

BSCG Members

Network Representatives:

HVTN: Michelle Andrasik

Dr. [Michele Andrasik](#) works to address psychosocial and structural factors associated with HIV risk and STI disparities among marginalized communities in the US. Dr. Andrasik has a doctoral degree in Clinical Health Psychology from the University of Miami and is an expert in Community-Based Participatory Research and Qualitative methods. She is the lead Social Scientist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's (FHCRC) HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington (UW), and Core Faculty in the FHCRC/UW Center for AIDS Research Socio-behavioral Prevention Research Core.

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- Community Based Participatory Research Approaches
- Qualitative Methods
- Behavioral Risk assessment theoretical models and measurement approaches
- Intimate Partner violence theoretical models, intervention and measurement approaches
- Cultural Responsiveness/Humility theoretical models and intervention

HPTN: Steven Safren

Dr. [Steven Safren](#) is a Professor in Psychology at Harvard Medical School, Director of Behavioral Medicine at MGH, Affiliated Senior Scientist at Fenway Health, and Director of the Harvard University CFAR Social and Behavioral Sciences Core. He is engaged in a variety of studies related to behavioral aspects of HIV prevention and treatment both domestically and internationally. He was one of the lead behavioral scientists in several network studies, particularly at their inception phase, including ACTG5175, HPTN052, and is protocol chair of HPTN063. Dr. Safren has successfully designed and tested key evidenced-based adherence interventions both for HIV ART, as well as PrEP (i.e. in the Gates-Funded ancillary adherence study Partners in Prevention; and two U.S. domestic studies with MSM).

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- Interventions to improve adherence to self-care and medications
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Assessing and decreasing the burden of mental health, substance use, and other syndemics as barriers to self care
- Health behavior change for MSM
- Behavioral Medicine Interventions for health promotion
- Assessment of adherence
- Behavioral science research design in the context of biomedical trials related to HIV treatment and prevention

MTN: Barbara Mensch

Dr. [Barbara S. Mensch](#) is a social demographer and a senior associate at the Population Council. As Chair of the Behavioral Research Working Group (BRWG) of the Microbicide Trials Network, she coordinates and helps set the priorities for behavioral research within the MTN. She is currently a member of protocol teams for several MTN trials and is co-chair of MTN 003D, a study that explores potential sources of efficacy dilution, including low adherence and anal sex, in the VOICE trial. She has considerable experience conducting surveys in the developing world and has been a PI, co-PI, or collaborator on household- and school-based surveys and clinic-based studies in 13 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. She was the PI on an NICHD-funded methodological grant to assess the measurement of sensitive behaviors in surveys and clinical studies in Latin America and Africa. She was a member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries and is currently the PI on a five-year NICHD grant, "Education and HIV risk among young people in a high-prevalence country," a longitudinal study that seeks to elucidate the relationship between school quality, educational outcomes, and sexually transmitted infections among young people in Malawi.

Areas of expertise:

- Social and behavioral research associated with microbicide studies focusing on acceptability, adherence, and willingness to participate in trials.
- Methodological research on the quality of self-reported data in surveys and clinical studies.
- Demographic research on transitions to adulthood in developing countries.

IMPAACT: Sybil Hosek

Dr. [Sybil Hosek](#) is a clinical psychologist and HIV Researcher in the Department of Psychiatry at John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County and vice-chair of the HIV Prevention Scientific Committee for IMPAACT. Dr. Hosek's research focuses on the HIV prevention needs of HIV-uninfected and HIV-infected adolescents and young adults. She has led 3 PrEP studies for YMSM (ATN 082, 110, 113), is vice-chair of IMPAACT 2009, a PrEP study for pregnant and breastfeeding young women, and protocol team member for HPTN 082, a PrEP study for adolescent and young adult women in Southern Africa. Dr. Hosek is also currently the PI on a NIMH-funded intervention development trial for Black young MSM in the Chicago House Ball community.

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- Behavioral intervention development
- Community-based research and interventions
- Adolescent and young adult development
- HIV+ youth
- Combination prevention for youth
- PrEP for youth

ACTG: Carlos del Rio

Dr. [Carlos del Rio](#) is Professor and Chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health at the Rollins School of Public Health and Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. His research interests are on early diagnosis, access to care, adherence with antiretrovirals and combination prevention of HIV infection. He has worked for over a decade in hospitals and clinics with hard-to-reach populations including substance abuse users to improve outcomes of those infected with HIV and to prevent infection with those at risk. He is also interested in the translation of research findings into practice and policy. Dr. del Rio is also a practicing HIV clinician at a busy inner-city clinic.

