



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 Leadership



Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes

Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes, Chair and Co-Principal Investigator of the ACTG Network Shares Outlook for 2016

As an infectious disease fellow working at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1986 at the height of the AIDS crisis, I never imagined 30 years later I would serve as Chair and Co-Principal Investigator of the ACTG Network. At that time, it was becoming clearer to researchers and clinicians alike it was going to be essential to create a network of clinical trial units to pool data and quickly find answers to address the pathology and virology of AIDS. With that in mind, in December of 1986 the ACTG Network was established and enrolled its first study participant in ACTG 002, testing the safety and efficacy of zidovudine in patients with AIDS-related complex. It is extremely gratifying to know that many of those very first study participants are still with us today and this success can be attributed, in part, to the rigorous translational research and clinical trials the ACTG Network conducted in its early years. [Read more>>](#)

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

A Clinical Perspective on the Importance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was recognized earlier this month on February, 7, 2016. This important day served as a national platform to educate, bring awareness and mobilize the African American community regarding HIV/AIDS and the need for testing and treatment. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, compared with other racial and ethnic groups, African Americans account for a higher proportion of new HIV infections, those living with HIV, and those diagnosed with AIDS.

Born and raised in Nigeria, Babafemi Taiwo, MD moved to the United States in 1998 and has been involved in HIV/AIDS and infectious disease research for over 15 years. Dr. Taiwo serves as the Site Leader of the ACTG Northwestern University Clinical Research Site. He is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at Northwestern and Director of Clinical Core, Third Coast Center for AIDS Research. We recently interviewed Dr. Taiwo for his thoughts on the importance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. [Read more>>](#)

Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections Held in Boston, MA

CROI 2016 Features ACTG Network Oral and Poster Presentations



The annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) 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. ACTG Network investigators gave seven oral presentations and 26 poster presentations at the conference.

To review the entire 2016 CROI, click [here](#).

Watch for a complete ACTG Network/CROI wrap-up coming soon!

@REPRIEVE Twitter Chat Invites Powerful Conversations

Over 200 Participants Contributed to REPRIEVE #HIVHeartchat Twitter Chat

Earlier this month, the REPRIEVE team hosted its first ever Twitter chat. The Twitter chat served as a platform for HIV and cardiovascular experts to share the latest news and information regarding HIV and heart health. In addition, clinical trial study participants

and members of the greater HIV community took part in the #HIVHeartchat Twitter chat encouraging others to become more informed on this important topic.

To review the #HIVHeartchat Twitter chat timeline, click [here](#).

Global Community Advisory Board Remembers Sharon Maxwell Henkel



Sharon Maxwell Henkel

Global Community Advisory Board Member Will Be Missed

Sharon Maxwell Henkel, a long term Global Community Advisory Board (GCAB) member, passed away on January 20, 2016. Sharon was actively involved with the ACTG Network for nearly twenty years serving on the GCAB, as well as a representative on the Performance Evaluation Committee and the Women's Health Committee. In addition, Sharon was an advocate for clinical trial research and an active study participant at the ACTG Washington University Clinical Research Site in St. Louis, Missouri. Outside of the ACTG, Sharon also worked with the Illinois Department of Health and the Ryan White Care Act lead agency in her area as a client representative. To read a thoughtful article in memory of Sharon authored by her fellow GCAB members, [click here](#).

This Month in HIV/AIDS History

February 1987: World Health Organization launches The Global Program on AIDS.

February 2001: First annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day recognized in the United States.

February 2004: UNAIDS launches The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to raise the visibility of the epidemic's impact on women and girls around the world.

February 2009: President Barack Obama calls for the development of the first National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States.

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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