



HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK

The CAB Bulletin

HIV Vaccines and the Community

CABs Needed in Development of Recruitment and Retention Plan

Community Advisory Boards are one of the HVTN's greatest resources in accelerating HIV vaccine research trials. Since the beginning of the Network, CABs have provided local research units with advice in the spirit of commitment, altruism, and a willingness to work constructively for good clinical practice.

CABs have been a real asset in the development and implementation of community education plans. These plans have been very helpful in creating an environment where the historic misconceptions about research can be corrected. Since the CAB review of the Community Education plan was so successful across the Network, the new Recruitment and Retention plan will also require CAB review and input.

Local CABs are now being asked to help their HIV Vaccine Trials Unit (HVTU) prepare a Recruitment and Retention plan on an annual basis. This represents a change from the previous requirement where plans were to be developed for each protocol. Sites will still need to review the plan at the beginning of new protocols to ensure the strategies are appropriate for that trial's specific requirements. The purpose of writing a recruitment and retention plan is to provide an organized process for meeting enrollment targets and timeframes.

CAB members will help in developing strategies and establishing benchmarks for success. For example, some communities will use flyers and radio announcements as outreach techniques. Other sites may use street theater, a television interview with its Principal Investigator, or a former trial participant to announce the beginning of a trial. It will be important to think about how to strategically use a variety of outreach efforts to maximize the number of people reached.

CAB members can also be helpful in determining key messages. As some CAB members come from the communities that have been identified as target populations, the CAB can be integral in vocalizing the common myths and misperceptions that need to be addressed when doing recruitment. For example, if there is a strong distrust of research in a given community, then it is crucial that recruiters know the concerns so they can be prepared to answer questions.

While the plan must be submitted on an annual basis, strategies that work for one trial may not be as successful for an-

Photo by Johns Hopkins HVTU



Otelia Lynch Davis (CAB member, left) and Nedra Davis (former Community Educator) of the Johns Hopkins HVTU distribute materials and answer questions at the annual "Taste of Baltimore!"

other. The Network is aware that things can change over a 12-month period and that is why it may be important to revisit the plan more than once a year. The plan is intended to be flexible and the CAB should feel comfortable proposing alterations if a new method is thought to be more effective.

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HVTUs Take Part in National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Several HVTUs took part in events that marked the fourth U.S. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness & Information Day, held annually on February 7. The Rochester, Saint Louis, and San Francisco HVTUs partnered with local community-based organizations to educate their communities on HIV/AIDS and HIV vaccines. Each site participated in activities that were geared toward encouraging African Americans to get educated, tested, and involved in the fight against AIDS as it continues to devastate black communities.

The Rochester HVTU collaborated with other community groups to present special awards, announce an important new position paper, and launch a new community-level program at a press conference. The press conference presented the *Barbershop/Beauty Salon Project*, which will provide training to African-American and Latino barbers and hairdressers, so that they can relay HIV/AIDS prevention messages to their patrons and other community members. Rochester HVTU CAB member stated, “The informal, friendly, neighborly environment of a local barbershop or beauty salon is ideal for providing important information effectively. The barbershop is the cornerstone of the African-American community...” In conjunction with the press conference, HIV testing sites at various locations around the city were established and announced. A total of 46 persons were tested that morning as a result of this single community-wide collaborative effort. Bruner also spearheaded “Breakthrough Sunday,” last summer’s effort that resulted in over 100 congregational members being tested outside the doors of a local church.

The Saint Louis HVTU co-sponsored a forum on February 7 entitled “At the Fork in the Road...The Choice is Yours to Make—Knowledge or Ignorance.” The event, held in collaboration with local community groups and geared toward African American youth, was held at Harris-Stowe State College. The program

opened with a discussion, which included panel members from various community sectors and different age groups. Three key messages resonated from the discussion: prevention messages primarily directed to youth must be real and not be opinionated; empower youth with knowledge as a tool for peer education; and advocate for more safer sex messages in media, such as hip-hop music and videos. The event stimulated 22 attendees to get HIV tests, nine of whom were African American youths between 15 and 19 years of age. The program concluded with a theatrical performance that promoted HIV/AIDS prevention and education among youths.

