



We expand, promote, facilitate multidisciplinary activities in HIV/AIDS research!

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SPOTLIGHT

The Botswana Global Health Partnership

Launched in 2011, the Botswana Global Health Program supports clinical care, medical education, and research at the Scottish Livingstone Hospital (SLH) in Botswana. SLH is a district hospital in



rural Botswana that serves a patient population challenged with the double burden of poverty and HIV. Since its inception the program has supported full-time faculty physicians to work and teach at SLH, enabling over 250 residents from the US to rotate for 1 month or more at a time. The program began with medical faculty and residents from Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston, but quickly expanded to include obstetrics and anesthesia programs, participation from residents from across the US, and partnerships with Oregon Health Sciences University and New York University.

Creating Sustainable Quality Healthcare in Botswana

Botswana's healthcare system is strained by ongoing HIV and TB epidemics, structural inefficiencies, and a crisis of human resources for health comparable to other developing countries on the continent. COVID-19 is now stretching health resources even further. Although SLH is a modern hospital, current staffing is inadequate, and technology for patient care and routine operations is lacking. The program established a forward-thinking partnership committed to transforming SLH into a robust teaching hospital where healthcare standards are the highest possible, partnering closely with the University of Botswana, the Botswana-Harvard Partnership, and the Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness. Teams rounds daily on the inpatient medical and critical care wards, where they directly care for patients while also mentoring and teaching. The program adds routine weekend physician coverage for inpatients, which would not otherwise exist, and helps staff one of the busiest HIV outpatient clinics in the country. Critical care and obstetrics services (now at Princess Marina Hospital, in Gaborone) have made an enormous difference in patient care. Research projects at SLH (supported by CFAR) have helped identify the primary causes of death among SLH patients, identifying the contributions from HIV and TB as well as opportunities for intervention.

Challenges

Along the way there have been challenges. In 2015, a truck carrying over one hundred school children overturned nearby, and the residents and attending physicians helped to manage the crisis throughout a harrowing weekend. Residents have kept patients alive with hand-operated ventilation in ambulances to the capital city. Obstetricians have provided safe delivery for complex cases in emergent circumstances. And in 2021, the partnership physician managed a devastating COVID-19 outbreak in which oxygen and essential care was in short supply.

Residents Reflections

For many residents who rotate through the program, the experience is life-altering. In the words of two residents:

"It goes without saying that my clinical experience in Botswana was unmatched by any rotation in Boston. As I had hoped, I became more familiar with the diagnosis and management of HIV, TB, and other opportunistic infections during my rotation. I gained confidence in starting and adjusting ARV regimens. I also became more comfortable caring for patients with end-stage HIV."

"I came away from my experience in Botswana with an even stronger conviction that this is what I want to do with my life, that I had truly found my calling."

The Botswana Global Health Partnership has been grateful to partner with the Harvard University CFAR for over a decade, and the work is just getting started!

The Botswana Global Health Program offers exciting resident rotation and fellowship opportunities for those interested in a unique global health learning experience.

A CALL TO ACTION



Research for informed choices: Accelerating the study of new drugs for HIV in pregnant and breastfeeding women

WHO Call to Action Announcement:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/01-12-2021-call-to-accelerate-the-study-of-new-drugs-for-hiv-in-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women>

Direct link to Call to Action (PDF) & attached:

https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/hq-hiv-hepatitis-and-stis-library/call-to-action-to-accelerate-study-of-new-arv-for-pregnant-breastfeeding-women.pdf?sfvrsn=bb4febd_c_14

You will also find the meeting report from the Workshop at the following link (& attached):

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240040182>

CFAR EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

HGI HARVARD GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE **CFAR HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH**

**Global Equity
During Pandemics:
Lessons from HIV and
COVID for Designing
a New Paradigm**

January 20th, 2022
9:00—10:30 am EST

Featuring **Drs. Tony Fauci
& John Nkengasong**

HGHI & HU CFAR Virtual Grand Rounds Event
Register at bit.ly/harvardgrandrounds

**Apply now for Research
Training at UCSF**

The Center for AIDS Prevention

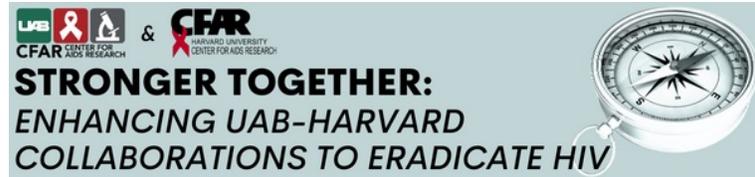
hosted in San Francisco from Monday, June 13 through Friday, July 22, 2022.

This year we have **three tracks** to offer to program participants, **including a new track funded by NIAID**. With the support from multiple institutes, we are prepared to offer the program to scientists from a broad range of research interests.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 8:00 am Pacific Time.

**"Stronger Together:
Enhancing UAB-Harvard
Collaborations to Fight HIV."**

Watch this two-hour symposium that brings together the **University of Alabama at Birmingham** and the **Harvard University CFARs** in pursuit of one common goal: the fight against AIDS.