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- HIV testing
- Studies of interventions such as health navigators and contingency management to increase linkage and retention in care
- Antiretroviral adherence/compliance
- Interventions with hard-to-reach populations such as substance abusers
- Increasing participation of minorities and underserved populations in clinical trials
- PrEP trials

External Advisors:

Ira Wilson (Co-Chair)

Dr. [Ira Wilson](#) is Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Services, Policy & Practice at the Brown University School of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine at The Alpert School of Medicine, Brown University. His research interests are in structural elements of health care delivery systems, and how these structural elements affect patients' experience of their care, physician-patient interactions, patients' health outcomes, and healthcare quality. He is particularly interested in methodological aspects of adherence measurement in chronic conditions, including HIV care, and in interventions to improve the quality of prescription medication management, and has several active NIH grants and a PCORI grant in this area. Dr. Wilson is also a practicing primary care physician who has been active in numerous practice-based quality improvement efforts.

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- Development and implantation of measures of HIV care quality
- Development, testing, and implementation of patient self-report measures, including measures of ART adherence
- Methods related to the description and analysis of physician-patient communication, including but not limited to communication about ART adherence
- Provider-level behavior change interventions

Jane Simoni (Co-Chair)

Dr. [Jane M. Simoni](#), Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist and Professor/Associate Chair in the Department of Psychology at the University of Washington. She is a faculty member in the CFAR's Socio-behavioral and Prevention Research Core and Co-Director of the CFAR's Substance Use Working Group. Her research has focused on behavioral aspects of HIV treatment. She has written several reviews and empirical reports of ART adherence theory, methods, and related interventions. She has had NIMH-funded adherence-promotion studies in NYC, Seattle, the U.S.-Mexico border, and China, emphasizing peer support, technologically based reminders, and nurse counseling.

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- Medication adherence assessment
- Mental health treatment
- Clinical trials of adherence-promotion behavioral interventions

K. Rivet Amico

Dr. [K. Rivet Amico](#) is a social behavioral scientist at the University of Connecticut's Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention. She has actively contributed to the development and implementation of health promoting interventions for over a decade, with specific emphasis on HIV treatment and engagement in care and HIV prevention. In these areas, Dr. Amico has interest and experience in measurement, methodology, design, and analytic strategies used to characterize the influence of social and contextual variables on decision making and behavior. She has collaborated with a number of teams working within and outside of research networks to enhance delivery of adherence support and HIV prevention counseling, promote engagement in HIV care, and strengthen existing site- and team-level capacities to implement best counseling/engagement practices while maintaining fidelity to rigorous research protocols.

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include: Domestic and International

- HIV-prevention (counseling and PrEP)
- Placebo controlled PrEP trials
- Linkage to care theoretical models, intervention, and measurement approaches
- Retention in care theoretical models, intervention and measurement approaches
- Antiretroviral adherence theoretical models, intervention and measurement approaches
- Protocol and procedures: development, manualization, training and implementation support for multisite trials
- Research design: Design, measurement and analytic approaches for social behavioral studies and sub-studies

Mallory Johnson

Dr. [Mallory Johnson](#) is a professor at the University of California, San Francisco with his primary appointment in the School of Medicine and joint appointments in the School of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing. He is a licensed clinical health psychologist with a research career focused on understanding, measuring, and improving the health of persons at risk for or living with chronic diseases such as HIV. He is also Co-Director of the NIMH-funded Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) and is active in mentoring and training of early career investigators interested in HIV-related research from multiple disciplines.

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- Clinical trials of behavioral interventions
- Couples research
- Behavioral medicine
- Mixed methods research
- Adherence measurement and intervention
- Research with MSM and transgender women
- Scale development.

Jessica Haberer

Dr. [Jessica Haberer](#), MD, MS, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Internist/Research Scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital, Global Health. Dr. Haberer's research focuses on wireless adherence monitoring and intervention for developing settings, addressing both treatment and pre-exposure prophylaxis against HIV infection. Her current projects are based in Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa. Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

Areas of behavioral and social science expertise include:

- Measurement of antiretroviral medication adherence
- Real-time adherence monitoring and intervention
- mHealth (mobile health) technology development in resource-limited settings, including SMS and other wireless devices
- Understanding antiretroviral therapy adherence in pediatric populations
- Understanding pre-exposure prophylaxis adherence