



The AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network is the largest HIV/AIDS clinical trials organization in the world. We currently have 34 domestic & 25 international sites.



ACTG Network in the News

The ACTG Network Celebrates the Grand Opening of the New MDR TB Hospital in Port-au-Prince Haiti, The Ludwig Pavilion

On January 12, 2010, the country of Haiti experienced a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake. More than 200,000 people died, another 300,000 were injured, and the majority of structures came crashing down. One of those buildings was the ACTG Network clinical trial site, GHESKIO, located in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, just 25 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake. More than 65 percent of GHESKIO's facilities, including two centers and its main hospital for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB) were destroyed. Four members of the GHESKIO staff tragically lost their lives and 70 percent of staff had their houses damaged or destroyed. As the dust from collapsed buildings filled the air, people moved in all directions. The able-bodied carried the dead and wounded as they sought medical treatment and refuge. It was clear that it was going to take a long time for the country to return to some sense of normalcy. It has been more than five years since the earthquake rocked Haiti, and in that time, the residents have begun to heal and rebuild. With that in mind, the ACTG Network is pleased to Celebrate the Grand Opening of the new GHESKIO facility, The Ludwig Center. [Read more>>](#)



Dr. Bill Pape greets the First Lady of Haiti, Mrs. Sophia Martelly at the opening of The Ludwig Pavilion



Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV

REPRIEVE Meets First Critical Milestone Through Collaborative Efforts

We are pleased to announce that late last month REPRIEVE successfully enrolled its first study participant. In order to achieve this significant milestone, the REPRIEVE team worked diligently to secure funding, create a detailed protocol and develop the necessary operating trial procedures and study monitoring guidelines. In addition, the team utilized a unique collaborative approach with the NHLBI and NIAID to create an effective team structure to lead the trial by incorporating the different stakeholders. [Read more>>](#)

To read NIH press release announcing launch of REPRIEVE, [click here>>](#)

ACTG Network Conference Updates

Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections



In late February, several members of the ACTG Network presented at the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections ([CROI](#)) in Seattle, Washington. The conference brings together top basic, translational, 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. To view some highlighted ACTG presentations from CROI, [click here>>](#)

Annual AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network Meeting

The 2015 Annual ACTG Network meeting will be held June 22 - June 2015 in Washington, DC at the Renaissance Downtown Hotel and is open to the public. The meeting includes principal investigators, site investigators, site coordinators, research nurses, laboratory technologists, pharmacists, data managers, community representatives, specialty laboratory directors, and representatives from the Leadership and Operations Center, Network Coordinating Center, Statistical and Data Management Center, and the Division of AIDS. Training sessions for site personnel are held, major findings from ACTG studies are presented, future directions of the network are discussed, and the various administrative, scientific, and resources committees meet to discuss the status of developing, ongoing, and completed protocols and/or other network activities. For the most up-to-date information on the 2015 Annual ACTG Network meeting, [click here>>](#)

Highlights from our Sites

IMPACTA Clinical Trial Site Unit, Lima, Peru

Maximizing a New Computer System to Ensure Accuracy,

IMPACTA, located in Lima, Peru, is one of 25 ACTG Network international sites across the globe. Founded in 2000 by Jorge Sanchez MD, Director of Research, the clinical trial site primarily focuses research on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. IMPACTA's staff consists of medical specialists with experience handling vulnerable populations, as well a multidisciplinary team responsible for areas such as Biostatistics, Information Technology, Data Management, and Systems (BIDS). Together, the team works to provide quality and efficient care to hundreds of study participants each year. One aspect of IMPACTA's approach to their clinical trials that has set them apart from other sites is the implementation of advanced technological equipment. More specifically, IMPACTA has introduced one of the most advanced computer tracking systems seen across the ACTG Network called the Dynamic Module Integrated System for Health Research in Spanish, or SIMDIS. [Read more>>](#)

ACTG Network Trial Update

HAILO A5322 - Long-term Follow-up of Older HIV-infected Adults: Addressing Aging, HIV Infection & Inflammation

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates that by the end of 2015, at least 50% of individuals in the United States who are living with HIV/AIDS will be over the age of 50. This can be attributed to a variety of factors, but most researchers agree that it is primarily linked to the routine use of combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) - potent and tolerable treatments for HIV/AIDS. The accessibility and effectiveness of this treatment has markedly prolonged the survival and quality of life of HIV-positive individuals. Those who receive cART and maintain viral suppression are now more likely to die from traditional non-infectious illnesses that clinicians are accustomed to observing in older people. These include cardiovascular disease and non-AIDS-associated malignancies. In recent years, the focus of most clinical care and research conducted with older cART-treated, HIV-positive individuals has changed dramatically. [Read more>>](#)

The ACTG Spotlight

Nurse Takes Time to Listen

Meet Cheryl Keenan

The dry erase board in Cheryl Keenan's office at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts is filled with lists of letters and numbers. Each combination represents an HIV research study being conducted by either industry or the ACTG Network. Keenan is the site's sole research nurse. She manages roughly 20 HIV and



hepatitis C virus (HCV) clinical trials, and the dry erase board helps her keep everything straight. [Read more>>](#)

This Month in HIV/AIDS History

April 1982: U.S. Representative Henry Waxman convenes the first congressional hearings on HIV/AIDS. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that tens of thousands of people may be affected by the disease.

April 1985: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) host the first International AIDS Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

April 2002: The Global Fund approves its first round of grants to governments and private-sector organizations in the developing world. The grants total \$600 million for two-year projects.

Source: AIDS.gov

Video Highlight: Anthony S. Fauci, MD, Director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) was recently profiled on CBS Sunday Morning. The thoughtful and informative piece provides a historical look back on the AIDS crisis and the important research being conducted at NIAID. To watch this video, [click here>>](#)



Thank you for taking the time to read the ACTG Network's Monthly Newsletter. If you would like to be a guest blogger, have your clinical trial site highlighted or would like to nominate a colleague for the Spotlight, please [click here](#). We welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,

Patrick Bayhille

Senior Research Communications Specialist

AIDS Clinical Trial Group Network

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