



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.



Conference on Retroviruses & Opportunistic Infections (CROI) Held in Seattle, WA



Several ACTG Network Presentations Featured

The annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) took place February 13-16 in Seattle, WA. The conference brought together top basic, translational, and clinical researchers from around the world to share the latest studies, important developments, and best research methods in the ongoing battle against HIV/AIDS and related infectious diseases. The ACTG Network was well represented at CROI where Investigators presented results from nearly thirty completed studies.

To review some of the highlighted ACTG Network presentations at CROI 2017, [click here](#).

To review the entire CROI 2017 conference, [click here](#).

AHRC Study Issues Latest Bulletin

Most Recent A5321/AHRC Bulletin Now Available



We are pleased to offer the latest issue of the AHRC Bulletin for studies A5321/AHRC (ACTG HIV Reservoir Cohort Study) and A5341s, its longitudinal sampling sub-study.

In this latest edition, we provide an update from the HIV Cure Meeting held at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD where AHRC data was recently presented. In addition, readers can learn more about the process of leukapheresis, flexible sigmoidoscopy and tissue biopsies. Finally, hear from staff at our University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill site who share their thoughts on why they value being a part of the A5321/AHRC clinical trial.

To read the second edition of the AHRC Bulletin, [click here](#).

Guest Blog: Community Response to Name Change of AIDS.gov to HIV.gov

What's in a Name? Understanding the Significance of Changing AIDS.gov to HIV.gov

by Morénike Giwa Onaiwu and Lionel Hillard, Global Community Advisory Board Co-Chairs

"We condemn attempts to label us as 'victims,' which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally 'patients,' which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others. We are 'people with AIDS.'" -excerpt from the Denver Principles, 1983

The day before World AIDS Day 2016 and on the eve of its ten year anniversary, AIDS.gov, the official US internet medium for HIV/AIDS information and resources, announced in a blog post that it was going to be changing its name to HIV.gov, noting that: "Now many of the people living with HIV with whom we work across the nation use the term 'HIV' more often than "AIDS" to discuss themselves and the wider HIV community."

While acknowledging that there are still individuals within the community who identify as having AIDs, the blog cited scientific advances, a shift in the way people tell stories about HIV, and even search engine analytics ("HIV" appears in searches twice more than "AIDS" does) to emphasize the need for this change. It could be possible that the change could be in effect in weeks, maybe even in days. [Read more>>](#)

University of Colorado, Denver Clinical Trials Site Remembers Louis Zimmerman

Community Advisory Board Member will be Missed

Louis Zimmerman died suddenly on January 27, 2017 at the age of 66 at his home. He leaves behind his partner, Peter, and his pet poodle, Doodles. Louis was diagnosed with HIV and Hepatitis C in 1996 and although he suffered from multiple HIV-associated complications throughout the years, he always remained very active among the HIV community.



Louis and his dog
Doodles

Within the AIDS Clinical Trials Group, Louis served on the Global Community Advisory Board and the Community Scientific Subcommittee as the community representative on the Network's Hepatitis Transformative Science Group. Louis was also a respected community representative for INSIGHT, Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA), and the Denver Area Ryan White Planning Council and Treatment Education Network. A strong advocate of clinical research, Louis participated in nine clinical trials. [Read more>>](#)

Just prior two weeks prior to his unanticipated death, Louis was featured in a University of Colorado newsletter, further illustrating his dedication to research, his smile and his impressively positive outlook. To read this thoughtful article, [click here](#).

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



"I Am My Brother's and My Sister's Keeper. Fight HIV/AIDS!"

In the United States, February 7th marked the 18th annual commemoration of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and this year's theme is "I Am My Brother's and My Sister's Keeper. Fight HIV/AIDS!" As the Black/African American community is disproportionately affected by HIV, it's important that our work, our words, and our policies are inclusive of and welcoming to this community. We cannot "End AIDS" until we address the various ways that various communities, including the Black community, are affected and until we find ways to effectively partner with the Black community to address many of the drivers of HIV within the community.

To read a Question and Answer interview regarding the importance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with Babafemi Taiwo, MD, Investigator at our Northwestern University Clinical Research Site, [click here](#).

This Year in HIV/AIDS History: 1994

January: AIDS becomes the leading cause of death for all Americans ages 25 to 44.

May: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes Guidelines for Preventing Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus through Transplantation of Human Tissue and Organs.

August: The U.S. Public Health Service recommends that pregnant women be given the antiretroviral drug AZT to reduce the risk of perinatal transmission of HIV.

November: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues guidelines requiring applicants for grants from the National Institutes of Health to address "the appropriate inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research."

December: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves an oral HIV test, the first non-blood-based antibody test for HIV.

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

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AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network

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