

# CTU Newsletter

Volume 1: Issue 1

January 2015

Welcome to our first Emory-CDC CTU semi-annual newsletter. In our newsletters you will find exciting and up-to-date information about our team, our research, and our community activities.

[More details at our website.](#)

## What is the Emory-CDC CTU?

The Emory-CDC HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Unit, also known as the "Emory-CDC CTU", is a 7-year research project funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s National Institute of Allergy and Infection Diseases (NIAID). This project is led by Emory University and conducted in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Emory-CDC CTU, which began operations in December 2013, integrates four well-established and highly productive HIV/AIDS clinical research sites: two Atlanta sites led by Emory and two international (in Thailand and Kenya) sites led by CDC. In addition, our investigators and staff solicit input from our community members and partners to ensure our studies are successful and have the community's best interest in mind.

Studies conducted by our CTU address three key HIV/AIDS research areas:

- 1) adult HIV therapeutic strategies, including HIV cure, noninfectious comorbidities and key infectious comorbidities,
- 2) integrated HIV prevention strategies, and
- 3) vaccines to prevent HIV infection.

Because participants targeted for several of these studies include hard-to-reach populations and minorities, strategies to increase community engagement at the four sites are also being developed as part of this project.

**We greatly appreciate your participation in our studies as well as your suggestions— Contact us to get involved (see page 4).**

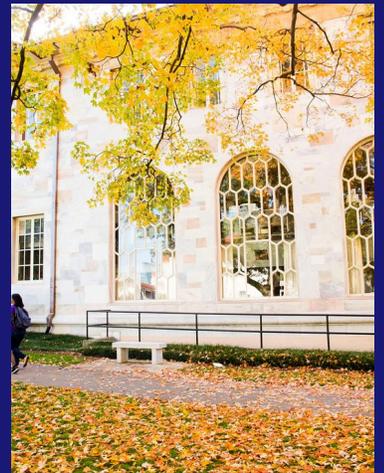
[More details at our website.](#)

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

Questions or comments? Email us at

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## IN THIS ISSUE

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- ⇒ World AIDS Day involvement
- ⇒ Enrolling studies
- ⇒ Upcoming events

## Newsletter Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS to the following CTU investigators and staff for being selected into leadership committees of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG): Tanisha Sullivan, Evelyn Davila, Kay Woodson, Pamela Lankford-Turner, Clement Zeh, Anandi Sheth, and Ann Chahroudi.

GREAT JOB TEAM!

# Hope Clinic and Ponce IDP Clinic CTU Research Sites

## World AIDS Day and Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Unit and CAB members of the Hope and Ponce Clinical Research Sites participated in various World AIDS Day Activities held in Atlanta, USA, in particular the "Atlanta Love & Light Night" candlelit vigil. This event was organized by a committee of various groups, institutions, and non-profit organizations, which the Hope-Ponce Community Engagement Unit was one of. The event was possible due to various sponsors and volunteers who donated their time and money.

The closing of the event was marked with the drumline leading the audience to an AIDS QUILT, remembering the people who passed from AIDS.

*'It was a beautiful mild evening which helped get a turnout of several hundred people. It was also great to see a large percentage of young people in attendance. Marching bands are a big part of southern US culture and the drum section of a high school band opened with a spirited piece, and closed the event leading the audience out with a candle light procession. It was a great coming together of groups dedicated to being the first Aids free Generation.'*

- John Beal, Hope CAB member

In addition to the "Atlanta Love & Light Night" event, the Hope-Ponce Community Engagement Unit conducted outreach and community education at the Infectious Disease Program of the Grady HIV Clinic in Atlanta. This provided a great opportunity to tell others about the studies conducted at the Hope and Ponce research sites and led to several contacts for potential study participants. Specifically, more than 100 study-information flyers were given out and 50 potential participants were talked to; information from more than 35 interested individuals was also collected. During this event, the Hope-Ponce Community Engagement Unit was also able to showcase for the first time their new logo for ACTG related studies--- 'Unlocking the Cure'—a logo representing the studies focused on finding a cure for HIV.



