



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 New Public Website Goes Live



Introducing the New and Improved ACTG Network Public Website!

We are pleased to announce the launch of the updated ACTG Network public website. The purpose of the redesign is to simplify, modernize, and enhance the user experience while interacting with ACTG Network-related content. Aside from the change in the overall look and feel, you may notice that some content has been rearranged to re-focus the website toward new researchers, community members, and potential study participants, while remaining a valuable resource for the Network's audience. Some of the more prominent changes are noted below:

- Full-width layout - this provides a more modern look and feel while enabling the network to better utilize the screen real-estate for specific content areas
- Reorganized and anchored main navigation menu - this streamlines the user experience by promoting more content on the front page and providing easy access to the menu at all times
- Increased vertical layout - the lower portion of the homepage has been redesigned to a two and three column format, which allows more content to be delivered on the front page than previous designs
- Dedicated Social Media panel - this invites site visitors to engage with the network's social media content in multiple ways, including a real-time feed of the ACTG Network's Twitter account
- Featured Content section - this enables users to explore detailed content on a variety of changing topics without navigating away from the home page
- Dynamic theming - the website is now more flexible for various screen sizes and provides an improved mobile device experience

We invite you to visit the updated public website at [www.ACTGNetwork.org](http://www.ACTGNetwork.org). Please peruse these changes at your convenience, and let us know what you think. We always welcome your feedback and suggestions!

---

## ACTG Network Clinical Trial Update: A5353

### **Protocol A5353: Dolutegravir Plus Lamivudine Dual Therapy in Treatment Naïve HIV-1 Patients**

Most individuals starting HIV treatment are now prescribed a single tablet that contains three HIV drugs. While single tablet regimens have made it easier to maintain adherence, researchers have been wondering whether there might be a role for regimens that contain only two, rather than three, HIV drugs. Possible advantages of reducing the number of HIV drugs in a regimen include lower long term side effects and it also can have a significant impact on drug costs. In fact, a two-drug regimen versus a three-drug regimen, if proven safe and effective, could be a breakthrough. One such two-drug combination that has this potential is dolutegravir plus lamivudine (also known as 3TC). Dolutegravir is an integrase inhibitor known to be one of the most effective drugs to reduce the HIV viral load and has few known side effects. Lamivudine (3TC) is widely used to treat HIV, is well tolerated, and

typically causes no side effects among patients. With this information in mind, Protocol A5353: Dolutegravir Plus Lamivudine Dual Therapy in Treatment Naïve HIV-1 Patients was developed and is being led by Protocol Chair Babafemi Taiwo, MD, of our Northwestern University Clinical Research Site in Chicago, IL and Co-Chair Roy Gulick, MD, of our Weill Cornell University Clinical Research Site in New York, NY. [Read more>>](#)

---

## REPRIEVE Trial Reaches Enrollment Milestone



### REPRIEVE Trial Enrolls 2000th Study Participant

Since the launch of REPRIEVE, a Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV, the protocol team has worked diligently to meet enrollment milestones. As of late September, REPRIEVE has enrolled over 2,000 study participants! This diverse group of participants reflects the greater HIV community, with significant numbers of both men and women from the United States, Canada, Thailand, and Brazil. REPRIEVE has nearly 100 sites total, and new sites in South Africa and Brazil have just opened.

The REPRIEVE leadership team would like to thank everyone who has played a role in helping the trial reach this exciting milestone. To celebrate this accomplishment, Dr. Carl Dieffenbach, Director of the Division of AIDS (DAIDS), crafted an important message to everyone involved with the REPRIEVE trial. To watch this brief video, [click here](#).

---

## Weill Cornell Clinical Trials Unit Remembers Luis Lopez-Detres

### Community Advisory Board Member and Weill Cornell University Staff Member will be Missed

Luis Lopez-Detres died suddenly on September 9, 2016 at the age of 50. Luis joined the Cornell Clinical Trials Unit in 2005 as our Regulatory and Outreach Coordinator. He led our Community Advisory Board and was incredibly proud of our CAB and their accomplishments. He viewed the CAB as his most important and rewarding responsibility. Luis was a tremendously valued member of our team whose warmth, candor, and leadership will be sorely missed.



Luis Lopez-Detres and his beloved dog, Gloria

To read a thoughtful article in remembrance authored by Dr. Timothy Wilkin, [click here](#).

---

## Neurology Collaborative Science Group Releases Educational Video

**New Video Provides Relaxation Techniques for Study Participants Undergoing Lumbar Puncture Procedure**



The Lumbar Puncture Working Group of the Neurology Collaborative Science Group was charged with developing an informative video to facilitate obtaining lumbar puncture procedures in ACTG Network research

studies. In surveying ACTG site personnel, a common concern was pre-procedure anxiety. The Working Group designed a video to provide advice on pre-procedure relaxation techniques for individuals considering donating spinal fluid for NIH HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks research protocols or other research studies.

Lumbar puncture is a procedure that provides a sample of the cerebrospinal fluid that bathes the central nervous system, allowing doctors to check the health of the brain and spinal cord. Relaxation techniques have shown to be comforting prior to a variety of medical procedures, including lumbar puncture. Participating in relaxation technique decreases anxiety, pain and medication side effects, and shortens recovery time. We encourage users to practice the relaxation technique a few days before the procedure as more practice makes relaxation easier during the procedure. The relaxation techniques described in this video are optional. Participants may use their own relaxation techniques or combine them with those described in the video.

This video is not meant to replace other publicly available videos depicting the details of the procedure itself.

To watch "Participant Support for Induction of a Relaxed State Prior to and During the Lumbar Puncture Procedure," [click here](#).

---

## This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 1998

**January:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that African Americans account for 49% of U.S. AIDS-related deaths. AIDS-related mortality for African Americans is almost 10 times that of Whites and three times that of Hispanics.

**April:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issues the first national treatment guidelines for the use of antiretroviral therapy in adults and adolescents with HIV.

**June:** UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) reports [PDF, 2.34 MB] that the number of women living with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa now exceeds that of men.

**June:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) covers those in earlier stages of HIV disease, not just those who have developed AIDS.

**October:** President Clinton declares AIDS to be a "severe and ongoing health crisis" in African American and Hispanic communities in the United States. He announces a special

package of initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS on racial and ethnic minorities.

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