



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 Leadership and Operations Center Announces New Executive Director



Aisha Zaidi

Aisha Zaidi Named Executive Director

Earlier this month, Aisha Zaidi was appointed as Executive Director of the ACTG Network Leadership and Operations Center (LOC). For the past year, Aisha has served as the Administrative Director of the LOC and is familiar with all aspects of the ACTG Network. Her appointment was unanimously endorsed by the ACTG Network Executive Committee and approved by the Division of AIDS.

"Aisha's extensive experience in research and financial management, combined with her grasp of the scope of ACTG Network activities made her an excellent fit for the role of Executive Director of the LOC," said Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes, ACTG Network Co-Principal Investigator and Chair, Executive Committee.

To read Aisha's brief bio, [click here](#).

ACTG Network in the News

REPRIEVE Trial Focus of Article Authored by Dr. Anthony Fauci and Barbra Streisand

In a recent article titled: *A Reprieve For Women: Embracing Inclusive Scientific Research* Barbra Streisand, Co-Founder of Women's Heart Alliance and Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases discuss the need for increased awareness surrounding HIV and women's heart health. The article also highlights the need for research examining the differences between men and women in responses to medical interventions to help create more personalized methods of prevention and treatment for cardiovascular disease among women.

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

Dr. Vincent Marconi Featured in Online Publication Discussing A5336: A Randomized, Pilot Study of Ruxolitinib in Anti-Retroviral-Treated HIV-Infected Adults

Earlier this month, Dr. Vincent Marconi, Investigator at our Emory University Clinical Research Site, took part in a video chat interview with TheBody.com discussing the importance of A5336: A Randomized, Pilot Study of Ruxolitinib in Anti-Retroviral-Treated HIV-Infected Adults. The question and answer style interview explained how JAK inhibitors are thought to have the potential to decrease inflammation in people living with HIV. In addition, Dr. Marconi provides insight into how JAK inhibitors may have the ability to decrease the HIV reservoir and non-AIDS related complications in people living with HIV.

To watch this interview, [click here](#).

ACTG Network 30th Anniversary/World AIDS Day 2016 is Approaching

Now is the Time to Begin Planning for Media Outreach

As we approach the ACTG Network's 30th anniversary on December 2, just one day after World AIDS Day 2016, it 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.

In order to maximize the likelihood of securing media coverage, there are certain preparatory steps that should be taken. This is where the ACTG Network is here to help. Patrick Bayhille, Senior Research Communications Specialist at the Network Leadership and Operations Center, is available to assist any site in developing a media plan to take advantage of this unique opportunity. It is certainly not too early to begin preparations.

For more information, please contact Patrick Bayhille. To email him, [click here](#).

ACTG Network Spotlight

Investigator Supports Underrepresented and Marginalized People Living with HIV to Overcome Barriers

Meet Dr. Shobha Swaminathan

Shobha Swaminathan, MD, is an Investigator and Associate Professor of Medicine at our Rutgers University New Jersey Medical School Clinical Research Site in Newark, New Jersey. She has worked as an infectious disease doctor for nearly 15 years and finds she often feels like a detective trying to diagnose a rare/interesting medical condition that has eluded others. Dr. Swaminathan believes that as an infectious disease doctor, she is in a unique position to help people living with HIV make the transition from being depressed and scared following a new HIV diagnosis to engaging them in the treatment process. Over the years, she has found this approach not only gives her patients hope for the future, it also helps them to succeed in society. [Read more>>](#)



Dr. Swaminathan

This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 1988

March: Ryan White, an HIV-positive teenager who has become a national spokesperson for AIDS education, testifies before the President's Commission on AIDS.

May: The U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, launches the U.S.'s first coordinated HIV/AIDS education campaign by mailing 107 million copies of a booklet, *Understanding AIDS*, to all American households. It is the largest public health mailing in history.

July: FDA announces that it will allow the importation of small quantities of unapproved drugs for persons with life-threatening illnesses, including HIV/AIDS.

October: ACT UP protests at FDA headquarters over the slow pace of the federal drug-approval process. Eight days later, FDA announces new regulations to speed up drug approvals.

December: World AIDS Day is observed for the first time. The date is designated by the World Health Organization and supported by the United Nations.

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

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