

# CTU Newsletter

**Volume 1: Issue 2**
**July 2015**

## HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and vaccines: What is the Emory-CDC HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) doing about it?

The mission of the Emory-CDC HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) is to advance HIV/AIDS research on prevention, vaccines, treatment and cure and improve community knowledge about HIV/AIDS. In this issue we describe some of our recent activities related to this mission. To contribute to this mission, please participate in our studies or activities. Learn more at: [www.ctu.emory.edu](http://www.ctu.emory.edu).

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

| 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 Rlpirivine, 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> adults >18 years of age who have Hepatitis C, received HVT/DAA medication within the year, and not being treated for Hep C                                | 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>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 RE-PRIEVE</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.  |

For an up-to-date list of our studies in either Atlanta, Decatur, Bangkok (Thailand) or Kisumu (Kenya), click [here](#) or visit [www.ctu.emory.edu/participate/](http://www.ctu.emory.edu/participate/)

**Call or email: Marc [404-712-8063 [marc.a.padilla@emory.edu](mailto:marc.a.padilla@emory.edu)] or Kendall [404-576-0992 [Kendall.t.boone@emory.edu](mailto:Kendall.t.boone@emory.edu)] to participate today!**



### IN THIS ISSUE

- ⇒ Enrolling studies
- ⇒ Activities related to treatment, prevention and vaccines
- ⇒ Upcoming events

### Newsletter Spotlight



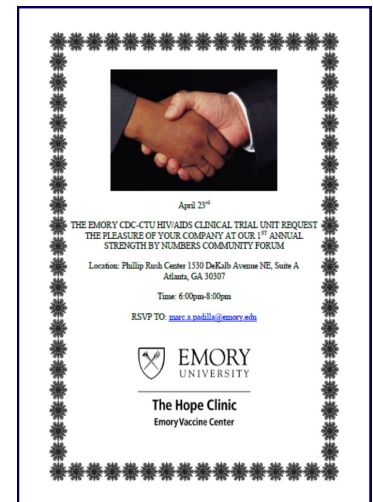
Click [here](#) to watch the **youtube** video where Dr. Jeffrey Lennox explains with tennis balls and phone cords research focused on finding a **CURE for HIV!** (Romidepsin study A5315)



# Hope Clinic and Ponce IDP Clinic Research Sites

## 1st Annual HIV/AIDS Community Forum

**Community partners** (e.g. non-profit organizations and local businesses) play an important role in ensuring successful community HIV/AIDS awareness, outreach and study recruitment/retention efforts are achieved and maintained. On April 23, 2015 the first HIV/AIDS Community Forum was hosted by the CTU at the Phillip Rush Center (1530 Dekalb Ave, Atlanta, GA 30307). This forum was carried out in similar fashion as a **town-hall meeting** where open discussions were encouraged. Presenters included the Principal Investigators of the CTU (Drs Jeffrey Lennox, Carlos del Rio and Mark Mulligan), the CTU's Coordinator (Dr. Evelyn Davila), and the Community Engagement Unit of the CTU's Ponce and Hope research sites (Marcus, Marc, and Kendall).



### Topics presented or discussed included:

- Misconceptions and facts about HIV vaccines.
- Is a **cure for HIV** really possible and how these studies work.
- Studies being developed for finding a CURE for HIV.
- Results/findings of recently completed **vaccine, treatment, prevention** studies.
- Enrolling vaccine, treatment and prevention studies.
- What is **PrEP** and how it really does prevent HIV transmission.
- The clinical trial steps/process.
- Ways community partners can help in recruitment/retention, community awareness and outreach.



From left to right, Ericka Patrick, Dr. Jeffrey Lennox, Dr. Carlos del Rio, Marcus Bolton, Kendall Boone, Marc Padilla and Dr. Evelyn Davila

The Annual HIV/AIDS Community Forum is planned for April of 2016 (same location). We encourage all individuals interested in learning more about HIV/AIDS research to attend. Refreshments will be served. Click [here](#) or visit [www.ctu.emory.edu/community/](http://www.ctu.emory.edu/community/) to learn more about this and other events.



