HANC: HANC has hired Tyler Brown for the HANC Project Manager position. Tyler Brown joined HANC in July 2018 arriving with a background in public health, bioethics and research network coordination. Tyler is driven by the belief that cultivating collaborative partnerships within the HIV/AIDS research community can improve health outcomes, particularly for vulnerable and underserved populations. Previously, Tyler has supported research aimed at improving antiretroviral medication adherence, alternative clinical HIV care models and dissemination of evidence-based interventions to address health disparities. At HANC, Tyler facilitates opportunities for researcher collaboration and manages cross-network coordination activities related to laboratory working groups, committees and focus groups.

DAIDS: The Division of AIDS is soliciting comments on the draft Age and Identity Verification and Co-Enrollment Prevention. This is a new policy that describes the requirements for DAIDS clinical research sites (CRSs) to have written standard operating procedures (SOPs) to verify the ages and identities of potential participants before enrollment and identity throughout the duration of the study. Additionally, to preserve scientific validity and protect study participants, the SOPs will establish procedures for monitoring for co-enrollment where it is not allowed by the study protocol. The policy documents are listed below:

- Age and Identity Verification and Co-Enrollment Prevention Policy.pdf
- Age and Identity Verification and Co-Enrollment Prevention SOPs Appendix.pdf

Please submit comments to the DAIDS Policy Branch by Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Include with your comments: the name of the document, and line number(s) and/or section number that corresponds.

A listing of the ACTG's poster and oral presentations at the 22nd International AIDS Conference July 23-27 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands is available here.

The HIV Research for Prevention (HIVePR) conference will be held October 21-25, 2018 at the Marriott Auditorium Hotel in Madrid, Spain. HPTN researchers will present 14 abstracts (nine posters and five oral presentations) covering HPTN 067, HPTN 059, HPTN 074, HPTN 075, HPTN 077, HPTN 078 and the AMP studies (HVTN 703/HPTN 081, HVTN 704/HPTN 085). In addition, the HPTN and the HVTN will jointly host a satellite session titled “State of the Art of HIV bNAb's for Prevention of HIV Infection”. Myron Cohen, MD, HPTN co-principal investigator and Larry Corey, MD, HVTN principal investigator, will co-chair the session.

MTN is excited to announce the completion of enrollment in MTN-026, a Phase I rectal microbicide study testing whether dapivirine is safe as a gel when used in the rectum. The study enrolled 27 participants at two clinical sites in the U.S. located in Birmingham, Alabama and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and one international clinical site located in Bangkok, Thailand. Results are anticipated in first quarter 2019.

At the recent AIDS 2018 meeting in Amsterdam, MTN presented a satellite session on anal health. The session, Anal Sex From Top to Bottom: Beliefs, behaviors and policies for better health, engaged attendees in a discussion about anal health and hygiene, as well as how best to improve anal health in communities most vulnerable to HIV, and provided up-to-date information on the development and testing of rectal microbicides. Partners on the session included AVAC and IRMA, as well as international organizations that included the European AIDS Treatment Group (Belgium), Anova Health Institute (South Africa), APCOM (Thailand), Gay Latino (Paraguay) and UHAI EASHRI (Kenya). Photos from the session are available on MTN’s Facebook page, as well as from other MTN-related presentations at the meeting.

Experts from the MTN will be presenting at two sessions at the upcoming United States Conference on AIDS on Friday and Saturday. They include You Down With GPP? Engaging young MSM in HIV prevention scheduled for 9:11 a.m., and a WHRC-led session Can We Deliver? HIV research among pregnant and breastfeeding women scheduled for 4:15-6:15 p.m. We hope to see you there!
HANC Program Highlights

Behavioral Science: On the August Behavioral Science Consultative Group call, the group will continue to pursue ideas that were raised during the 2018 face-to-face meeting in June. The group will continue to provide updates on the behavioral and social science components of protocols in development and ongoing Network protocols. Future calls will also focus on ways the BSCG can better serve the networks when providing behavioral and social science consultations, and opportunities to enhance the behavioral and social science research conducted by the networks following the network refinements in 2020.

