



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mar 19-22: 2017 MTN Annual Meeting; Bethesda, MD

Apr 8-14: HPTN Annual Meeting; Washington, DC

May 23-29: HVTN Annual Meeting; Washington, DC

May 30-Jun 4: 2017 IMPAACT Annual Meeting; Washington, DC

Jun 4-6: Adherence 2017; Miami, FL

Jun 25-29: ACTG Annual Meeting; Washington, DC

Jul 23-26: IAS 2017; Paris, France

Mar 4-7; CROI 2018; Boston, MA

Jun 20-24: 2018 Annual ACTG Network Meeting; Washington, DC

For details on these and other events, go to the [HANC calendar](#).

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HANC & Network Announcements

HANC: HANC's newest Legacy Project Community Engagement Officer, Louis Shackelford started his role at HANC on March 1st. Louis brings years of professional experience in research related community engagement. Please join us in welcoming Louis!

Community Partners will be hosting a webinar, **Zika: Facts vs Fiction** on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 presented by Dr. Cristina Cassetti. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

HANC staff members, Melissa B. Austin and Brian Minalga, will be attending the MTN Annual Meeting March 19-22 in Bethesda, MD.



ACTG recently released its latest [newsletter](#).

CROI 2017 was held February 13-16 in Seattle, WA. The conference brought together top basic, transla-

tional, and clinical researchers from around the world to share the latest studies, important developments, and best research methods in the ongoing battle against HIV/AIDS and related infectious diseases. The ACTG Network was well represented at CROI where Investigators presented results from nearly thirty completed studies.

To review some of the highlighted ACTG Network presentations at CROI 2017, [click here](#).



The HPTN Annual Meeting will take place April 9-13, 2017 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. The meeting will include an engaging lineup of speakers and

topics in several sessions and a main plenary featuring 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. HPTN Scholars, the Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC) and the Laboratory Center (LC) will also present their work, and study teams will highlight key study findings and lessons learned on the rollout and conduct of trials in an evening poster session and reception.



The HVTN is having an unprecedented year of activity. The field has turned a corner and there are a number of immunogens – recombinant proteins designed to elicit neutralization moving into phase I trials. A robust group committed to leadership from site investigators has made it possible for a new study to open almost every month. We also held our regional meeting during the first quarter in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sessions were ensured network ability to increase the engagement of both junior and

senior site investigators in the scientific creativity of the Network.

HVTN Full Group Meeting will be May 23-25, 2017 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel Washington, D.C. This will provide an opportunity review response from HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (May 18). Participants will review progress from studies designed to characterize the safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy of HIV vaccine candidates for prevention of HIV infections globally. Scholars also provide updated on efforts to address the impact of additional studies on recruitment and retention. More information about upcoming conferences is [available here](#).



In February, IMPAACT 2001, an open-label, multi-center trial to evaluate the pharmacokinetics and safety of once-weekly doses of rifapentine (RPT) and isoniazid

(INH) in HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected pregnant and postpartum women with latent tuberculosis (TB), opened to accrual. The study will evaluate 12 once-weekly doses of RPT (900 mg) and INH (900 mg) taken with pyridoxine in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. Up to 82 pregnant women and their infants will be enrolled and followed through 24 weeks postpartum at sites in Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Thailand, the US, and Zimbabwe. More information is available [here](#) and at [NCT02651259](#).



The MTN presented findings at the 2016 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Boston that indicated that use of the dapivirine vaginal ring did not lower the effectiveness of hormonal birth control. The results, from the MTN-020 (ASPIRE) study, showed that among women reporting use of injectable depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA), injectable norethisterone enanthate (NET-EN), hormonal implants and oral contraceptive pills, there were no differences in the pregnancy rate between the dapivirine and placebo arms of the trial, regardless of the form of birth control used.

Two follow-up stakeholder engagement consultations for MTN-034 (REACH) – a study of the dapivirine vaginal ring and oral PrEP in young women at sites in Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe – were held in Harare, Zimbabwe and Johannesburg, SA in February, with similar meetings being planned for Kenya in coming months. The meetings provided an update on study status and timelines, and engaged 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 sought 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.



REMINDERS

- The “[Portal Trainings & FAQ](#)” pages and documents have been updated for SharePoint 2010.
- Have you ever wondered how to reach a colleague at another network or DAIDS? Check out the [cross-network contact list](#), the [DAIDS staff list](#), or the [DAIDS Topic-specific contact list](#) on the left-hand navigation bar of the [portal homepage](#).
- **Did you know?** NIAID posts funding opportunities to its public website. For more details, [click here](#).
- Check out the [NIH Clinical Regulation website](#), created with the goal of helping researchers learn about international clinical regulations. Users can compare clinical regulations between countries in navigable side-by-side format, in topics such as Ethics Committees, Sponsorship, Clinical Trial Lifecycle, and more!
- Did you know you can access real time accrual information and protocol documents on the HANC portal? [Click here to go to the Quick Protocol Summary!](#)

HELPFUL TIPS

- Forgot your portal password? Reset it by going to [Log On Help](#).
- Find many HIV/AIDS resources and links [www.hanc.info](#).