Atlanta Love & Light Night



## Silom-Bangkok CTU Thailand Research Site

The Silom-Bangkok site participated in 'Getting to Zero: zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero discrimination', a 3-day event hosted by the Ministry of Public Health and Thai Red Cross held at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. The event, which focused on raising public awareness about stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS, included an exhibition of local artwork that illustrated the range of emotions felt by people suffering from HIV stigma and discrimination.



The event also included appearances from local celebrities including the 2014 Miss Universe Thailand as well as television and movie stars. Thai government leaders were also in attendance, and the U.S. Embassy Chargé d'affaires and the Minister of Public Health received pre-test counseling.

## Kisumu-KEMRI CTU Kenya Research Site

The Kisumu-KEMRI research site participated in the annual World AIDS Day event conducted in Kisumu. The venue included a parade, a marathon, speeches by government leaders, free health screening services, and exhibitions by several local HIV/AIDS partners and stakeholders. The event also featured several entertainment groups that presented poems, plays, and dances that had HIV prevention messages.

The marathon was attended by world renowned athletes and hundreds of volunteers. Athletes were rewarded by the Mama Sarah Obama, President Obama's Grandmother, who is a staunch HIV campaigner. The speeches revolved around some of the key challenges experienced which include: inadequate funding of HIV programs, lack of skilled manpower, and inadequately equipped clinical facilities.



## CTU Studies Seeking Participants

STUDY	TYPE	WHO IS ELIGIBLE	DESCRIPTION
<b>HVTN 110</b>	Vaccine Study	HIV-negative healthy adults	A phase 1 clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of orally-administered replication-competent Adenovirus type-4 HIV vaccine regimens in combination with an AIDS VAX® B/E boost
<b>HVTN 106</b>	Vaccine Study	HIV-negative healthy adults	A phase 1 randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of 3 different HIV-1 DNA priming regimens (Nat-B env, CON-S env, and Mosaic env) with MVA-CMDR boosts
<b>A5308</b>	Treatment Study	HIV-positive adults	Effect of FTC/RPV/TDF on CD4+ T-Cell Count, Inflammatory Biomarkers, T-Cell Activation and Viral Reservoir
<b>A5315</b>	Treatment Study	HIV-positive adults	Romidepsin with Suppressed Viremia on ART
<b>A5320</b>	Treatment Study	HIV-positive adults	Viral Hepatitis C infection Long-Term Cohort Study (V-HICS)—in HCV/HIV-1 co-infected adults
<b>A5321</b>	Treatment Study	HIV-positive adults	Decay of HIV-1 Reservoirs

## Upcoming HIV/AIDS Community Events

- January 10th, 2015 —**Hope-Ponce Community Advisory Board (CAB) Retreat**  
- Location: 1615 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, USA; Time: 1230-4:30pm.
- January 14th-16th—**17th Bangkok International Symposium on HIV Medicine**  
- Location: Bangkok, Thailand. Visit: <http://www.hivnat.org/bangkoksymposium>
- January 19th, 2015--**Martin Luther King Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast**  
- Location and time not yet announced.
- February 14th, 2015— **Project Gold Kickoff Party**  
- Location: 595 North Event Center, Atlanta, USA; Time: 6-10pm.
- February TBA 2015 —**African-American Outreach Initiative (AAOI) event**  
- Location and time not yet announced.
- March 17th, 2015 —**Hope-Ponce Joint CAB Meeting**  
- Location: 500 Irvin Court, Decatur, USA; Time: 6-8pm.
- March 24th, 2015 --- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day**  
- Various locations and times.
- May 17th, 2015—**International AIDS Candlelight**  
- Various locations and times.

Next Newsletter Issue:  
July 2015

### To participate in Atlanta studies or community activities CONTACT:

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