



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 Makes Front Page News in Boston

# Kalter: Living with HIV 30 years later

Everyday battle for Braintree man

Lindsay Kalter Tuesday, November 22, 2016



Credit: Lisa Hornak

From left, Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes, 60, AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network Principal Investigator and Chief of Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Adam Barrett, 55, of Braintree, who lives with HIV, speak about the upcoming 30th anniversary of the ACTG Network and World Aids Day as two men who lived through the panic of the AIDS epidemic, the progress of clinical trial research and now the promise of those living with HIV achieving a full lifespan. Herald photo by Lisa Hornak

## **ACTG Network 30th Anniversary Profiled in Boston Herald**

Last week, the lead story in the Boston Herald was an article featuring Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes, ACTG Network Principal Investigator and Chief of Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital and one of our earliest clinical trial study participants, Adam Barrett. The article made the front page of the Herald and shared the powerful story of Adam's history and his decision to participate and advocate for HIV/AIDS clinical trials. In addition, the two men discussed the need for continued research and reflected on how far we have come with regard to treatment.

"I would ask someone to think about why they or someone they care about might still be alive today. Where would we be if people who were ill didn't say, 'We need to push things ahead somehow?'" Barrett said.

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

To view additional photos of Dr. Kuritzkes and Adam Barrett, [click here](#).

---

## World AIDS Day is Thursday December, 1

### **Now is the Time to Pitch to the Media and Plan for Participant Appreciation Day**

The ACTG Network will celebrate its 30th anniversary on December 2, just one day after World AIDS Day 2016, and this presents an opportunity to share the unique story of our history and contribution to overcoming the HIV/AIDS epidemic. No matter how long your site has been with the ACTG Network, it can proudly be acknowledged as a member of a network that has changed the reality of what it means to live with HIV.

For suggestions on how to pitch your story to the media, please email Patrick Bayhille: [pbayhille@partners.org](mailto:pbayhille@partners.org)

For several years, the Outreach, Recruitment and Retention Working Group has designated December 2 as Participant Appreciation Day. While study participants in our clinical trials are regularly thanked by investigators, staff, CAB members and other volunteers, an additional more formal thank you is often much appreciated. A primary goal of the Participation Appreciation Day project has been to encourage sites to provide a hand written thank you note to each study participant. For suggestions, [click here](#).

If you have any questions about Participant Appreciation day, please email Bob Bucklew: [rob2@case.edu](mailto:rob2@case.edu)

---

## A5340 Results Published in New England Journal of Medicine

### **Effect of HIV Antibody VRC01 on Viral Rebound after Treatment Interruption**

Protocol A5340 investigators sought to determine whether passive administration of an anti-HIV monoclonal antibody, VRC01, to chronically HIV-infected individuals on antiretroviral medications (ART) would be safe and well tolerated and could delay virus rebound after discontinuation of their ART. The study found that passive administration of VRC01 was safe and well tolerated in the 14 participants studied. Each participant achieved expected levels of VRC01 in their blood. The majority of participants, however, experienced viral rebound before eight weeks. Thus, sustained virus suppression was not achieved, though there was a modest increase in the number of participants maintaining virus suppression at four weeks after ART interruption. Investigators found that passive administration of VRC01 was safe and generated high plasma levels but did not maintain durable virus suppression due to the presence of pre-existing resistance. A5340 demonstrated a first step in the development of antibodies in HIV therapy and cure. Though passive infusion of a single antibody did not

enable durable virus suppression, this study suggests that combinations of more potent antibodies that are currently in development may be able to provide durable virus suppression. If that is achieved, then the role of antibodies may play a key role as components of HIV therapy and cure strategies. To read the full journal article, [click here](#).

---

## REPRIEVE Trial Project Manager Authors Article for Positively Aware Magazine



### Stopping a silent killer

#### **Know the Facts about Heart Disease and HIV by Kathleen Fitch, MSN, FNP**

The November/December issue of Positively Aware Magazine included an article highlighting the need for increased awareness surrounding heart disease and HIV. Authored by Kathleen Fitch, MSN, FNP and Project Manager of

REPRIEVE's Clinical Coordinating Center, the informative article provides suggestions on how people living with HIV can be proactive about heart health and provided recommendations on how to lower the risk of cardiovascular events. The article also discusses the potential use of statins as a heart disease prevention tool and addresses the benefits of joining the REPRRIEVE trial. In addition, study participant Frank Carroll shares why he chose to participate in REPRIEVE and the importance of staying heart healthy as an individual who has lived with HIV for over two decades. To read this informative article, [click here](#).

---

## ACTG Network CAB Members Named to POZ Magazine's 'The POZ 100 List'

### **The POZ 100 list Celebrates People Working to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic**

POZ is the nation's leading magazine about HIV/AIDS and has been serving the community of people living with and those affected by HIV/AIDS since 1994. In the past, the magazine has highlighted groups such as researchers, youth and long-term survivors, but this year they are focusing on a geographic region: the South. Two of the individuals selected are proud ACTG Network Community Advisory Board (CAB) Members; Kevin Varner from our University of North Carolina CAB and Butch McKay from our University of Alabama CAB made the list.

Both Kevin and Butch play a key role in how the ACTG Network develops protocols and advise investigators on what issues are being discussed among the greater HIV community.

We wish to congratulate them on being named to this prestigious list and thank them for their contribution to the ACTG Network.

To see the full list and learn more about Kevin Varner and Butch McKay, [click here](#).

---

## This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 2007

**May:** In an attempt to increase the number of people taking HIV tests, WHO and UNIAIDS

issue new guidance recommending "provider-initiated" HIV testing in healthcare settings.

**October:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launch Prevention IS Care, a social-marketing campaign designed for healthcare providers who deliver care to people living with HIV.

**November:** CDC reports that four transplant recipients have contracted both HIV and hepatitis C from an organ donor-the first known cases in more than a decade of the virus being spread by organ transplants.

**November:** WHO and UNAIDS announce improved surveillance data showing global HIV prevalence has leveled off, and is lower than previously believed (33 million instead of 40 million).

**December:** CDC reports over 565,000 people have died of AIDS in the U.S. since 1981.

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***

***Senior Research Communications Specialist***

***AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network***

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Copyright © 2016. All Rights Reserved.

AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) Network,  
900 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02115