The San Francisco HVTU, in partnership with several community leaders, hosted a strategic planning session for mobilizing the African American community around HIV research and prevention. The celebration follows the mandate of last spring’s VaxGen-inspired *Dispelling Myths* forum that articulated the urgent need for African Americans to become

more involved as planners and participants in HIV prevention research. Thirty-five people attended the event and a volunteer task force was created to address the issue of African Americans’ participation in clinical trials, from planning to implementation and participation to results dissemination, on an ongoing basis. ☘



Photo by Rochester HVTU

(From left to right): Jay Holt (owner), Reverend Dixon (vice-chair, Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Rochester chapter), and Jerome Blake (barber) celebrate the new community initiative.

Rochester is not the only city that currently has a project geared toward educating barbers. Brother to Brother, a Seattle-based community organization that received funding through the Community Education and Outreach Partnership Program (see page 5), has a similar initiative called the Down Low Barbershop Program. The program has trained more than two dozen black Seattle barbers as HIV prevention educators. Participating barbershops now hand out condoms and information packets to clients. The shops also encourage them to participate in safe-sex workshops run by the Down Low program, held after hours in the barbershops and other locations. Recent workshops have been filled to capacity, packing in as many as 40 people.

Durban CAB Member Shares Protocol Team Experience

Nicci Stanley, CAB member from Durban, South Africa, arrived in the United States for the first time to participate in the protocol face-to-face meeting for HVTN 059. Despite her jet lag and two long days of meetings, she took a moment to speak with us about her experience.



Photo by HVTN

Q: How much background knowledge did you have about the protocol development process before this?

A: To be honest, I had very little. I had imagined a participatory process that included discussions with various scientists, but as for specifics, no idea.

Q: Was there a lot of preparation time required?

A: I received the protocol before I came to the meeting and was told to review the entire protocol but to really focus my energy on the informed consent document. I was also given guidelines on what types of questions to ask and the kind of issues that could arise. We then had a teleconference with Andrew Lambert and Rose McCullough, the other community representative on the protocol. The call allowed us to prioritize our concerns and organize our thoughts.

Q: Were you intimidated by all of the scientists?

A: At first. This was most true on the first day when the product developer presented on the science behind this particular product. Some of the science was over my head but I don't think it hurt my participation. Besides that one presentation, most of the information was presented at a very understandable level. But once my first comments were greeted with positive feedback, my confidence dramatically increased.

Q: Did the team help you to feel comfortable?

They were very warm in welcoming me and they showed great interest in learning from a non-U.S. perspective. There seemed to be general curiosity about how these trials would impact South Africa. All in all, they were just a superb group of people to work with.

Q: Do you have specific examples of your input being incorporated in the informed consent document?

A: After reading the template language about ethics, I felt as though there needed to be stronger language around treatment for participants who become HIV-infected during the trial due to their behavior. I wanted to see something added about the HVTN's commitment to setting up mechanisms collaboratively with the site and the vaccine manufacturer to facilitate access to treatment. The group agreed and took the steps to adequately address them in the consent form.

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Recruitment and Retention Plan

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A Recruitment and Retention plan template will be sent to sites on April 1, 2004. Plans must be completed by June 1, 2004. Any CAB member who participates in providing input and reviewing the plan must sign-off on the document. CAB members can play a key role in advising the site on recruiting and retaining participants.

Materials Development

Before a site reaches out to an identified population, it is critical that the information distributed be appropriate for the specific community. Whether it be oral presentations or print materials, the CAB should verify that the information being delivered is presented in a manner that is clear and understandable, while remaining scientifically accurate. The CAB can act as a test audience (assuming that the group is diverse and has representation from the target population) by identifying common myths that may exist in the given community.