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HANC Program Highlights

Behavioral Science: The Behavioral Science Consultative Group members that attended CROI 2017 met for a lunch meeting on February 15. The group discussed ongoing network protocols as well as possible topics that could be explored at the BSCG Face-to-Face meeting that will be held on June 7 in Miami, FL.

Communications: The Communications Working Group discussed abstracts and posters being presented by the networks at CROI. A list of those presentations and posters is available on the [HANC website](#).

Community Coordination: Dr. Carl Dieffenbach will be presenting to CP in March to solicit community input into the 2020 Network Recompensation. Every 7 years NIH competitively renews its funding of the HIV clinical research networks operating in the United States and internationally. Given the pace of discovery in the HIV field, 7 years can see significant changes in research priorities. The current agreements supporting the existing network structure are set to end in 2020. NIH is taking a proactive approach to refining the research enterprise and driving HIV discovery. By establishing a forward-looking agenda to guide this process, NIH will determine the focus and priorities of its HIV clinical trial networks through 2027.

Community Partners will be hosting a webinar, **Zika: Facts vs Fiction** on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 presented by Dr. Cristina Cassetti. [Register for the webinar here](#).

The webinar will provide an overview of facts about Zika including:

- * What is Zika
- * How Zika is transmitted
- * Most common symptoms of Zika
- * How you can better protect yourself and your family from Zika
- * Zika vaccine development

Dr. Cassetti is the Translational Sciences Program Director in the Virology Branch of the Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID) at NIAID. She currently oversees translational research and product development activities in the virology branch and also serves as the deputy chief. In December 2015, she was appointed to coordinate the Zika research response in DMID at NIAID.

Data Management Center (DMC): The DMC Working Group discussed the recently released 2017 DAIDS MedDRA Adverse Event Term Selection Guide as well as utilization of the ACTG and IMPAACT [Specimen Repository](#), which was developed by FSTRF.

Evaluation: The Evaluation Working Group discussed protocol signature page implementation as well as electronic signatures and signing of CRFs. The Group also discussed the recent Ad Hoc Site Community Engagement Evaluation Working Group call.

Laboratory: VQAAB reviewed 3 reports: 1 each for RNA032, GEN032, and Integrase 032. ACTG TB Lab Core team reported updates to the TBLD-WG group. The internal core team has been reduced to 3 members and continuing to work on the Mycobacteriology Laboratory Harmonization Guide with a goal of finalizing it at the end of March. Peggy Coulter and Lesley Scott provided EQA updates, as well. CPQA provided updates regarding the Round 38 completed round. Round 39 has been initiated and will include elvitegravir. Several PK Laboratory PIs had the opportunity to meet face-to-face in CROI Seattle and get to know each other beyond their professional collaborations. New [CPQA Website](#) was also launched. It contains the Drug Assay Directory and links to CPQA publications and resources, news, and more information about the CPQA program. LFG discussed the Quantiferon TB-Gold Plus Validation Summary Report drafted and performed by BARC laboratories.

Legacy Project: A recording of Dr. Michele Andrasik’s February 6th webinar, “Privilege and Power in Healthcare: Unpacking the Black Experience,” is now 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 Women’s HIV Research Collaborative (WHRC) Co-Chair election results are in: Liz Barr has been re-elected for a second term, and Clare Collins has been elected for her first term. Liz and Clare will provide leadership to the WHRC through 2019. The WHRC thanks all the fantastic candidates who continue to guide the work of the WHRC. Special thanks to out-going Co-Chair, Annet Davis-Vogel, for her four years of leadership to the WHRC—the maximum allowed in the WHRC by-laws.

The latest issue of the Be the Generation eNewsletter is now available on the [HANC public website](#). There are two versions of the eNewsletter: English and Spanish.

As part of Legacy’s Latinx community engagement efforts, Legacy is in the process of collaborating on submitting abstracts and hosting a webinar focused on increasing awareness and building support for Latinx HIV prevention and treatment efforts.

The CFAR Faith Initiative is meeting in Rochester, NY March 28-29. Louis Shackelford will attend on behalf of the Legacy Project.

OCSO: HANC and OCSO hosted a webinar on February 22, 2017 that discussed implementation of a new DAIDS requirement that the Networks collect investigator of record (IoR) signature pages for all ongoing and new protocols as well as new versions and LOAs. Slides presented during the webinar are available on the HANC website.

Research Site Management & Clinical Trials Logistics: The Site Coordinators Working Group discussed how to access laboratory certificates via the [HANC website](#), network-specific procedures for protocol deviation reporting, and ongoing implementation of Medidata Rave.