



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.



REPRIEVE Trial Makes Headlines in Boston, MA

# Kalter: MGH docs probe HIV cardiac risks

Lindsay Kalter Thursday, April 13, 2017



Credit: Patrick Whittemore

Portrait of Bostonian Les Grant (R) and Dr. Steven Grinspoon, Director Program in Nutritional Metabolism, Professor Harvard Medical School at Massachusetts General Hospital on Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Grant has been diagnosed with H.I.V. Staff photo by Patrick Whittemore.

## **REPRIEVE Study Participant Shares his Story in Boston Herald Article**

Earlier this month, the *Boston Herald* featured an article highlighting the goals of the REPRIEVE Trial and outlining the risks association with HIV and cardiovascular disease. Interviewed for the story was Dr. Steven Grinspoon, ACTG Network Investigator at our Massachusetts General Hospital site, and Les Grant, a REPRIEVE study participant.

With regard to his involvement in the REPRIEVE Trial:

"I see people now having challenges who are long-term survivors. This [participating in REPRIEVE] helps me feel like I'm participating in life," Grant said.

To read this thoughtful article, [click here](#).

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**A5321 Results Published in PLOS Pathogens**

## Levels of HIV-1 Persistence on ART Not Associated with Markers of Inflammation or Activation

In a recent report published in the open-access journal *PLOS Pathogens*, the A5321 study team, led by Rajesh Gandhi, MD, Investigator at our Massachusetts General Hospital site, shared results of a longitudinal analysis of a cohort of participants on long-term ART. The main findings indicated that the strongest predictors of on-ART inflammation and measures of HIV persistence are pre-therapy levels. In addition, results showed that immune activation and measures of HIV persistence once people are on ART for a few years are not correlated, calling into question the concept that HIV persistence is driving activation (or vice versa).

To read this report in *PLOS Pathogens*, [click here](#).

To read an additional article about A5321 published in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* featuring John Mellors, MD, Investigator at our University of Pittsburgh site, [click here](#).

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## ACTG Network Spotlight

### Investigator Champions for Gender Minorities

Meet Dr. Davey Smith

Pronouns: he, him, his



Dr. Davey Smith

Davey Smith, MD, MAS, is an Investigator and Professor of Medicine at our University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Clinical Research Site. He also serves as Co-Director of the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and Director of the CFAR Translational Virology Core at UCSD. Dr. Smith's research mainly focuses on primary infection and HIV reservoirs and he has been involved in a number of ACTG Network trials studying these issues. In the clinical setting, Dr. Smith sees a variety of patient populations; however, one group of individuals he works with frequently that has been hit particular hard by the HIV epidemic is gender minorities. He recalls that when he began providing transgender care, he was not an expert in the field or in the issues that these individuals face on a daily basis. He often used the incorrect pronouns and first names and was not always confident in how to handle complex medical issues affecting gender minorities. [Read more>>](#)

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## 2017 Annual ACTG Network Meeting Update

### Mark Your Calendars: The 2017 Annual ACTG Network Meeting is June 25-29

*Meeting Registration and Award Nominations Now Open!*

The 2017 Annual ACTG Network Meeting will be held Sunday, June 25 through Thursday, June 29 in Washington, DC, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The meeting includes Principal Investigators, Site Investigators and 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 DAIDS. To view the most up-to-date agenda and to register for the meeting, [click here](#).

Each year at the Annual ACTG Network Meeting select researchers are given awards for their contributions to a specific field of ACTG Network research. These include:

#### **The John Carey Young Investigator Award**

This award was established to honor the memory of John Carey by recognizing junior investigators who best exemplify the ideals of the ACTG Network and the qualities exemplified by Dr. Carey. For more information and to submit a nomination, [click here](#).

#### **The Donna Davis Award**

This award was created in January of 2004 in memory of Donna Davis. Donna was active in establishing her local Community Advisory Board (CAB) at the Nebraska Health System and active in the community as a public speaker on HIV/AIDS since 1999. Donna Davis was elected the CAB co-chair of the Adult ACTG CAB Subcommittee in July of 2002. Donna died from an AIDS-related illness on June 14, 2003 in Omaha, Nebraska. For more information and to submit a nomination, [click here](#).

#### **The Constance B. Wofsy Women's Health Investigator Award**

This award was established to honor the memory of Connie Wofsy by recognizing investigators who have made significant contributions to research in HIV-infected women and who embody qualities exemplified by Dr. Wofsy. Awardees will have demonstrated ability to mentor junior investigators, on-going clinical involvement caring for HIV-positive women in addition to addressing priority areas of the HIV-infected Girls and Women Research Agenda. For more information and to submit a nomination, [click here](#).

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## **This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 1987**

**March:** The FDA issues regulations that expand access to promising new medications that have not yet been approved or licensed by the agency. This accelerates drug approval by up to 2-3 years.

**May:** The U.S. Public Health Service adds HIV as a "dangerous contagious disease" to its immigration exclusion list and mandates testing for all visa applicants. The HIV ban will not be lifted until January 4, 2010.

**September:** The CDC launches the first AIDS-related public service announcements, *America Responds to AIDS*, to kick off the newly designated AIDS Awareness Month in October.

**October:** AIDS becomes the first disease ever debated on the floor of the United Nations General Assembly. The General Assembly resolves to mobilize the entire UN system

in the worldwide struggle against AIDS and designates the WHO to lead the effort.

**November:** The American Medical Association declares that doctors have an ethical obligation to care for people with AIDS, as well as for those who have been infected with the virus but show no symptoms.

Source: AIDS.gov



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 research site highlighted or would like to nominate a colleague for the Spotlight, please [click here](#). We welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,

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***AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network***

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