



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.



## Women's Outreach Workers Project Releases New Educational Video



### **New Video Addresses Questions Women and Minorities May Have Regarding ACTG Network Clinical Trials**

The Women's Outreach Workers (WOW) Project was established with the goal of developing optimal strategies for increasing recruitment and retention of women, particularly women of color in ACTG Network clinical trials. Led by Susan E. Cohn, MD, MPH, Investigator at our Northwestern University Site, and working in collaboration with the Women's Health Inter-Network Scientific Committee (WHISC) and the Underrepresented Populations Committee (UPC), the WOW Project team created an educational video to help to answer many questions women and minorities may have about participating in ACTG Network clinical trials.

Historically, HIV clinical trials (including those conducted by the ACTG Network) studying HIV treatments have included far fewer women than men, especially those conducted in the United States. This can be attributed to multiple factors such as a lack of knowledge about clinical trials, a fear of participating in clinical trials as well as logistical reasons like childcare or competing priorities. Unless more women participate in HIV clinical trials we

will not know if the latest treatments or cure strategies work as effectively in women compared to men. To that end, the WOW Project team is pleased to release "Understanding the Importance of Women and Minorities Participating in ACTG Network Clinical Trials."

"The WOW Project brought together key players across the ACTG Network to help improve our ability to include women and minorities in clinical trials," said Dr. Cohn. "This video is a valuable tool which will help potential study participants understand the importance of diversity in clinical trials, and it will help our investigators and research staff to develop solutions to make our HIV studies as representative of the population as possible."

To watch "Understanding the Importance of Women and Minorities Participating in ACTG Network Clinical Trials," [click here](#).

To request a DVD copy of the video, [click here](#).

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## ACTG Network in the News

### ACTG Network Investigators Recently Featured in Online Publication

Healio.com is the online platform for the publication *Infectious Disease News* and earlier this month it released its annual Discoveries from ASM Microbe: HIV Resource Center. Reporter Julia Ernst interviewed Daniel Kuritzkes, MD, Co-Principal Investigator of the ACTG Network and Jonathan Li, MD, MMSc, Investigator at our Brigham and Women's Site to find out the latest on HIV curative strategies.

Dr. Kuritzkes covered the topics of gene editing, immune-based therapies and immunological approaches and also discussed the latent reservoir in patients with HIV. To watch this interview, [click here](#).

Dr. Li addressed the factors thought to cause HIV persistence and provided an overview of the strategies being used to overcome these barriers to a cure. To watch this interview, [click here](#).

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## AHRC Issues Inaugural Bulletin

### A5321/AHRC Bulletin Now Available

We are pleased to offer the inaugural issue of the AHRC Bulletin for studies A5321/AHRC (ACTG HIV Reservoir Cohort Study) and A5341s, its longitudinal sampling sub-study. In this edition, we provide information from a founding study



(A5276s), to help better understand how A5321 and A5341s came into being and to demystify some common misconceptions about the sub-study. In addition, this AHRC Bulletin highlights community advisory board activities at a participating site. To read the AHRC Bulletin, [click here](#).

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## Annual "A Day with HIV" is September 22



### **ACTG Network Clinicians, Staff and Study Participants Can Take Part in Campaign to Overcome Stigma Associated with HIV**

Since 2012, ACTG Network clinicians, staff, and study participants have taken part in Positively Aware magazine's "A Day with HIV" campaign. The goal of "A Day with HIV" is to overcome stigma, and its message is simple: Everyone is affected by HIV and we can do something about it. Although HIV-positive individuals are now living typical life-spans due to medical advances, there still is the need to show how we all live with HIV. Next month, on Thursday September, 22, get out your camera or smart phone and capture a moment of your day. To learn more about "A Day with HIV" and review the submission process, [click here](#).

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## This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 1985

**January:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revise the AIDS case definition to note that AIDS is caused by a newly identified virus and issue provisional guidelines for blood screening.

**March:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration licenses the first commercial blood test, *ELISA*, to detect HIV. Blood banks begin screening the U.S. blood supply.

**August:** Ryan White, an Indiana teenager who contracted AIDS through contaminated blood products used to treat his hemophilia, is refused entry to his middle school.

**October:** The U.S. Congress allocates nearly \$190 million for AIDS research - an increase of \$70 million over the Administration's budget request.

**December:** At least one HIV case has been reported from each region of the world.

Source: AIDS.gov



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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,

**Patrick Bayhille**

**Senior Research Communications Specialist**

**AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network**

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AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) Network,  
900 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02115