



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 Hepatitis Testing Day

### A Clinical Perspective on National Hepatitis Testing Day

National Hepatitis Testing Day in the United States is May 19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 130 and 170 million people, or 3% of the global population, are currently infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV) and another 350 million are infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV). Unfortunately, the majority of these individuals do not know they are infected. This is due to a variety of reasons, however, since chronic hepatitis C and B are so often clinically silent, people typically have no reason to think they might need to be tested. National Hepatitis Testing Day is intended to shine a light on this problem. [Read more>>](#)



## ACTG and IMPAACT Networks Specimen Repository Website Goes Live

**SpecimenRepository**

### Website Available for Investigators Conducting New Research

The ACTG and IMPAACT Networks are pleased to celebrate the launch of the new publicly accessible Specimen Repository

website [www.SpecimenRepository.org](http://www.SpecimenRepository.org). After nine months of development, and with collaborative efforts from the ACTG Network, International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network, Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation (FSTRF), Social and Scientific Systems (SSS) and Family Health International 360 (FHI360) the new Specimen Repository website contains over 1.6 million specimens from 213 protocols. The available specimens, which include plasma, serum, cryo-preserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells, cerebrospinal fluid and many others, are stored in the "physical" repository and were initially collected for specific studies that have concluded. They now can be accessed by investigators who are conducting important new research in a variety of fields. [Read more>>](#)

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## 2015 Annual ACTG Network Meeting Update

### **Annual AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network Meeting**

The 2015 Annual ACTG Network Meeting will be held June 22 - June 26 in Washington, DC at the Renaissance Downtown Hotel. The meeting includes principal investigators, site investigators and site coordinators, research nurses, laboratory technologists, pharmacists, data managers, community representatives, specialty laboratory directors and representatives from the Leadership and Operations Center, Network Coordinating Center, Statistical and Data Management Center and DAIDS. For the most up-to-date information on the 2015 Annual ACTG Network Meeting, [click here](#).

### **ACTG Network Website Focus Group**

The ACTG Network Leadership and Operations Center will be conducting a focus group regarding our public website at the Network Meeting. If you are attending the meeting and interested in participating in a one-hour focus group, [click here](#).

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## ACTG Network Trial Update

### **Protocol A5288: Third-line ART in Resource Limited Settings**

According to the World Health Organization, more than two thirds of new HIV infections across the globe are found on the continent of Africa where about one in every 20 adults are infected. In the country of South Africa alone, an estimated 6 - 7 million people are HIV-infected and an increasing number of these individuals are becoming resistant to first and second-line drug treatments. That is why it is important to conduct studies that can help determine the appropriate lab tests and third-line regimens to treat emerging cases of HIV resistance. Sub-Saharan Africa is currently the biggest user of first and second-line treatments and will in near future, inevitably, become the region in most demand for third-line drugs. With that in mind, protocol A5288 was launched in 2013 to compare three strategies for study participants who have failed first and second-line anti-retroviral

treatment (ART) in resource limited settings. [Read more>>](#)

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## The ACTG Network Spotlight

### Team Supports International Sites

*Meet the Site Coordination Group*

The ACTG Network boasts 59 Clinical Research Sites around the world. A seven-person team stands at the ready to support these sites with opening studies, negotiating regulatory requirements, tracking site capabilities and orientating new sites. The team makes up the Site Coordination Group and is based at the ACTG's Network Coordinating Center at Social & Scientific Systems in Silver Spring, Maryland. [Read More>>](#)



Akbar Shahkolahi, PhD,  
Site Coordination Group  
Manager

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## This Month in HIV/AIDS History

**May 1983:** The U.S. Congress passes the first bill that includes funding specifically targeted for AIDS research and treatment—\$12 million for agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**May 1986:** The International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses declares that the virus that causes AIDS will officially be known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

**May 1987:** President Reagan makes his first public speech about AIDS and establishes a Presidential Commission on HIV.

**May 1988:** U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, launches the U.S.'s first coordinated HIV/AIDS education campaign by mailing 107 million copies of a booklet, *Understanding AIDS*, to all American households. To read the *Understanding AIDS* booklet, [click here](#).



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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