

# CTU Newsletter

Volume 3: Issue 1

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## Welcome De La Salle Health Sciences Institute ACTG A5300b site

Our CTU has a new ACTG protocol specific site. On September 19, 2017, our Principal Investigators Drs. Jeffrey Lennox and Mark Mulligan along with our CTU Coordinator; Tanisha Sullivan visited the De La Salle Health Sciences Institute (DLSHSI) located in Dasmariñas City, in Manila, Philippines. Dr. Melchor Victor Frias IV of DLSHSI's College of Medicine and former vice chancellor for Research at DLSHSI will be the Clinical Research Site leader and Principal Investigator. DLSHSI is the first in the Philippines to be tapped by the NIH as a Clinical Research Site (CRS) and will partner with the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) sponsored multi-country study entitled "A5300b:



Some members of the site staff: (from left to right) Dr. Melchor Frias (PI), Reinachelle Daclan, RN (Study Coordinator), Dr. Hans Ybanez (PMDT Physician) and Cynthia Wagayen, RPh (Study Pharmacist)

Protecting Household Contacts study on Exposure to Newly Diagnosed Index Multi- Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Patients (Phoenix MDRTB)" aims to protect and prevent children and other family members from getting infected with tuberculosis after a member of the household contracts multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.



### IN THIS ISSUE

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To contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS, please participate in our studies or activities

To learn more, visit [www.ctu.emory.edu/participate/](http://www.ctu.emory.edu/participate/)



A highlight from the visit was the opportunity to sign the Core Funding Agreement with DLSHSI President Br. Gus Boquer FSC to start up the study.

SEATED (L-R). Dr. Mark Mulligan, MD and Dr. Jeffrey Lennox of Emory University flank DLSHSI President Br. Gus Boquer FSC during their visit at DLSHSI and signing of the Core Funding Agreement. Joining them are (standing) Ms. Anna Reyes (DLSHSI), Dr. Melchor Victor Frias IV (Co-investigator and DLSHSI CRS Leader), Dr. Charles Yu (DLSHSI Vice Chancellor for Research), Dr. Maricelle Gler (Makati Medical Center), Ms. Tanisha Sullivan, Assistant Director for Programs for Emory Clinical Trials Unit, and Ms. Arlene Lacorte (DLSHSI).

Click [here](#) for full article

# What's happening in Georgia?

## Our Ponce CRS (Atlanta)

**SOCIAL MEDIA** – How can we all effectively use it to engage, inform and retain our study participants? The Ponce CRS has been asking this question for the past year as more and more people are using social media outlets for their news, information and social outlets. The Ponce CRS saw a great opportunity and need to create a framework by which all researchers and our own CRS's could benefit from a systematic IRB approved approach to using social media in our recruitment and retention efforts.



To this end the Ponce CRS has been developing a Social Media SOP. The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to provide guidance for online recruitment via social media, online outlets, and online advertising for all Aids Clinical Trials Group (ACTG)/HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) protocols for the Emory CDC Ponce CRS. Social Media recruitment very closely resembles traditional recruitment methods and in turn should be approached in the same way, ensuring that the participant is protected. The main goal of utilizing social media is establishing a 3 pronged approach: 1. Recruit for currently enrolling studies 2. Educate the population about HIV and research in particular and 3. Uplift and engage our community by connecting with community partners and leaders. The SOP is currently being reviewed and will be available to share with our CTU, so that should you wish to further integrate the use of social media at your sites, you can have a SOP template to work from and a social media strategy guideline.



## Our HOPE CRS's (Decatur)



**The Community Engagement and Recruitment team (CERT)** at the Hope CRS has been very busy. Under the direction of their new Assistant of Director of Programs; Machel Hunt, they have been refining and re-engaging their CAB membership and community outreach efforts. This refinement has created a reorganization of the Hope Community Advisory Board (CAB), which in turn provided opportunities for new leadership roles for members of the CAB. The CAB leadership team is now made up of a group of diverse individuals from all walks of life, professional backgrounds and communities in and around Atlanta.

