



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 HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

An estimated 3.6 million people aged 50+ are living with HIV

Today is National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts that this year, half of people living with HIV will be over 50.

Annually, 18% of new HIV diagnoses occur among those aged



50 and older. With advanced treatment options, HIV positive individuals are living longer lives. However, the interactions between aging and degeneration caused by HIV have become a public health concern that needs to generate appropriate awareness and education.

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day was launched by The AIDS Institute in an effort to raise awareness due to the alarming increase in the number of older adults becoming infected with HIV as well as those older adults over 50 aging with HIV. Each year our nation observes National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAD) on September 18th to highlight the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care and treatment for aging populations in the United States. [Read more>>](#)

A Message from A5332/REPRIEVE Principal Investigator



As an important reminder on this National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day, tailored strategies to prevent heart disease are urgently needed among people living with HIV. REPRIEVE is the first large-scale randomized clinical trial to test a strategy for heart disease prevention for HIV-infected adults. REPRIEVE will be conducted at over 100 sites in the US and internationally. The study aims to recruit approximately 6500 participants between the ages of 40-75 and will follow participants for up to 6 years. A study of this size and duration is required so that the investigators have sufficient data to assess whether statins are effective at preventing heart disease events among participants with HIV. To watch a video message from Dr. Steven Grinspoon, REPRIEVE co-Principal Investigator, [click here](#).

A5322/HAILO Introduces Study Update: "The HAILO Connection"

In recognition of National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day, the A5322/HAILO protocol team is happy to make available a timely letter as a THANK YOU TO THE PARTICIPANTS of A5322/ HAILO

(HIV Infection, Aging, and Immune Function Long-term Observational Study). HAILO is dedicated to the investigation of factors that influence healthy aging among older HIV-infected adults, including inflammation and immune activation. HAILO participants give generously of their time at study visits conducted twice yearly. A full inaugural issue of the HAILO study update, "The HAILO Connection," will be available in December 2015. To read the Team's letter to the HAILO Participants, [click here](#).

H = HIV infection
A = Aging and
I = Immune Function
L = Long-term
O = Observational Study

Annual "A Day with HIV" is September 22



ACTG Network Clinicians, Staff and Study Participants Can Take Part in Campaign to Overcome Stigma Associate with HIV

Since 2012, ACTG Network clinicians, staff, and study participants have taken part in *Positively Aware* magazine's "A Day with HIV" campaign. The goal of "A Day with HIV" is to overcome stigma, and its message is simple: Everyone is affected by HIV, and we can do something about it. Although HIV-positive individuals are now living typical life-spans due to medical advances, there still is the need to show how we all live with HIV. Next week, on Tuesday September, 22, get out your digital camera or smart phone and capture a moment of your day. To learn more about "A Day with HIV" and review the submission process, [click here](#).

To print an ACTG Network sign to help you share a brief message and the time and location of your "A Day with HIV" photo, [click here](#).

The ACTG Network Spotlight

Principal Investigator Uses Twitter to Connect with Peers and Advocate for Clinical Trials

Meet [@CarlosdelRio7](#)

Carlos del Rio, MD, is the Hubert Professor and Chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health and co-Director for Clinical Sciences and International Research of the Emory Center for AIDS Research. He has been with the ACTG Network since 2007 when he began working with his colleague, Jeffrey Lennox, MD, the co-Principal Investigator for the Emory HIV Clinical Trials Unit. Serving as the Clinical Research Site Leader,



Dr. Carlos del Rio

Dr. del Rio has had the opportunity, and challenge, of working with newly diagnosed patients and recently enrolled study participants who are just beginning therapy and have many questions and concerns. In order to better communicate with his patients as well as to connect with potential study participants, members of the HIV/AIDS community, and fellow researchers, Dr. del Rio utilizes the popular social media site, Twitter. [Read more>>](#)

30th Annual AIDS Walk Rhode Island

ACTG Network Site Staff at Miriam Hospital Participate in AIDS Walk Rhode Island



AIDS Walk RI Participants

Earlier this month, members of the ACTG Network Clinical Trial Site at Miriam Hospital in Providence, RI took part in the 30th annual AIDS Walk Rhode Island. The Walk brought together members of the HIV/AIDS community, researchers, volunteers and many other groups affected by the disease to walk in solidarity. Hundreds of participants walked to raise awareness and funds that will be used to support research, services and programs for the HIV/AIDS community. This year's theme for AIDS Walk Rhode Island was "Keeping Hope Alive" which served to remind everyone that although we have come a long way with regard to advances in research and treatment, there is still much work to be done to eradicate HIV/AIDS. The team from Miriam Hospital included ACTG Network CAB Members, Site Staff and Infectious Disease Physicians. We thank them all for their generosity and for representing the ACTG Network.

To view pictures of the 30th annual AIDS Walk Rhode Island, [click here](#).

This Month in HIV/AIDS History

September 1981: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses the term "AIDS" (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) for the first time, and releases the first case definition of AIDS: "a disease at least moderately predictive of a defect in cell-mediated immunity, occurring in a person with no known case for diminished resistance to that disease."

September 1985: President Ronald Reagan mentions AIDS publicly for the first time, vowing in a letter to Congress to make AIDS a priority.

September 1997: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves Combivir, a combination of two antiretroviral drugs in one tablet, which makes it easier for people living with HIV to take their medications.

September 2006: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) release revised HIV testing recommendations for healthcare settings, recommending routine HIV screening for all adults, aged 13-64, and yearly screening for those at high risk.

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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