



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.



World AIDS Day 2017 is Friday, December 1



Now is the Time to Share Your Stories with the Media

The ACTG Network will celebrate World AIDS Day 2017 this coming Friday, December 1 and this year's theme is "Increasing Impact through Transparency, Accountability, and Partnerships."

World AIDS Day presents an opportunity to share the ACTG Network's story and highlight the important work we conduct each and everyday of the year. 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.

To take part in World AIDS Day 2017 site staff can:

- Ask local media to report on the local impact of HIV/AIDS
- Offer to speak on local radio or TV shows.
- Issue a media advisory and press release

To access and download more resources regarding World AIDS Day 2017, [click here](#).

For suggestions on how to successfully pitch your story to the media, feel free to email Patrick Bayhille: pbayhille@bwh.harvard.edu

ACTG Network Study Participant Appreciation Day is Saturday, December 2

Recognizing our Selfless Clinical Trial Study Participants

For several years, the Outreach, Recruitment and Retention Working Group (ORRWG) has designated December 2 as ACTG Network Study 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 appreciated. December 2 was chosen not only because of its proximity to World AIDS Day, but also because this day marks the anniversary of the first person to enroll in an ACTG Network trial 31 years ago on December 2, 1986.

Members of the ORRWG have placed a few documents on the ACTG Network member webpage that may be helpful for sites that are planning a Study Appreciation Day activity or event. The focus of the documents is to provide tips on writing thank notes to current and past clinical trial participants. In addition to the thank you note information, there is a flyer which can be posted in your clinic and a list of other activities sites have conducted to express their appreciation to their clinical trial study participants.

To access and download these documents, [click here](#) (requires login).

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding Study Participant Appreciation day, feel free to email Bob Bucklew: bucklew.robert@clevelandactu.org

New Laboratory Principal Investigator and TSG/Committee Chairs Elected

ACTG Network Voting Members Elect New Laboratory Center Principal Investigator and Transformative Science Group and Committee Chairs

The ACTG Executive Committee (AEC) received nominations from strong candidates for the Network Laboratory Center Principal Investigator (PI) position, each of whom presented compelling approaches to leading the Network Laboratory Center in this period of transition. We are pleased to announce that committee members have elected Dr. Grace Aldrovandi as the successor to Dr. Robert Coombs as the ACTG Network Laboratory Center PI effective December 1, 2017.

Dr. Aldrovandi is Chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of California, Los Angeles and serves as the Laboratory Center PI of the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network. She brings to her new role nearly two decades of experience providing laboratory support and leadership for NIH-sponsored HIV clinical trials networks, including the PACTG/IMPAACT Network.

The AEC recognizes that the Network is fortunate to have benefited from Dr. Coombs' outstanding leadership over the past 12 years and to have identified an individual with Dr. Aldrovandi's exceptional skills and experience to serve as his successor.

In addition to Dr. Aldrovandi being elected as the new Laboratory PI, the AEC elected new Chairs for two ACTG Network Transformative Science Groups (TSG) and one Committee.

Election results include:

Antiretroviral Therapy Strategies TSG

Dr. Raphael Landovitz University of California, Los Angeles CARE Center Chair

Dr. Charles Flexner The Johns Hopkins Baltimore-Washington-India (BWI) Vice Chair

Tuberculosis TSG

Dr. Gavin Churchyard The Aurum Institute Chair

Dr. Kelly Dooley Johns Hopkins University Vice Chair

Women's Health Inter-Network Scientific Committee

Dr. Elizabeth Connick University of Arizona Chair

Dr. Rosie Mngqibisa Durban International Vice Chair

Team SSS Takes Part in DC's Walk to End HIV



Pictured front row, left to right: Markus Klein (guest, with Allie); Jhoanna Roa (with Kaspar). Back row, left to right: Michael Laux, Channele Houston, Surakshya Karki, Morgan Gapara, and David Hughes. Team members not pictured: Linda Naini and Kim Banks.

Team Social and Scientific Systems, Inc., (SSS) participated in the 31st Annual Walk and 5K to End HIV last month and successfully raised over one hundred dollars! The team included eight SSS employees (a majority of whom work with the ACTG Network), two guests and two dogs. All proceeds raised from the walk and 5K run directly benefit the Whitman-Walker Health Clinic, as well as healthcare and social services in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Whitman-Walker Health is a non-profit community-based health organization that provides high quality healthcare to those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Whitman-Walker is also an active ACTG Network clinical research site.

This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 2014

January: News sources report that the two Boston patients believed to have been cured of HIV after undergoing treatment for cancer have relapsed.

July: NIH announces that the "Mississippi baby" now has detectable levels of HIV after more than two years of showing no evidence of the virus.

September: The Pew Charitable Trust reports that southern states are now the epicenter of HIV/AIDS in the U.S.

October: CDC releases a new report that finds gaps in care and treatment among Latinos diagnosed with HIV.

November: CDC announces that only 30% of Americans with HIV had the virus under control in 2011. Approximately two-thirds of those whose virus was out of control have been diagnosed but are no longer in care.

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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