

## ACTG Monthly Newsletter — April, 2019

Dear ACTG investigators, staff, community, advocates, and interested parties,  
Please find below our inaugural issue of the ACTG monthly newsletter from the ACTG communications working group. Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of the ACTG!

### ACTG Researchers Make News at CROI 2019

ACTG researchers gave 11 oral and 19 poster presentations at [CROI 2019](#) (Seattle, March 4-7) on topics such as short-course therapy for people with MDR-TB; advances and challenges in HIV cure research; interactions between ARVs and



hormonal contraception; cognitive function, obesity and long-term HIV infection; predictors of virologic outcome and failures; and many other research topics. Please go to the following [link on the ACTG website](#) to see a summary of each ACTG-related abstract, the complete list of authors for each abstract, and a link to the poster or webcast.

ACTG researchers Katharine Bar, Sara Bares, Judith Currier, Kelly Dooley, Kristine Erlandson, Monica Gandhi, Sara Gianella, Timothy Henrich, Peter Hunt and Gary Maartens helped to explain the conference research and its implications in more than two-dozen media reports filed from the Seattle meeting, available [here](#).

Congratulations to all of the ACTG researchers selected to present their findings and discuss research news with the media at CROI 2019.

### A5279, the BRIEF Study, Promises to Change Preventive TB Therapy

A5279, the BRIEF study, was [published March 14 in the New England Journal of Medicine](#), along with an accompanying editorial, [“Ending Tuberculosis Through Prevention.”](#) This pivotal phase 3 trial showed that a one-month antibiotic regimen with rifapentine and isoniazid was at least as safe and effective in preventing active tuberculosis disease as the standard nine-month therapy with isoniazid for people living with HIV. This important trial is likely to have a major impact on global TB control guidelines and the lives of people living with HIV. Congratulations to the study team and to the 3,000 volunteers whose tireless work made this critically important research finding possible.

### DELIBERATE Study Hailed by TB Advocates

The Global TB Community Advisory Board (TBCAB) issued a [statement](#) March 12 welcoming the recently presented findings of A5343, the DELIBERATE trial. DELIBERATE demonstrated that the bedaquiline and delamanid, the first drugs of new classes approved for TB treatment in 40 years, are safe for use in individuals with MDR-TB. The study results were presented by ACTG researchers Kelly Dooley and Gary Maartens at CROI 2019, and were featured on a [CROI press](#)



[conference](#). The TBCAB statement urges countries to scale up use of the drugs, including in combination, and calls for fair pricing for these important therapies.

### **ACTG Supporting Minority Investigators and a Webinar Encouraged by the Under-represented Populations Committee**

The ACTG Underrepresented Populations Committee (UPC) promotes and monitors the participation of minorities in ACTG studies and administers the Minority HIV Investigator Mentoring Program

(MHIMP) -- a 1-year, mentored, competitive scholarship designed to help minority junior investigators jumpstart their careers as HIV investigators. The journal *Open Forum Infectious Diseases* recently published the [findings of a survey of MIHMP awardees](#). The results offer new insights on pathways to better engage and retain members of a racial or ethnic minorities in HIV biomedical research. Our thanks and congratulations to all involved in this important project!

Also, the Chair of the ACTG UPC (Jose Castillo-Mancilla) wanted to inform the ACTG readership of the following important webinar called “[Understanding Participant Experiences/Ethics/Incentives/Informed Consent In HIV Research](#)” on April 10, 2019. This is an informative webinar from the Legacy Project promoting the scholarship programs of the networks, where a group of wonderful presenters will share their expertise focusing on various topics around research participant experiences, research ethics, informed consent and payment in research. Special attention will be given to the participation of underrepresented populations in research. More information and registration at the [link here](#).

### **Studies open to enrollment or opening soon**

We’re spreading the word about several new ACTG studies that are open for enrollment now, or will be opening soon:

**PHOENIX (Protecting Households On Exposure to Newly Diagnosed Index Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Patients) (A5300/IMPAACT 2003)** is an open-label, phase III study that will compare the effectiveness and safety of 26 weeks of delamanid versus 26 weeks of isoniazid for preventing confirmed or probable active TB among high-risk household contacts of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR) TB patients. Anticipated opening in June

**LATITUDE (Long-Acting Therapy to Improve Treatment SUccess in Daily Life) (A5359)** has opened! A5359 will compare treatment outcomes among participants with a past history of non-adherence and virologic failure randomized to once monthly long-acting injectable rilpivirine plus cabotegravir versus standard-of-care daily combination ART. Participants will be followed for 52 weeks, with the arm receiving daily ART offered open-label injectable ART thereafter for another 52 weeks. LATITUDE has opened at 35 sites across the U.S. (Pictures shows Dr. Jose Castillo-Mancilla from the University of Colorado and Dr. Aadia Rana from the University of Alabama, Co-Chairs of A5359)

**REPRIEVE (Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV) (A5332)** is a randomized, double-blind phase III study to determine the impact of statin therapy in preventing major adverse cardiovascular events in persons living with HIV who are not otherwise at elevated risk for cardiovascular disease. REPRIEVE is enrolling men and women living with HIV and on ART ages 40-75 in the U.S. and overseas. <http://www.reprievetrial.org/>



Staff and nearly 140 participants in the REPRIEVE study (A5332) gathered on February 8, 2019, at the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College (BJGMC) Clinical Trial Site in Pune, India for an awareness event and luncheon promoting healthy behaviors and engagement in care. The gathering featured banners on maintaining health as well as information about tobacco and alcohol use, messaging about exercise and a balanced diet, uplifting musical performances, and an energetic and very well-received open microphone forum for study participants.

### **New website coming**

The current ACTG website ([actgnetwork.org](http://actgnetwork.org)) grew up with the network...and is in need of a major overhaul. Planning for a number of revisions to the public-facing sections of the ACTG site are now underway, and we expect to make several changes in the months ahead that will make these sections of the website much more attractive and easier for visitors to navigate. Following the overhaul of the public pages, we'll also be looking at ways to make the members' section of the website easier to use. Stay tuned!

### **Plan Now for the ACTG Annual Meeting**

The Annual ACTG Network Meeting takes place June 17-21 in Arlington, VA.

### **Judith Currier MD: "Game Changer in HIV Care"**

**Congratulations to ACTG Chair Judith Currier, who was selected by TheBody.com as a "Game Changer in HIV Care" for 2019. The Body selected Judy for this recognition based on her commitment to serving the HIV community and leadership she has demonstrated among HIV care providers. In recognition of her selection, a video crew from The Body visited Los Angeles to talk to Judy about her career, commitment, and vision for the future of HIV research. Congratulations, Judy, on this well-deserved honor!**



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***Do you have news or information about an ACTG study or site you'd like to share for our next newsletter? Send it to us at [Alexis Sexton](#)***

**Sincerely,  
The ACTG Communications Working Group**