Last year the Hope CRS CERT continued to be very active and visual at a plethora of locations, events and activities. They were seen not only at annual historical Atlanta LGBT events but also at some new events, such as an Inaugural White Party, Speed dating recruitment, college campus career fairs, etc. These events served to further Empower, Engage and Recruitment from and at traditional and non-traditional venues.

By strengthen existing partnerships and forgoing new ones with varied community organizations, the Hope CRS CERT has exposed a wider population to the extension of one's healthcare by participating in clinical trials within our networks.



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

## Silom Community Clinic CRS- Joins HPTN 083 and MTN 026 Studies

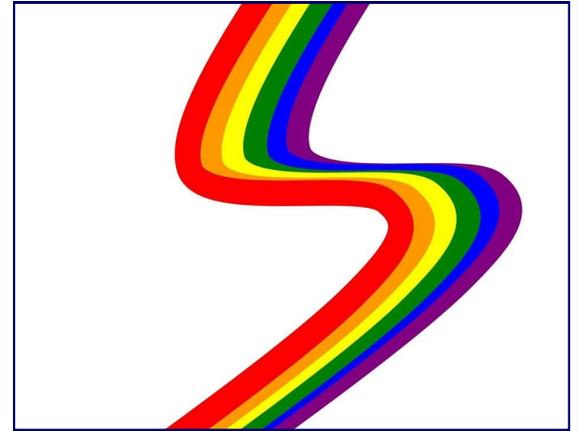
The latter part of 2017 saw lots of excitement for our Silom Community Clinic (SCC) CRS site located in Bangkok, Thailand. The site was activated for studies in two networks: [HPTN 083](#), a study being done to evaluate the efficacy of the long-acting injectable agent, cabotegravir (CAB LA), for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in HIV-uninfected men and transgender women who have sex with men (MSM and TGW).

We're also excited to announce the launch of our SCC CRS site for [MTN-026](#), the first-ever study of dapivirine gel as a rectal microbicide. The Silom Community Clinic site, joins MTN-026 sites in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Birmingham, Alabama.

MTN-026 is a Phase 1, randomized, double-blind, multi-site, placebo-controlled trial designed to evaluate the safety and acceptability of dapivirine gel (0.05%) when administered rectally to healthy, HIV-1 uninfected men and women. MTN-026 will enroll a total of approximately 27 evaluable participants between the ages of 18 and 45 years (inclusive).

MTN-026 is the first clinical trial to collect safety and pharmacokinetic data on the rectal application of dapivirine gel (0.05%) in a cohort of HIV-uninfected adults.

Congrats to all for reaching these awesome milestones!



## Kisumu CRS- "It always seems impossible until it's done"--Nelson Mandela

The staff from our Kisumu CRS site (located in Kisumu, Kenya) has shown how teamwork can overcome challenges which are sometimes out of our control.

While the country again experienced the unrest that can sometimes accompany political elections and a nurses strike that lasted more than 5 months and impacted health services across the country. The Kisumu CRS staff bravely maintained study visits for all their participants. The CTU Principal Investigators and Executive Team applauded these efforts and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the study team during the December 2017 CRS Leaders conference call. The official certificates will be presented to staff during an upcoming site visit.

Thank you again !!



## Why Women & Minorities should participate in HIV/AIDS research?

Listen to CTU ACTG Investigator, Dr. Melody Palmore speak about **“Understanding the Importance of Women and Minorities participating in ACTG Clinical Trials”**. Click [here](#) to watch video.



### Upcoming Conferences

HVTN May 14 - 16, DC

HPTN May 16-19, DC

HPTN Community Group  
May 15-16, DC

CTU Annual Meeting  
May 16, 2018, DC

#### Coming Next Issue

Kisumu CRS New Adolescent Clinic  
Introducing CAB Speaker's Bureau

Next Newsletter Issue:  
Spring 2018



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

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

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