available on MTN's website.

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

In honor of Black History Month, the Legacy Project recently hosted a webinar, "Privilege and Power in Healthcare: Unpacking the Black Experience." The webinar featured Dr. Michele Andrasik from the HIV Vaccine Trials Network. A recording of the webinar is available in the [Legacy Project's Webinar Library](#). This library now also includes a webinar recording from the Legacy Project's Community Engagement in

HIV Clinical Research series which was previously unavailable: “Microbicide Update: Gels, Rings, and Other Things” featuring Drs. Sharon Hillier and Ian McGowan.

The Youth Prevention Research Working Group (YPRWG) is discussing plans to present a seminar or workshop at the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Network Annual Meeting in June (Washington, DC) and/or the International AIDS Society Meeting in July (Paris, France). The YPRWG will also host webinars throughout 2017. Stay tuned!