



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mar 4-7: CROI 2018;
Boston, MA

Mar 18-21: 2018 MTN
Annual Meeting; Bethes-
da, MD

May 14-16: HVTN Annu-
al Meeting; Washington,
DC

May 17-19: HPTN Annual
Meeting; Washington,
DC

June 8-10: Adherence
2018; Miami, FL

June 16-19: IMPAACT
Annual Meeting, Wash-
ington, DC

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

Jul 23-27: 22nd Interna-
tional AIDS Conference,
Amsterdam, the Nether-
lands

Oct 22-25: HIVR4P 2018;
Madrid, Spain

Mar 18-21: 2019 Nation-
al HIV Prevention Con-
ference, Atlanta, GA

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

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HANC & Network Announcements

HANC: Laboratory Project Manager, Cale Reid last day at HANC was on March 3, 2018. [The Laboratory PM position has been posted](#). Please feel free to share the link.

HANC has created a page highlighting network presentations at CROI 2018. View the page [here](#).



ACTG recently released its latest [newsletter](#). In this edition, you'll find out more about:

- Update from the PHOENIX Protocol Team
- Information about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- CROI 2018 will be held in Boston March 4-7
- University of North Carolina's Podcast "HIV Matters" is now available.



The 25th annual [Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections](#) (CROI) will be held from March 4 to March 7, 2018, at the

Hynes Convention Center in Boston, Massachusetts. HPTN researchers will present 11 study-related abstracts covering HPTN [052](#), [065](#), [067](#), [068](#), [074](#), [075](#), and [082](#). In addition, HPTN Co-Principal Investigator Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, will be presenting "Advances in HIV Prevention" during a pre-conference workshop for new investigators and trainees. And in a themed discussion, Connie Celum, MD, MPH, will be speaking on risk behavior, perception, and reasons for PrEP among young African women ([HPTN 082](#)). The discussion will be led by HPTN Executive Committee member Quarraisha Abdool Karim, PhD. CROI 2018 webcasts, abstracts, electronic posters, and other electronic resources will be available [online](#) after the conference ends.



**HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK**

In response to popular demand from site investigators, HVTN Core,

Lab, SDMC, CRS, and South Africa National Institute of Communicable Disease staff collaborated to hold an HVTN Vaccine Science Workshop on February 20th in Cape Town, South Africa. The objective of the event was to increase HVTN-specific scientific literacy for the large cohort of investigators who have become newly involved in HVTN studies in recent years as the portfolio of trials in Southern Africa has dramatically expanded. This workshop, which was aimed at site investigators and clinicians, provided in-depth information on immunological principles that inform vaccine design and evaluation; lab assays

measuring antibody responses; and interpretation of immune response measurement data. Attendees provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, and indicated that the event increased their comfort with interpreting trial data visualizations, such as those presented at scientific conferences and lectures. Organizers will plan a follow-up event for next year focusing on T-cell data.



IMPAACT's contributions at CROI 2018 include oral and poster presentations as shown [here](#).



In February, a stakeholder consultation was held in Kisumu, Kenya for the [MTN-034/IPM 045](#) (REACH) study of the dapivirine vaginal ring

and oral PrEP in adolescent girls and young women. It was the final meeting of a series of in-country consultations as MTN prepares for the launch of REACH (Reversing the Epidemic in Africa with Choices in HIV prevention) in mid-2018. MTN partnered with AVAC, International Partnerships for Microbicides (IPM), a non-profit organization that developed the dapivirine ring, and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to conduct the meeting. During the meeting, young women and teens shared their views about the upcoming study, and learned about the study design, products and timelines. In anticipation of the launch of the REACH study in Kenya, CDC Kenya and KEMRI also celebrated the opening of a new adolescent clinic, which will serve as a site for the REACH study and provide a safe place for youth to participate in HIV research. In addition to Kenya, the REACH study is taking place in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and will enroll 300 young women and girls – 100 girls ages 16-17 and 200 young women ages 18-21.

MTN's Annual Meeting will be held March 19-20 in Bethesda, Maryland at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Topics covered at the meeting will include MTN's journey with the dapivirine ring, young MSM and transgender perspectives on HIV prevention, the path forward to developing a multi-purpose vaginal ring, reaching young cisgender women in Africa about HIV prevention, the ethics of evaluating HIV prevention products among pregnant women, and the delights of douching related to the development of on-demand rectal microbicides. In addition to these topics, MTN will be pilot testing a new transgender training tool developed by the DAIDS Cross Network Transgender Working Group. The training session, to be held 3-6 p.m., Sunday, March 18, is open to all Annual Meeting attendees. To [register for the MTN Annual Meeting](#) and access the [draft meeting agenda](#), visit www.mtnstopshiv.org.



