



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.



National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



Awareness Day Highlights Need for More Women to Participate in HIV Clinical Trials

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was recognized on March 10th and served as a reminder of the need for research specifically geared towards females. Historically, clinical trials studying HIV treatments have included far less women than men in the United States. This can be attributed to a number of reasons including lack of knowledge about clinical trials, a fear of participating in clinical trials as well as more practical reasons like lack of childcare or competing priorities. Whatever the reason may be, the ACTG Network is working diligently to increase the enrollment of women in the clinical trials we conduct. The view and print an educational flyer highlighting the need for more women, particularly women of color, to participate in HIV clinical trials and the benefits of doing so, click [here](#).

Understanding the Clinical Trial Enrollment Process: A Three Part Series

Part One: Understanding the Informed Consent and Screening Process

Whether a person has been newly diagnosis with HIV and referred to an ACTG Network site, is living with HIV and has relocated for school/work or elects to change doctors, there are a variety of reasons why someone might want to learn more about the clinical trials we conduct. This initial contact is often the beginning of a long- term relationship between a study participant and a researcher like Cheryl Keenan, RN, Research Nurse, at our Brigham and Women's Hospital Clinical Research Site in Boston, MA. Cheryl notes that the process of educating potential study participants about our clinical trials begins during the informed consent process, but also continues for the duration of someone's participation in current and future trials. [Read more>>](#)

ACTG Network in the News

ACTG Network Investigators Recently Featured in Online Publications

Raphael Landovitz, MD, Investigator at our University of California, Los Angeles Clinical Research Site and the data from A5257 discussing how HIV patients on ART still feel infectious despite low viral loads were featured on *Helio.com*.

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

Carlos del Rio, MD, Investigator at our Emory University Clinical Research Site penned an Opinion-Editorial for *Helio.com* about utilizing HIV treatment as part of prevention.

To read this Op-Ed, click [here](#).

Mina Hosseinipour, MD, Investigator at our University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the results of A5274 REMEMBER regarding Isoniazid preventive TB therapy were featured on *Aidsmap.com*. To read this article, click [here](#).

ACTG Network Spotlight

Site Investigator Embraces "Whole-Body" Approach to HIV Treatment and Clinical Trial Design

Meet Dr. Grace McComsey

Grace McComsey, MD, is an ACTG Network Investigator and Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine and Chief, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Rheumatology at our Case Western Reserve University Clinical Research Site in Cleveland, OH.

She has worked with both children and adults living with HIV for over 15 years and during that time she has seen HIV treatment shift from being solely based on viral loads and CD4 counts to a more comprehensive and holistic approach. Dr. McComsey has embraced this "whole-body" approach where a clinician is equipped with



Dr. Grace McComsey

a broad medical knowledge base allowing them to address a variety of needs of patients and study participants. In addition, she notes that she has found great value in considering all factors that contribute to successfully managing HIV and preventing known risk factors in the development of both mental and physical disease processes.

[Read more>>](#)

This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 1995

June: U.S. FDA approves the first *protease inhibitor*. This ushers in a new era of *highly active antiretroviral therapy* (HAART).

July: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issue the first guidelines to help healthcare providers prevent opportunistic infections in people infected with HIV.

October: 500,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the US.

December: President Clinton hosts the first White House Conference on HIV/AIDS.

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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AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network

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