Using the CAB for Recruitment Assistance

It is important to remember that CAB members are *not* the recruitment team. However, CAB members can be a good source of information and guidance in ways to interact with the populations that they represent. In their advisory role, they can assist with identifying recruitment venues, serving as a focus group for recruitment materials and ideas, serving as spokespeople (CAB members that participated or who know participants can give personal stories of what was successful and what was not), and improving the site's efforts to recruit a diverse group of participants.

It should be noted that recruitment efforts should coincide with community education efforts that educate the general population in order to create support for participants and the local HIV vaccine effort. ☘

Why is Retention Important?

After working hard to identify the population(s) needed for enrollment and strategizing which techniques and venues will be used to attract volunteers, it is equally important to keep enrolled participants active and involved. There are two major reasons why retention is critical to the integrity of a trial.

First, retention rates have a substantial effect on the overall outcome of a study. Studies are designed with a specific number of volunteers needed to answer the research question being posed. If the number of participants cannot be maintained, the ability to answer the research questions becomes impaired and the results could be invalidated.

Second, determining the safety of a vaccine is measured by tracking adverse experiences during the trial. This requires that participants be retained for the duration of the study. Many HVTN studies involve experimental vaccines that have little, if any, history of being given to humans. It is in the best interest of the Network and the participants to monitor safety for as long as possible. While some reactions to a product may occur shortly after receiving an injection, there may also be delayed reactions that require monitoring and follow-up. A comprehensive safety analysis is only possible with high retention rates.

During recruitment, site staff can provide information about what trial participation involves, which may include a discussion of the HVTN's Participant's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (PBORR) and a conversation on risk-reduction counseling sessions. Site staff members certainly enhance this process through the relationships they form with participants. Staff are also responsible for discussing barriers to trial participation and completion. Helping each individual to understand the commitment that is required and thinking of ways to overcome any barriers is critical to successful retention.

A retention plan is critical in documenting how the site intends to keep volunteers involved throughout the trial. As a means of demonstrating their appreciation, some sites have published a "thank you" message in the newspaper. Other sites have sent a letter regarding the progress of the trial to all participants at regular intervals. The local CAB can help the site determine which types of retention activities will be most effective and best received. ☘

HVTN Delivers Keynote on the Importance of HIV Vaccines at HIV/AIDS Youth Conference

On behalf of the HVTN, Seth Greenberg opened the Ryan White National Youth Conference on HIV and AIDS (RWNYC) with a plenary session on the HIV vaccine effort. The conference, held February 13–16, 2004 in Portland, Oregon, is the only one of its kind dedicated to building the HIV prevention health services and advocacy skills of young AIDS activists, youth peer educators, HIV-positive youth, and those who work in support of young people. RWNYC, which attracted over 600 youth and adults, helps to identify and share effective resources and experiences in the fight against HIV among young people, and to learn about youth-appropriate HIV treatment programs and strategies to aid young people living with HIV.

Along with the keynote address, Greenberg also led a 90-minute workshop to discuss various methods for incorporating HIV vaccine messages into pre-existing HIV prevention messages. The interactive session allowed participants to address some of the misperceptions around preventive HIV vaccine trials. The exercises demonstrated that many attendees were not yet prepared to advocate for HIV vaccines in their communities because they themselves did not yet feel comfortable with the material. However, the workshop provided a platform to educate and engage youth in the vaccine effort and answer and correct many common myths and misperceptions.

The RWNYC on HIV and AIDS was hosted by the National Association of People Living with AIDS (NAPWA). ☘

Photo by Paul Feldman



Seth Greenberg (left) and Joseph Lovato (right), NAPWA's Director of Training and Technical Assistance

Twenty-Eight Organizations in the U.S. Funded to Dispel HIV Vaccine Misperceptions

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) demonstrated its commitment to increasing awareness around HIV vaccine research in the United States through the creation of the Community Education and Outreach Partnership Program (CEOPP). Through NIAID's contract with Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide, CEOPP will fund 20 community-based and eight national organizations to dispel myths about HIV vaccines. The program's goal is to partner with organizations that are already established in their communities, specifically African-American, Hispanic/Latino, and men who have sex with men communities, and increase their ability to dispel misperceptions about HIV vaccines. The HVTN and local HVTUs will be working closely with the recipients to ensure that their messages are scientifically accurate and culturally appropriate.

