



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.



CROI 2017 is February 13-16 in Seattle, WA



CROI 2017 to Feature Four Oral and 25 Poster Presentations from ACTG Network Investigators

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. CROI is a global model of collaborative science and the premier international venue for bridging basic and clinical investigation to clinical practice in the field of HIV and related viruses. To review the CROI 2017 preliminary agenda, [click here](#).

To review a list of accepted abstracts to be presented by ACTG Network Investigators at CROI 2017, [click here](#).

ACTG Network In the News

University of Colorado Investigator Featured in Healio.com Article

Healio.com is the online platform for the publication *Infectious Disease News*. Earlier this

month, Kristine Erlandson, MD, Investigator at our University of Colorado, Denver Site was interviewed for an article by titled: "HIV over 3 decades: From fatal disease to chronic condition." Dr. Erlandson shared her thoughts regarding how lessons learned over the past decades continue to influence clinicians and how they approach patient care. To read this thoughtful article, [click here](#).

Brigham and Women's Investigator Provides Commentary on Top HIV/AIDS Stories of 2016

Paul Sax, MD, Investigator at our Brigham and Women's Site is a frequent contributor to Medscape.com, an online publication for physicians and healthcare professionals worldwide, offering the latest medical news and expert perspectives. Recently, Dr. Sax reflected on the top 5 stories in HIV medicine for 2016 and provided context as to why he believes each story will have a lasting impact and influence the future of HIV research. To watch this video blog and read this informative article, [click here](#).

ACTG Network Spotlight

Clinical Trials Specialist Combines Passion for Research with Desire to Help Others

Meet Chanelle Houston

Chanelle Houston is a Clinical Trials Specialist (CTS) at the ACTG Network Coordinating Center, a division of Social and Scientific Systems (SSS) in Silver Spring, MD. She has been interested in HIV research since her senior year in college when she took an internship at FIGHT Philadelphia, an HIV/AIDS clinic in the heart of the city. In addition to her responsibilities of gathering data from patient charts to input for analysis, Chanelle also had the unique opportunity to shadow one of the doctors at the clinic when seeing patients. After college, Chanelle was accepted for a service year with the National AIDS Fund AmeriCorps Program in Washington, DC. There she worked at The Women's Collective conducting HIV testing, education and outreach in the District's most affected neighborhoods. She says these experiences are what developed her passion for the HIV field. [Read more>>](#)



Chanelle Houston

Examining the Role of Health Communication Across the HIV Treatment Continuum

Webinar Offers Valuable Insight into Best Practices for Utilizing Health Communication Tactics in the HIV/AIDS Setting

Earlier this month, the Health Communication Capacity Collaborative at Johns Hopkins University conducted a webinar highlighting the value of health communication across

the HIV treatment continuum. Health communication may be deployed at multiple levels to increase the frequency and quality of interpersonal communication in clinical settings and in homes and communities. In the context of HIV, health communication can motivate people to get tested, obtain results, promote access to treatment, link people living with HIV to care, support retention in care, educate about clinical trials and help to reduce stigma. Reducing barriers to action and making the long-term benefits of a behavior, such as adherence to ART, salient in the short term, can enable people to take action and seek much-needed HIV-related services. To watch this informative webinar, [click here](#).

This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 2013

January: The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) celebrates its 10th anniversary.

June: The National Minority AIDS Council releases *RISE Proud: Combating HIV Among Black Gay and Bisexual Men*, an action plan to mitigate the impact of HIV on black gay and bisexual men.

July: President Obama issues an Executive Order directing federal agencies to prioritize supporting the HIV care continuum as a means of implementing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The HIV Care Continuum Initiative aims to accelerate efforts to improve the percentage of people living with HIV who move from testing to treatment and-ultimately-to viral suppression.

November: President Obama signs the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act, which will allow people living with HIV to receive organs from other infected donors. The HOPE Act has the potential to save the lives of about 1,000 HIV-infected patients with liver and kidney failure annually.

December: UNAIDS announces that new HIV infections have dropped more than 50% in 25 low- and middle-income countries, and the number of people getting antiretroviral treatment has increased 63% in the past two years.

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,
Patrick Bayhille

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