



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.



Letters from the Lab



Dr. Robert Coombs

Improved Laboratory Work Performance Will Result in Better Clinical Care for ACTG Network Study Participants

Robert Coombs, MD, PhD has been the Laboratory Principal Investigator (PI) for the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network since 2006. In 2013, the ACTG Network grant was awarded as three components for the Leadership Operations Center, the Laboratory Center and the Statistics and Data Management Center. The Laboratory Center ensures that all clinical trial site laboratories are running efficiently, accurately, safely and exercise continuous quality improvement by participating in external quality assurance (EQA) programs as part of their good clinical laboratory practices. The site laboratories provide routine clinical laboratory services including, but not limited to, serum chemistry, hematology tests, CD4 counts and plasma HIV-1 RNA levels. These laboratories also perform diagnostic testing for HIV-1 and tuberculosis, and provide pathology services as needed for diagnosing cervical cancer and Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS). The Core Laboratories in Immunology, Mycobacteriology, Pharmacology and Virology develop new assays and provide specialized laboratory testing for our protocols.

[Read more>>](#)

ACTG Network Updates

ACTG Network Appoints Dr. Judith Currier as Multiple Principal Investigator

The AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network is pleased to announce that Judith Currier, MD, Professor of Medicine, Chief of Division of Infectious Diseases, University of California, Los Angeles has been named a Multiple Principal Investigator (PI) of the ACTG Leadership and Operations Center (LOC) grant from NIAID. The LOC grant is the "core" grant that supports the scientific leadership of the ACTG Network. As a Multiple PI, Dr. Currier will work together with the current Principal Investigator and Chair of the Executive Committee, Daniel Kuritzkes, Chief of Infectious Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital. The responsibilities of the ACTG Network Multiple PIs are to provide overall scientific direction to the ACTG network, are responsible for financial management of the grant, and assure compliance with all relevant NIH policies. [Read more>>](#)

ACTG Network Year in Review

Over the past year, the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network has experienced continued growth as evidenced by the completion of four studies, the completed accrual of seven studies and the opening to enrollment of five new studies. This progress is vital to the Network's continued success in achieving our mission of reducing the burden of disease due to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis. Recently, at the 2015 Annual ACTG Network Meeting, Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes, Principal Investigator and Chair of the ACTG Executive Committee presented the Year in Review. [Read more>>](#)

Updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy



White House Releases National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States: Updated to 2020

Late last month, the White House released an updated version of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States. Updated to 2020, the strategy reflects the work accomplished and the new scientific developments since the original Strategy was released in 2010. The recent update charts a course for collective action across the Federal government and all sectors of society to move us closer to the Strategy's vision. The National HIV/AIDS Strategy is a five-year plan that details principles, priorities, and actions to guide our collective national response to the HIV epidemic. First released by President Obama on July 13, 2010, the Strategy identified a set of priorities and strategic action steps that are tied to measurable outcomes for moving the Nation forward in addressing the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic. To read the updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy, [click here](#).

The ACTG Network Spotlight

Community Advisory Board Member Advocates for Women and Minorities to Participate in ACTG Network Clinical Trials

Meet Danielle Campbell

Danielle Campbell has served on the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network's Community Advisory Board (CAB) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) clinical trial site since 2012. Each ACTG Network clinical trial site has a CAB made up of members from the local area that are affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. The CAB holds regular meetings with site investigators



Danielle Campbell, ACTG Network CAB Member

and also hosts events open to the community to educate people about HIV/AIDS and ACTG Network clinical trials. In addition to serving on the UCLA CAB, Danielle is also a member of the Network's Community Scientific Subcommittee (CSS) where she provides input to ensure that the ACTG scientific agenda reflects the needs of all people living with HIV/AIDS. More specifically, Danielle is proud to provide a voice promoting and advocating for the inclusion of women and minorities as study participants. [Read more>>](#)

This Month in HIV/AIDS History

August 1987: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hold the first National Conference on HIV and Communities of Color in New York.

August 1993: The Women's Inter-agency HIV Study and HIV Epidemiology Study begin; both are major U.S. Federally funded research studies on women and HIV/AIDS.

August 2000: The U.S. Congress enacts the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000.

August 2008: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) release new domestic HIV incidence estimates that are substantially higher than previous estimates (56,300 new infections per year vs. 40,000). The new estimates do not represent an actual increase in the numbers of HIV infections, but reflect a more accurate way of measuring new infections.

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 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 Trials Group Network

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