

# CTU Newsletter

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## Get ready, exciting HIV prevention research coming your way

For decades vaccines have been successful at eliminating or greatly decreasing infectious diseases such as smallpox and polio. Despite continued efforts since the 90's, there is not yet an effective vaccine for HIV. The upcoming AMP study may have a significant impact in the field of HIV vaccine research. Our very own Dr. Sri Edupuganti, site leader of Emory's Hope Clinic, is the co-chair of this multinational study.

For the first time ever a study, the **AMP study**, will be investigating the effects of delivering VRC01 antibodies through an intravenous infusion. VRC01 belongs to a category of antibodies referred to as 'broadly neutralizing' and prevent HIV infection because they attach to the HIV virus thereby preventing HIV from binding to T cells. To learn more click [here](#).



Dr. Edupuganti educating members of our Hope and Ponce Community Advisory Boards (CABs) about HVTN 098.

Another study being done at the Hope Clinic is **HVTN 098**, a Phase I study, looking into the effects of an HIV adjuvant (a substance that enhances immune response) and the benefit of delivering an HIV vaccine using electroporation (i.e. electrical pulses). This technique is hypothesized to help the vaccine do its job because the electrical pulses opens up the pores in the cells. To learn more about



### IN THIS ISSUE

- ⇒ Enrolling studies
- ⇒ The importance of HIV research (click [video](#))
- ⇒ Activities in Kenya and Thailand

## Medication to prevent HIV among those at high risk

To contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS, please participate in our studies or activities listed on page 2. To learn more, visit [www.ctu.emory.edu/participate/](http://www.ctu.emory.edu/participate/)

Don't know why you should participate? Watch the **video** discussed on page 4 or click [here](#).

Learn more about our CTU at: [www.ctu.emory.edu](http://www.ctu.emory.edu).

Individuals at risk for HIV can **reduce their risk by 92%** if they **consistently take a medication (a pill) known as Truvada**. This preventative strategy is referred to as PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and works in a similar way as would a birth control pill to prevent pregnancy. Because adherence to a daily regimen is not always easy to achieve and because the effectiveness of PrEP is lost if not taken daily, researchers are investigating other strategies that do not require daily intake of a pill. To learn more about PrEP, click [here](#). Visit [HPTN.org](http://HPTN.org) to learn more about HIV prevention research.



Dr. Carlos del Rio, one of the Principal Investigators of our CTU, informing our CAB members during the Annual CAB Retreat about HIV prevention research currently being developed.

# What's happening in Atlanta?

## Our Atlanta/Decatur-based studies currently seeking participants

STUDY	WHO IS ELIGIBLE	PURPOSE OF THE STUDY
<b>HVTN 098</b>	<b>HIV-negative</b> adults between 18 and 55 years of age	To assess the safety and tolerability of an HIV vaccine and adjuvant (a substance that enhances immune response) given by intradermal or intramuscular injection with electroporation (an electrical pulse that helps increase passage of substances into cells).
<b>A5315</b>	<b>HIV-positive</b> adults >18 years of age not on a protease inhibitor or R/pivirine, Cobicistat/Evitegravir, CD4 count >300, no Hepatitis B or C, and undetected viral load	To assess the use of Romidepsin to awaken the HIV virus that is hidden so that it can come out of hiding and be attacked when treatment occurs.
<b>A5320</b>	<b>HIV-positive</b> or <b>HIV negative</b> adults >18 years of age who have been treated in the last 12 months with Hepatitis C with new DAA therapy.	To understand the long term impact (health and quality of life) of hepatitis C treatment and understand if the success of this treatment is affected by a person's condition or genetic makeup.
<b>A5327</b>	<b>HIV-positive</b> adults >18 years of age who are newly diagnosed with hepatitis C.	To assess the use of Sofosbuvir plus Ribavirin without Interferon for treating acute hepatitis C among HIV infected adults
<b>A5329</b>	<b>HIV-positive</b> adults between 18 and 70 years of age, have hepatitis C, undetectable viral load, and CD4 count >200	To assess the use of a hepatitis C treatment that does not have an interferon (a drug to treat Hepatitis C that has some negative health side effects).
<b>A5332</b> <b>REPRIEVE</b>	<b>HIV-positive</b> adults between 40 and 75 years of age, on HIV medications but not statins, and CD4 count >100	To assess the use of a statin (a drug that lowers cholesterol levels in the blood) to prevent heart disease.
<b>A5337</b>	<b>HIV-positive</b> adults >18 years of age who are taking HIV medications, CD4 count >400 and no treatment of herpes or varicella in past 3 months	To assess the safety and tolerability of Ruxolitinib
<b>A5353</b>	<b>HIV-positive</b> adults >18 years of age who have never taken HIV medications (except PrEP) and do not have hepatitis B or C	To assess the use of Dolutegravir plus Lamivudine Dual Therapy for the treatment of HIV among those infected

