



BTG eNewsletter

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From the Editors

This quarter, we have some exciting news about HIV prevention research: findings from a study of a vaginal ring for HIV prevention in teen girls in the US, an update on the long-acting injectable studies, an upcoming workshop on lube at the United States Conference on AIDS, and more. In the midst of all the excitement is an opportunity for you—yes, you—to make a difference in the future of the HIV/AIDS research enterprise! Every seven years, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reviews the structure and funding of its HIV clinical research networks, including the three networks featured in this newsletter: the HIV Prevention Trials Network, HIV Vaccine Trials Network, and Microbicide Trials Network. This [network refinement process](#) involves decisions that will determine the focus and priorities of the HIV/AIDS research enterprise through year 2027. The NIH encourages you to participate in this process by [submitting your recommendations](#) for the future direction of HIV/AIDS research. To support you in making informed recommendations, AVAC is hosting a webinar on Tuesday, September 5 for a conversation with Dr. Carl Dieffenbach, Director of the Division of AIDS at the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. This webinar will include a brief introductory presentation by Dr. Dieffenbach followed by a Q&A session. [Register here](#) to learn more about the network refinement process and how to best participate.

HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)

[HPTN 077](#) results released at the 9th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2017) show the injectable drug, long-acting cabotegravir (CAB LA), to be well tolerated by men and women. The study data support further development of CAB LA for HIV prevention in men and women using 300mg (3 mL) injections every eight weeks with the first two injections given four weeks apart. [HPTN 083](#) and [084](#) are

studies in further development of this strategy using injectable CAB LA for HIV prevention. Watch the webinar on HPTN 083 [here](#).

HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)

Applications begin in September for the 2018-2019 HVTN Research and Mentorship Program (RAMP), a scholar program for African American and Latinx medical students. Learn more about the program [here](#).

The [AMP HIV Prevention Study](#) is currently enrolling participants to test an experimental antibody that could potentially prevent HIV infection. *Hutch News* recently released a story about the success of this study in community engagement at one of the study sites in Nashville, TN. Read about our all-star community engagement folks at the Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine Program [here](#)!

Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)

MTN researchers presented the results of two studies, MTN-023/IPM 030 and MTN-029/IPM 039, at the 9th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2017) in Paris. [MTN-023/IPM 030](#) found that the dapivirine vaginal ring was safe and acceptable in teen girls in the U.S. The study was conducted in partnership with the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) and included 96 girls ages 15-17 at six U.S. sites.

[MTN-029/IPM 039](#) found that the study drug was absorbed in very low concentrations into the breast milk of lactating women who used the dapivirine vaginal ring for 14 consecutive days. The study enrolled 16 participants who had stopped breastfeeding their infants, but could still pump breast milk. Three new

studies are currently being planned as follow-up to MTN-029/IPM 039 at trial sites in Malawi, Uganda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.



Dr. Sharon Hillier, MTN Principal Investigator

A stakeholder consultation for [MTN-034 \(REACH\)](#) – a study of the dapivirine vaginal ring and oral PrEP in adolescent girls and young women at sites in Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe – is being held in late August in Kampala, Uganda, with a similar meeting planned for Kenya in October. The meetings are being held in partnership with AVAC and in-country organizations, and will provide an update on study status and timelines and engage with a broad base of stakeholders, including teen girls and young women, about issues that may affect in-country approvals and study implementation. Pending all approvals, the REACH study is slated to begin in early 2018 and will be enrolling 300 young women ages 16-21.

MTN will be hosting a workshop at the upcoming United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), September 7-10 in Washington, D.C. The workshop, *Let's Get Lubricated: Lube safety, access and advocacy*, will be held on Thursday, September 7 from 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will address the need for clear public health messaging around the use of lubricants by gay men and other men who

have sex with men in the US. The workshop will also provide an update on the development of lube-based HIV prevention products. Expert panelists will share their insights about the challenges and opportunities involved in providing safe and accessible lubes to all who need them.

Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC)

United States Conference on AIDS (USCA)

Going to USCA, September 7-10? Did you know that there is a USCA 2017 Faith Pre-Conference taking place on September 6? People of faith, faith leaders, and people working in the HIV/AIDS response are invited to gather for a one-day multi-faith conference. The Legacy Project has organized a panel on the intersection of faith, HIV, and stigma that will take place as part of this day-long pre-conference. Please plan your USCA travel accordingly and [register](#) for the USCA 2017 Faith Pre-Conference today!



The Women's HIV Research Collaborative will be hosting a workshop at the 2017 United States Conference on AIDS in Washington, DC. The workshop, titled, "The Secret Garden: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Vaginal Microbiome," will take place on Friday, September 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Union Station, Meeting Level 3 at the Marriott Marquis. Featuring four of the nation's foremost experts in women's health and HIV, this workshop is designed to reveal the "secrets" related to vaginal microorganisms and susceptibility to HIV while addressing racial disparities and strategies to advocate for better health outcomes for women.



Webinars

The Legacy Project is pleased to share its latest webinar recordings, including

- HIV within Latinx Communities in the US: Needs, Priorities, and Assets
- CDC's Response to HIV-Related Disparities among African American Gay and Bisexual Men in the US: Update 2017
- Our People are Not a Study: A Community Perspective on Engaging Researchers

Enjoy these recordings and more at the [Legacy Project's Webinar Library](#).

Youth Prevention

The Youth Prevention Research Working Group hosted a satellite symposium at the 9th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2017) in Paris, France, 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 highlighted NIH-sponsored multi-center international adolescent prevention research including [HPTN 082](#), [MTN-034](#), [IMPAACT 2009](#), and the [ATN iTech](#) studies.

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