Communications: The Communications Working Group discussed the impacts of recent data protection regulations on network websites and communications. In addition, members shared their network's experiences with communicating findings from an ongoing observational study indicating that infants of HIV-infected women taking dolutegravir at time of conception may be at increased risk of neural tube defects. More information and official statements about the dolutegravir findings can be found here.

Community Coordination: Community Partners will be hosting a webinar on August 20th focused on Women Empowerment Interventions, Health and HIV featuring Dr. Anita Shankar and Tejaswi Sevekari. Community Partners invites you to attend this informative and engaging webinar to learn more about some of the innovative efforts around empowerment to address disparities among women and girls in improving health outcomes, reducing HIV and engaging women and girls in HIV/AIDS clinical research. Register here.

CPQA-mAb: Dr. Troy Wood (Associate Professor at the University at Buffalo) provided a summary of reports on mass spectrometry usage for monoclonal antibody analysis from the 2018 Annual Conference on Mass Spectrometry and Allied Topics held in San Diego, CA. A recording of the presentation is now available on the HANC public website.

Legacy Project: The Legacy Project is hosting a webinar on Tuesday, August 14th at 2pm ET / 11am PT in collaboration with amfAR (the Foundation for AIDS Research) Vice President and Director of Public Policy Greg Millett entitled The Next Health Disparity Fault Line? Opioids, Race, Geography & Infectious Disease. This webinar will explore a holistic response that addresses the intersection of substance use, HIV, and the health of black gay men. To register for the webinar click here.

The Legacy Project, focused on underrepresented populations in HIV clinical research, has begun to develop its work plan for 2019. If you would like to contribute ideas, contact rcampbel@fredhutch.org. Legacy is now collecting updates from the HPTN, HVTN, and MTN for inclusion in the quarterly Be the Generation newsletter. Send updates to bminalga@fredhutch.org.

The Women’s HIV Research Collaborative (WHRC) held information sessions at the HVTN and ACTG annual meeting this summer, recruiting four new members as a result. The WHRC is now busy preparing for its two workshops at the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) next month: “Can We Deliver? Including Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women in HIV Research” and “The Urgency for Intersectionality in HIV Prevention for Women.”

Legacy will also host an “Engagement of Latino MSM in HIV Clinical Trials” workshop at this year’s USCA. This workshop will feature presentations by Jorge Benitez of the Columbia University Clinical Research Unit, and José Bauermeister of the University of Pennsylvania Center for AIDS Research. Brian Minalga and Louis Shackelford will be speaking about the work of the Legacy Project this month as part of the High School Pathways to Research Explorers Program. The two-week program will be co-hosted at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and aims to cultivate interest in research among high school students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in science.

Legacy continues to assist the DAIDS Cross-Network Transgender Working Group with the development of a curriculum for researchers and research staff who may work with transgender research participants. The first module, “An Introduction to Transgender Communities,” is slated to be released on the DAIDS Learning Management System as an e-learning module very soon. Legacy is currently reviewing the second module, “HIV in Transgender Communities,” for development as an e-learning module.

Youth Prevention Research Working Group: The YPRWG hosted a satellite symposium at AIDS 2018. The title of the session was, “Prevention Solutions for the Next Generation: Highlighting Adolescent Research in the NIH HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks and the Adolescent Trials Network”. Panelists included Dr. Connie Celum (HPTN 082), Dr. Lynnda Stranix-Chibanda (IMPAACT 2009), Dr. Lisa Hightow-Weidman (ATN Itech study), Dr. Kenneth Ngyue (MTN 034), and an ASPIRE trial participant. The slides have been posted in the YPRWG Resource Library and are available under “Presentations.”