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 Working Group and the Behavioral Science Consultative Group each held calls in February. The BSWG discussed several network protocols including HPTN 078, HPTN 084, IMPAACT 2016, and ACTG 5359. The BSCG continued their discussions on the PHOENIX study, ACTG 5359, as well as other topics. Several members of the BSCG will be attending CROI 2018 in Boston, MA.

Community Coordination: Community Partners is in the process of scheduling its annual F2F Meeting to be held in the DC area.

Community Partners is working with the Phoenix Study Team on a scheduling a webinar for community members around the PHOENIX study.

Community Partners is working with the Phoenix Study Team on community messaging around the PHOENIX study.

Community Partners will be seeking input from CABs, site staff and community members around revising the Recommendations Document.

Data Management Center (DMC): The Data Management Center Working Group discussed questions relating to the new DAIDS Safety Data Reconciliation Policy and MedDRA coding with OPCRO and the DAIDS RSC.

Evaluation: The Evaluation Working Group discussed current efforts around data management metric harmonization and network priorities for the upcoming year.

Laboratory: The TB Lab Diagnostics Working Group discussed prospective timelines for implementation of the TB Sourcebook, in addition to approaches to implementation monitoring. Members also deliberated on the working group’s purpose, as much of the scope of work is now addressed by other TB-related working groups. From this discussion, the group has elected to disband and will not hold calls moving forward. The Laboratory Focus Group discussed final revisions to the Cross-Network Guidelines for Diagnosis of HIV Infection, the Cross-Network PBMC Processing SOP, and the Cold Chain Guidelines. The Cross-Network Clinical Pharmacology Lab Forum received an update from Dr. Gene Morse regarding monoclonal antibody efforts and directions. CPQA also discussed plans to develop best practices for computer system validation, and will coordinate with the CNCPL to review this document.

Legacy Project: 3/1: The latest issue of *BTG News* is now available! Check it out in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) for the latest in HIV prevention research from the HPTN, HVTN, MTN, and HANC.

3/4-11: [National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS](#)

3/10: National Women & Girls HIV Awareness Day. Please check [Legacy’s Facebook page](#) for an update from the Women’s HIV Research Collaborative on this commemorative day.

3/14: Please [register](#) for Part 2 of “It’s Time to Deliver: Including Pregnant and Lactating Women in Clinical Research,” a 2-part webinar series by the Women’s HIV Research Collaborative, Treatment Action Group, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. A recording of Part 1 is available [here](#).

3/15: A three part webinar series on “Outreach and Marketing Fundamentals in HIV Research” starts on this date. For more information [email Louis](#). All three parts are listed below:

Part #1 - Promotion and Marketing Fundamentals - Thursday, **March 15th** - Speaker: Johnathon Briggs

Start time: 11am PST / 2pm EST Runtime: 60 minutes

Part #2 - Fundamentals and Best Practices of Social Media Engagement - Thursday, **April 5th** - Speakers: Nina Feldman & Michael Louella

Start time: 11am PST / 2pm EST Runtime: 60 minutes

Part #3 - Research Site Perspectives in Study Promotion, Marketing, and Outreach – Thursday, **May 3rd** - Speakers: Noshima Dardan-Tabb & two other speakers (TBD)

Start time: 11am PST / 2pm EST Runtime: 90 minutes

3/18-20: Brian Minalga will attend the MTN annual meeting where he will assist with the training, “Creating a Gender-Affirming Research Environment.” This training is part of a curriculum focused on HIV research with transgender communities, in development by the DAIDS Cross-Network Transgender Working Group. [Registration](#) is required to attend.

3/22: The Legacy team (Russell Campbell, Brian Minalga, and Louis Shackelford) will be at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN to participate in a workshop on collaborations between Centers for AIDS Research and Historically Black Colleges & Universities. Russell and Brian will speak on a panel about accessing resources to address the underrepresentation of African Americans in HIV research, highlighting Legacy resources such as the modules on HIV Prevention Research and Understanding Clinical Research. Louis will speak on a panel about engaging African American investigators in research, highlighting mentorship efforts and minority investigator programs across the NIH HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks.

Research Site Management & Clinical Trial Logistics: The Site Coordinators Working Group reviewed differences between financial disclosure reporting systems and discussed updates in site monitoring.

Youth Prevention Research Working Group: The Youth Prevention Research Working Group has been discussing possible webinar topics for a spring webinar and a fall webinar. Once the topics are selected and dates are set, the YPRWG will share the details with HANC collaborators.