



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.



ACTG Network in the News

Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium to Develop New Guideline for HIV Protease Inhibitor Atazanavir



One of the goals of the ACTG Network is to utilize data and samples collected during research protocols to improve clinical care and affect guidelines. A newly published guideline for the use of *UGT1A1* genotyping to guide prescribing of the drug atazanavir represents the culmination of one such effort. The development of these guidelines under the auspices of the Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium (CPIC) was spearheaded by David Haas, MD, Principal Investigator of the Vanderbilt ACTG network site, in collaboration with ACTG Network investigators Jeffrey Lennox, MD, Principal Investigator of the Emory ACTG Network site, Bruce Schackman, PhD, Chief of the Division of Health Policy at Cornell, Sean Brummel, PhD, Research Scientist at the Harvard Department of Biostatistics and others. The CPIC is an NIH-funded collaboration led by Mary Relling, PhD, Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. CPIC guidelines are designed to help clinicians understand how to use human genetic test results to optimize drug therapy, not whether or not a test should be ordered. [Read more>>](#)

Clinical Trial Update: Protocol A5337

Protocol A5337: Safety and Efficacy of Sirolimus for HIV Reservoir Reduction in Individuals on Suppressive ART

Recent studies suggest that reductions in the number of latently HIV-infected cells throughout the body may not be sufficient to eradicate HIV or lead to long-term control of the disease without the need for antiretroviral therapy (ART). As a result, there has been substantial interest in modifying the immune system in order to improve immune recognition and clearance of infected cells to achieve sustained ART-free remission. The drug sirolimus has several potential beneficial effects that may lead to decreased activity and size of the HIV reservoir, and is also currently being studied for potential anti-aging properties. Sirolimus has the potential to boost HIV-specific cellular immunity while simultaneously decreasing harmful inflammation. It may also reduce the proliferation of latently infected cells throughout various tissues. Most recently, treatment with sirolimus has been independently associated with lower HIV DNA levels in HIV-infected renal transplant recipients. Sirolimus is an excellent drug to study at this time as it is approved for clinical use in renal transplantation and there is extensive safety and clinical data available to guide the novel use for HIV eradication. With that in mind, Protocol A5337: Safety and Efficacy of Sirolimus for HIV Reservoir Reduction in Individuals on Suppressive ART will soon launch at approximately 15 AGTG Network sites. [Read more>>](#)

ACTG Network Spotlight

Keeper of Regulatory Compliance and Bees at UC Denver - A Honey of a Job

Meet Pat Kittelson

As a previous librarian at both public and academic libraries, Pat Kittelson, Regulatory Coordinator, University of Colorado, Denver, did not anticipate working in the field of clinical research. Her research career began with an IRB position in 2003. Wanting to learn more about the field of clinical research, and with a desire to gain more experience on the other side of the desk, Pat transferred to research administration with the General Clinical Research Centers/Clinical Translational Research Centers. It was there where she honed her protocol budgeting and regulatory submission skills, while at the same time reflecting on her personal connection to HIV/AIDS research. Since the 1980's Pat has been very interested in HIV/AIDS and those who are impacted by the disease. She recalls watching the public health system and the gay community grapple with HIV/AIDS through the 1980's while surrounded by negative attitudes, lack of compassion, and much fear and misinformation. [Read more>>](#)



Pat Kittelson

World AIDS Day is Tuesday, December 1st



Mark Your Calendars for Next Week's 28th Annual World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is held on December 1st each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS, show their support for people living with HIV/AIDS and to commemorate those who have passed. The first World AIDS Day took place in 1988 and over the past nearly 28 years it has served to remind the public and Government that HIV/AIDS has not gone away - there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice, improve education and continue research. Government and health officials, non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world observe the day, often providing valuable educational information on HIV/AIDS prevention and control. For suggestions on how take action to recognize World AIDS Day, [click here](#).

If you or your site is hosting an event to recognize World AIDS Day, please be sure to take some photos and [submit them](#) for the ACTG Network December Newsletter!

ACTG Network Coordinating Center Participates in 29th Annual Walk to End HIV

Team SSS Raises Funds and Awareness for HIV/AIDS

Team SSS (Social & Scientific Systems) participated in the 29th Annual Walk to End HIV held on October 24th in Washington, DC and successfully raised \$100. The team included seven SSS employees, six of whom work with the ACTG Network at the Network Coordinating Center (NCC). All proceeds raised from the walk directly benefit Whitman-Walker Health, a non-profit community-based health organization that provides high quality health care to those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Whitman-Walker Health is also one of our newer ACTG Network clinical research sites.



Team SSS at the 29th Annual Walk to End HIV in Washington, DC

To view pictures and hear from some of the Walk to End HIV participants, [click here](#).

This Month in HIV/AIDS History

November 1983: Dr. Robert Gallo's lab grows the AIDS virus in immune system cells.

November 1997: U.S. Congress enacts the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act (FDAMA) of 1997, codifying an accelerated drug-approval process and allowing dissemination of information about off-label uses of drugs.

November 2002: U.S. Food and Drug Administration(FDA) approves the first rapid HIV diagnostic test kit for use in the United States that provides results with 99.6 percent accuracy in as little as 20 minutes.

November 2011: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton shares the U.S. Government's bold new vision of creating an AIDS-free generation, and speaks about the remarkable progress made in 30 years of fighting 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 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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