

# BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

**BTG News**

**2019 Edition, Issue 4**

## From the Editor

The theme for this year's World AIDS Day (December 1<sup>st</sup>) is "Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Community by Community." That's *you* that the world is calling upon! And together, we have a lot of work to do. Every year for about the past seven years, about 40,000 people in the US have become HIV-positive. Most of the 40,000 are people whom our society regularly mistreats: people of color, gay and bisexual men, transgender and cisgender women, sex workers, people who inject drugs, poor people... "community by community," we are still struggling with the social determinants of health. Achieving the goals of "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America" would mean that we go from 40,000 new HIV cases every year to 4,000 by year 2030. As unequal as our society remains, how can we possibly make this happen?

There is hope. In this final issue of 2019, *BTG News* brings you updates from researchers and community members dedicated to the search for safe and effective methods to prevent HIV among the very communities most impacted by this epidemic. We can't do this without you. Keep engaging with our [website](#), and [visit us on Facebook](#) to tell us what you're up to this World AIDS Day. For all you do to be the generation to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, thank you.

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

The HPTN is designing a new study called The INTEGRA Study (also known as HPTN 094: A Vanguard Study of Integrated Strategies for Linking Persons with Opioid Use Disorder to Care and Prevention for Addiction, HIV, HCV, and Primary Care). This study will evaluate the impact of providing treatment for opioid disorder among people who inject drugs and are vulnerable to acquiring or transmitting HIV. The intervention will include peer navigation, either through antiretroviral therapy or pre-exposure prophylaxis distributed from a mobile van. The team writing the protocol for this study recently met in Washington D.C. for the first time, and their discussions were enriched by input from experienced HIV and opioid treatment clinicians; study coordination, laboratory and pharmacy staff from NIH research sites; a person in recovery for opioid use disorder, and others. The INTEGRA team is on the path to finalizing the protocol for submission to the HPTN and sponsors for review. As progress on INTEGRA unfolds, stay in touch for more news about this important study for people who inject drugs.



HIV VACCINE  
TRIALS NETWORK

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

Approximately 57 research sites in South America, the US, and Europe are gearing up to participate in a new large-scale HIV vaccine study! The study is called Mosaico (HVTN 706/HPX3002), and it will be testing an HIV vaccine candidate to see if it works to reduce people's chances of acquiring HIV. The study seeks to enroll 3,800 healthy, HIV-negative people, ages 18 – 60. Participants will be cisgender men or transgender people who have sex with cisgender men and/or transgender people. Additionally, the participants will be those who would benefit most from a preventive HIV vaccine – those who are vulnerable to contracting HIV but have not yet found an existing HIV prevention strategy that meets their needs. As of this month, Mosaico is officially open for enrollment! Read more about this exciting new study [here](#).



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

The MTN will be holding its final in-country stakeholder meeting for the planned [DELIVER \(MTN-042\)](#) and [B-PROTECTED \(MTN-043\)](#) studies that will be evaluating the safety of the dapivirine vaginal ring and Truvada as oral PrEP in pregnant and breastfeeding women, respectively. The two-day meeting will be taking place in Harare, Zimbabwe, January 28-29, 2020. Similar meetings have already been conducted in Malawi, South Africa, and Uganda. As with previous meetings, the MTN is partnering with AVAC as well as local civil society and NGO partners. These include the Pangea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust and the Organization for Public Health Interventions and Development, working closely with the Zengeza Clinical Research Site of the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences – Clinical Trials Research Centre.

[A fun and informative music video](#) to promote the REACH study (MTN-034) was developed by the Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University Research Collaboration in Kampala, Uganda. The video features Ugandan performer Joanita Kawalya and is being used as a tool to educate and inform potential study participants. REACH (Reversing the Epidemic in Africa with Choices in HIV prevention) is a Phase IIa study evaluating how adolescent girls and young cisgender women use the monthly dapivirine vaginal ring and Truvada as daily oral PrEP and their preferences for either or both approaches. The study is collecting much needed information on the safety of these approaches in young cisgender women.

MTN is excited to share the news that the Lima, Peru and Blantyre, Malawi sites for MTN-035, fondly called the [DESIRE study](#), have activated and are enrolling study participants. DESIRE is exploring three placebo methods for the delivery of a rectal microbicide – a douche, suppository, and fast-dissolving rectal insert – in 210 transgender men and women and cisgender men who have sex with men. With the addition of the international sites, DESIRE is now half way to being fully enrolled.

The DESIRE study will be discussed at a workshop taking place from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m. on December 3rd at the upcoming [Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit](#) in Houston, Texas. The presentation, *Flirt, Insert, and Squirt: Community Desire in HIV Prevention*, will focus on the unique design of DESIRE that provides

participants with the opportunity to “try on” potential HIV prevention methods and share their experiences before specific products have been developed. See below for more information about the Summit.



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

HANC is proud to share the following new trainings and webinar recordings:

- **Biomedical HIV Prevention for Women:** a comprehensive training developed by the Women’s HIV Research Collaborative on biomedical HIV prevention (present and future) specifically for cisgender and transgender women. This training includes [slides](#), [speaker notes](#), and a [facilitator’s guide](#) for those who would like to download it and present it in their communities.
- **Women & HIV Cure-Related Research:** a comprehensive training on the state of HIV cure-related research and the meaningful involvement of cisgender and transgender women in this research. [Slides](#) and [Speakers’ Notes](#) are available to download.
- **[HIV & Aging webinar](#):** part of a three-part series on HIV and aging, this webinar focuses on African American women.
- **[National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day webinar](#):** a discussion about HIV with members of the Latinx community.
- **[Exploring and Disrupting Pathways to Risky Behaviors](#):** a focus on adolescent brain development and youth HIV prevention.
- **[An Overview of ACTG’s Cure-Related Research and the Socio-Behavioral Aspects of HIV Cure-Related Research](#):** part of a three-part series on HIV cure-related research, this webinar focuses on the HIV cure-related research agenda in the AIDS Clinical Trials Group and socio-behavioral aspects of this research.
- **[Webinar Library](#):** a collection of over 30 of our webinar recordings on topics such as HIV & race, HIV genetic sequencing, HIV & aging, outreach & marketing, Native Americans and HIV, microbicides research, pregnancy and lactation in HIV research, HIV in the Latinx community, community engagement, and more.

## **NMAC Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit**

The HANC Legacy Project and Women’s HIV Research Collaborative have a pretty major presence at the [2019 Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit](#) taking place in Houston, TX. We’d love to see you at our sessions below!

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Room</b>
Tuesday 12/3 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<b>“HIV Prevention for Historically Black Colleges and Universities”</b>	Fort Bend A
Tuesday, 12/3 2:45 to 4:15 p.m.	<b>“Okay Ladies Let’s Get In-formation: Women &amp; Biomedical HIV Prevention”</b>  Combined with a session by our friends from the Microbicide Trials Network,  <b>“Flirt, Insert, and Squirt: Community Desire in HIV Prevention”</b>	Liberty
Tuesday 12/3 4:30 to 6 p.m.	<b>“Fostering Transgender Awareness &amp; Inclusion in HIV Research”</b>	Fort Bend A
Wednesday 12/4 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<b>“Be the Generation: Mobilizing Communities to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic”</b>	Montgomery B
Wednesday 12/4 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<b>“The Latest in HIV Treatment Research from the ACTG”</b>	Montgomery B

We will be back in Texas in January for the [Creating Change](#) conference taking place in Dallas, January 15-19, where we will present a workshop, “Fostering Transgender Inclusion in HIV Research.” Hope to see you there!