Save the date - Details forthcoming!!

Coming Thursday March 10, 2022 (1-4pm ET)

This workshop is appropriate for clinical and basic science researchers from all fields. K99 applications will not be discussed in detail.

K Workshop Hosts: **Ingrid Bassett MD, MPH;**
Kenneth Freedberg MD, MSc; **Jodi Kurtz MS,**
CRA; **Athe Tsibris MD.**



NIH NEWS

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2022-2025) provides stakeholders across the nation with a roadmap to accelerate efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030. The Strategy reflects President Biden's commitment to re-energize and strengthen a whole-of-society response to the epidemic while supporting people with HIV and reducing HIV-associated morbidity and mortality.



NIH HIV/AIDS Executive Committee: FY 2019 EHE in the U.S. Report. The NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR) is pleased to release the NIH AIDS Executive Committee (NAEC) FY 2019 Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) in the U.S. Report. Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) is a government-wide initiative to reduce new HIV infections in the United States by 75 percent by 2025 and by at least 90 percent by 2030.

NIH Celebrates FDA Approval of Long-Acting Injectable Drug for HIV Prevention.

Approval Marks Pivotal Expansion of HIV Prevention Options in the United States. Watch **Raphy Landovitz**'s presentation on Long-acting Injectable Cabotegravir for PrEP; part of the **HU CFAR Virtual Grand Rounds series**.

Experimental mRNA HIV Vaccine Safe, Shows Promise in Animals. According to scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), an experimental HIV vaccine based on mRNA—the same platform technology used in two highly effective COVID-19 vaccines—shows promise in mice and non-human primates.



Clinical Practice Guideline for Preexposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention and Clinical Providers Supplement. The updated CDC guideline and supplement reflect the latest science and are intended to help physicians effectively prescribe all FDA-approved pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications to patients and increase PrEP use among all people who could benefit.

HU CFAR SERIES

PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS



Editorial: Viral Infections at the Maternal-Fetal Interface –Setting the Research Agenda (HU CFAR Placental SWG Directors **Lisa M Bebell** and **Rebecca Zash**). The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Volume 224, Issue Supplement_6, 1 December 2021, Pages S629–S630, <https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiab356>

Low Neuroactive Steroids Identifies a Biological Subtype of Depression in Adults with Human Immunodeficiency Virus on Suppressive Antiretroviral Therapy (HU CFAR Developmental awardee **Shibani S Mukerji et al.**)



IMPACT OF CERVICITIS ON PERFORMANCE OF CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING USING HRHPV TESTING AND VISUAL EVALUATION IN WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV IN BOTSWANA. (HU CFAR Developmental awardee **Rebecca Luckett et al.**)

A comparison of the Full Outline of Unresponsiveness (FOUR) and Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) Scores in Predicting Mortality Among Patients with Reduced Level of Consciousness in Uganda. (HU CFAR Developmental awardee **Amir Abdallah et al.**)

How to best conduct universal HIV screening in emergency departments is far from settled (HU CFAR Developmental awardee **Daniel J. Escudero et al.**)

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NIH Funding Opportunities

High Priority HIV and Substance Use Research (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

- [RFA-DA-22-040](#)

AIDS-Science Track Award for Research Transition (R03 Clinical Trial Optional)

- [PAS-21-270](#)

The Emerging Global Leader Award(s) (K43) have been reissued. The Emerging Global Leader Award is a global health research career development award for LMIC early career researchers based at LMIC institutions. Please share these funding opportunities with your networks:

- **Emerging Global Leader Award (K43 Independent Clinical Trial Required)** - [PAR-21-251](#) (AIDS Application Due Date(s): December 9)
- **Emerging Global Leader Award (K43 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)** - [PAR-21-252](#) (AIDS Application Due Date(s): December 9)

The **Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC)** program supports individual postdoctoral career transition awards and institutionally-focused research education cooperative agreements:

- [MOSAIC Program Funding Opportunities Promote Diversity](#)

Be AWARE of New Initiative To Study HIV Prevention in Women

Are you capable of positively impacting the HIV epidemic among women living in the United States? Do you have novel ideas about how to use digital technology to reach women, gather insights through epidemiologic methods, and harness data science approaches to better understand HIV prevention, transmission, and early care-cascade points focused on women? If so, apply for research project funding through the:

- **American Women: Assessing Risk Epidemiologically (AWARE) (R01, Clinical Trial Optional)** (AIDS Application Due Date(s): December 9)

NOSI: Funding Opportunity To Detect and Report HIV-1 Drug Resistance Mutations

If you have the expertise to develop or optimize next-generation methodologies to detect HIV-1 drug resistance (DR) mutations and rapidly disseminate the information, consider applying for a grant through the:

- **Notice of Special Interest: HIV DR Assays and Actionable Data Dissemination Strategies**

NOSI: Evaluation of sex differences on HIV-associated comorbidities in the context of stimulant use (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

- [NOT-DA-21-020](#)

NOSI: Resilience and Vulnerability following Acute Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Insults in People with HIV (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

- [NOT-HL-22-002](#)
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