## Silom-Bangkok Thailand Research Site

The Silom-Bangkok research site and its Community Advisory Board (M-CAB) participated in this year's International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT). The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), UNESCO Bangkok, and many others participated in lighting up the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre with a massive rainbow-colored display to commemorate the event, which focused on **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) youth** this year. A series of activities were carried out at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre from May 12th to 19th, 2015. One of these was a panel discussion, entitled "Are You Prepared Enough?", to share ideas on the effective use of social media for linking young gays, young MSM and young transgender people (YGMT) to HIV and other health-related services including Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). The **panel explored the different innovative strategies used in Thailand for reaching out to YGMT**. Strategies discussed included web-based approaches, social media, and geolocation apps. The panel also discussed how these strategies could be used to promote links to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and broader healthcare.



## Kisumu-KEMRI/CDC Kenya Research Site

On May 16th, 2015 the Kisumu site and its Community Advisory Board participated in a national candle light memorial event entitled 'Supporting the Future'. This event focused on raising awareness of **TB and HIV issues affecting children and adolescents**, such as issues pertaining to disclosure, testing, prevention, vaccines, treatment and care. The event was attended by more than 1000 children, adolescents, and adults. Activities that took part of this event included: free HIV testing; letter writing to Kenya leaders; video shows discussions; a procession; several speeches; lighting candles; and display of poems written by children. The occasion was graced by the global head of International Community of Women Living with HIV, Rebecca Hulahoop Matheson. The importance of this event was best summarized by Kisumu's Outreach staff Leader, Mr. Arthur Ogendo: — — — — — — — — — — *"the involvement of adolescent and children in the field of HIV research may be a challenge but events such as this one hold the key to decreasing the impact of HIV in the future"*.



## A few of our upcoming HIV/AIDS community events and activities

- September 15th, 2015 —**Hope-Ponce Joint Community Advisory Board Meeting**
  - Anybody interested in joining our community advisory boards is welcomed!
  - Current HIV research and news updates will be discussed.
  - Dinner will be served. Please **RSVP to Marcus**.
  - Location: 500 Irvin Court, Decatur, USA; Time: 6-8pm.
- September (date TBD), 2015 —**Project Gold Closeout Party**
  - Party to celebrate the achievements of Project Gold (a 1yr HIV testing and education campaign for at-risk populations) and to announce upcoming studies looking for high-risk populations.
  - Anybody interested in participating in current or future research studies is welcomed!
  - Refreshments will be served. Please **RSVP to Marcus**.
  - Location and time to be determined.
- October 18th, 2015—**AIDS Walk Atlanta & 5K**
  - Location: Atlanta, USA. Visit: [www.aidswalkatlanta.com/](http://www.aidswalkatlanta.com/)
- October 10-11, 2015—**Atlanta Pride Festival**
  - Location: Atlanta, USA. Visit: [atlantapride.org/pride/](http://atlantapride.org/pride/)
- October 16, 2015: **M-CAB 10th Year Anniversary Celebration**
  - Location: Bangkok, Thailand.
  - Daytime: Plenary and group discussion on the role of community in conducting HIV prevention research with MSM and TG populations.
  - Evening: Thank You Party for community members
- December 1, 2015—**World AIDS Day**
  - Various locations and activities in all four CTU research sites (Atlanta, Decatur, Bangkok, Kisumu)
- December 31, 2015– January 2, 2016—**White Party Bangkok New Year 2016**



Dr. Mark Mulligan wearing Project Gold shirt



May 31, 2015

In loving memory of Ms. P'Moo+ (Khun Supaporn Chaikummao), the fantastic Study Coordinator of the Silom-Bangkok research site who had recently retired in 2014. Her contributions to HIV prevention research and CDC's work in Thailand since 1991 will have long-lasting impact.

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

Kendall Boone, Marc Padilla, or Marcus Bolton  
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*Next Newsletter Issue:*

*January 2016*

### To receive newsletters or learn about our CTU:

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To join our mailing list, please [click here](#).