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For an up-to-date list of all our local or international studies, click [here](#)

# What's happening on the other side of the world?

## Our Thailand Site Community Advisory Board Celebrates 10 Years

On October 16, 2015, M-CAB (MSM CAB) members celebrated their 10th Year Anniversary by organizing a "Symposium" and a "Thank You Party". The Symposium focused on "Challenges: Ethics and Research in MSM and TG population" and "Ethics and Roles of the Community on Clinical Research in MSM and TG population". More than 60 participants who were interested in conducting clinical trials and community research in HIV/AIDS prevention attended the symposium. The attendees learned about the importance of fundamental research ethical principles: Respect for persons, Beneficence, and Justice. The participants also had a chance to exchange their experiences and lessons learned in a group discussion on how to get more involved in the research process and how to work collaboratively with stakeholders to address issues affecting the well-being of their communities.

The theme of the Thank You party was "Thanks for Your Love; Loving & Giving...always and forever". There were more than 150 guests who joined the celebration. It was a good opportunity to highlight the importance of the M-CAB, highlight 10 years of achievements, and encourage community participation in clinical trials.



## Our Kenya site fights violence against sex workers



The staff from our Kenya site (located in Kisumu, Kenya) participated in an event held in December 2015 to bring awareness to the violence against sex workers in Kenya. Participants included representatives from organizations working with sex workers, MSM organization, government institutions, sex workers from key sex work hotspots in Kisumu and police service members.

There were discussions on how survivors of sexual and gender based violence who have been infected with HIV can be given support. Community members were also given information on how to report cases of such violence and the importance of using condoms. *"There were individual accounts by some sex workers on their experience with sexual violence. One woman reported to have been raped for 5 days by 10 men in a house in Kisumu. She is recovering at a referral hospital."* said Arthur Ogendo, Lead Kisumu Site Community Liaison.



## Why participate in HIV/AIDS research?

Researchers and public health professionals are continuously searching for HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment strategies. The ability for these ideas to become incorporated in medical practice or become public health policies depends on evidence showing that the strategy works. But without individuals participating in such research, these ideas stay just that— ideas. As a participant you are contributing to the field and potentially improving the life of someone infected with or affected by HIV or AIDS.

In addition to the benefit that you are helping the cause, there are many other benefits for participating in research, such as those listed by NIH (click [here](#)). For individuals who have the disease or condition being investigated, participating in a study provides much more—*“here they gave me the information about this research program and it was a great opportunity for me to get information and be able to participate because, emotionally, this program has been a support for me and helped me face my fears”*, Bernadina said.



Ms. Gonzalez has for several years been a participant of one of our HIV treatment studies conducted at our Ponce Clinic, receiving medical care from Dr. Carlos del Rio and Ms. Ericka Patrick (Lead Site Nurse). Click [here](#) to watch the interview with Bernadina and hear from others, such as Ponce CAB member Mr. Chuck Fuller, about the benefits of participating in a HIV/AIDS research study and why research developments depend on your involvement.



### Join us at the next CAB Meeting (yes, we are accepting new members):

Tuesday March 15, 2016. 6-8pm.  
Hope Clinic Conference Room.  
500 Irvin Court, Suite 200. Decatur GA 30030.  
Refreshments will be served.

### To participate in Atlanta-based studies or community activities:

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Next Newsletter Issue:  
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### To receive newsletters or learn about our CTU:

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