

BE THE GENERATION

TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

Be the Generation eNewsletter

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From the Editors

Summer is here, which for many of us means celebrating at various Pride events. The *Be the Generation* (BTG) team looks forward to celebrating while also remembering the contributions of Pride to HIV prevention research. In many ways, pride in our communities is where an end to the epidemic begins. We wish everyone a very happy Pride!

BTG also continues to renovate our website and hopes to launch it this summer 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 provide all of us with 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.

Questions about BTG? Contact us at btg@hanc.info.

HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)

The HPTN recently held its annual meeting at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The event attracted more than 600 registered participants and featured an array of study-specific meetings, Community Working Group sessions, skills-building activities, and plenaries featuring speakers discussing current topics regarding targeted HIV prevention strategies.

During the Tuesday plenary session, the HPTN Laboratory Center, Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC), and HPTN Scholars presented some of their current work. Later in the evening, Network leadership hosted a poster session and welcome gathering.

The following day, the HPTN was thrilled to welcome back Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and Ambassador-at-Large Deborah L. Birx, M.D., coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and U.S. special representative for Global Health Diplomacy. Other speakers at the Wednesday plenary session focused on critical areas relevant to our research portfolio including a "State of the Network" update delivered by HPTN co-Principal Investigator Mike Cohen.

HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)

The HVTN held its full group meeting in Washington, DC May 23-25.

Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)

The Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) recently launched a study of a vaginal ring containing the antiretroviral drug *dapivirine* and a hormonal contraceptive at two sites in the US. The dual-purpose ring, being tested in a Phase I trial called [MTN-030](#), contains levonorgestrel, a synthetic progestin used in many contraceptives, along with dapivirine, in quantities large enough to feasibly provide protection from HIV and unintended pregnancy for up to three months.

The MTN is planning two follow-up stakeholder meetings related to the REACH study, or [MTN-034/IPM 045](#) to take place in late August. REACH (Reversing the Epidemic in Africa with Choices in HIV prevention) is a Phase IIa trial that will evaluate how adolescent girls and young women use the monthly dapivirine vaginal ring and daily Truvada® as PrEP, and their preferences for either or both approaches after using each for six months. The stakeholder meetings, which will be held in Kisumu, Kenya and Kampala, Uganda, will provide an update on study status and timelines, and engage with a broad base of stakeholders (including young African women) about issues that may affect in-country approvals and study implementation. Pending all approvals, the REACH study is slated to begin in mid-2017, and will be enrolling 300 young women ages 16-21.



Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC)

The HANC Legacy Project will host a webinar in June featuring Terry Munn, CEO of Triangle Empowerment Center (TEC), a community-based organization in North Carolina. In an effort to better support research study participants recruited from TEC, TEC staff developed a process through which their organization engages with researchers. This webinar will highlight TEC's process. Contact btg@hanc.info for registration information.

Dr. Eugene McCray of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will present a webinar hosted by the HANC Legacy Project on July 11th: "CDC's Response to HIV-related Disparities among African American Gay and Bisexual Men in the US." Contact btg@hanc.info for registration information.

The Youth Prevention Research Working Group will be presenting a satellite symposium at the International AIDS Society Conference in Paris, France this July. The symposium is titled, "Prevention Solutions for the Next Generation: Highlighting Adolescent Research in the NIH HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks and the Adolescent Trials Network." This symposium will highlight NIH-sponsored multi-center international adolescent prevention research including [HPTN 082](#), [MTN-034](#), [IMPAACT 2009](#), and the [ATN iTech](#) studies.