All 28 organizations are required to hold HIV Vaccine Awareness Day activities. For those HVTUs that have a funded organization in their area, the HVTN strongly encourages sites to consider partnering with awardees for HIV Vaccine Awareness Day as well as inviting members of the organization to join the CAB. ☘

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day Materials Now Available for Site and CAB Review

May 18, 2004 celebrates the 7th annual HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. This year's theme of "Real People. Real Progress." acknowledges the thousands of volunteers, scientists, and health professionals working to find a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine. The HIV Vaccine Communications Campaign will ask people to commemorate the day by wearing a red AIDS ribbon upside-down. The upside-down ribbon forms a "V" for vaccines, the vision of a world without AIDS, and symbolizing the urgent need to end the epidemic.

The Campaign will be supplying sites with a toolkit and a packet of materials that can be used at the site's leisure. Materials have been created so HVTUs can localize the information. The toolkit is also online at www.niaid.nih.gov/newsroom/mayday/default.htm.

HVTUs and CABs should begin discussing the types of activities they would like to hold. All sites are encouraged to partner with local organizations to increase participation from various communities. ☘



Community Education and Outreach Partnership Program

National Organizations:

California

Asian Pacific Islander Health Forum (San Francisco)
The Black AIDS Institute (Los Angeles)

New York

Latino Commission on AIDS (New York)

Washington, D.C.

Advocates for Youth
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
Black Women's Health Imperative
National Medical Association
Self Reliance Foundation

Community-Based Organizations:

California

Black Coalition on AIDS (San Francisco)
TODEC Legal Center (Perris)

Florida

AIDS Project Florida (Ft. Lauderdale)

Georgia

AID Atlanta (Atlanta)
Sister Love, Inc. (Atlanta)

Illinois

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (Chicago)
Working for Togetherness (Chicago)

Massachusetts

Justice Resource Institute (Boston)

Michigan

Midwest AIDS Prevention Project (Ferndale)

New Jersey

Isaiah House (East Orange)

New York

Body Positive (New York)
Community Health Network (Rochester)
Gay Men of African Descent (New York)

Ohio

The Tobias Project (Columbus)

Tennessee

Street Works (Nashville)

Texas

AIDS Outreach Center (Fort Worth)
Mujeres Unidas Contra Sida (San Antonio)

Virginia

Positive Livin' (Alexandria)

Washington

Brother to Brother (Seattle)

Washington, D.C.

Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

HVTN Plans Two Rollover Trials

The HVTN has two rollover trials planned in the next few months. Many trials build upon, or connect with, a previous trial. Rollover trials, however, are those in which the participants for the second (rollover) trial are drawn from the same group of participants in the initial trial.

In general, participants cannot volunteer for more than one clinical trial as their response to a vaccine in the first trial could influence the response in subsequent trials. By contrast, the rollover approach is typically proposed to save time. For instance, if the ultimate desired vaccine regimen is a prime-boost combination, participants can receive the prime in a first study before the boost product is available. Later, when the boost is ready for use, the same participants can be rolled over into a new trial to receive the boost. If the boost is to be given 6-12 months after the prime, a rollover study can save a substantial amount of time by not delaying the first trial.

In general, the HVTN avoids doing rollover trials. Participants from the initial trial have to decide whether or not they are interested in participating in the second trial, which means there is the possibility that there will not be enough participants who choose to enroll in the rollover study. Also, because of product availability issues, it can be very difficult to make the timing work so the study is scientifically sound. There are times, however, when a rollover is worth the challenge, especially if a product is on a path to potential efficacy studies. A rollover trial can dramatically shorten the time during which a product is being evaluated in early-stage trials.

This is the case for HVTN 057, a rollover trial for HVTN 052. HVTN 052 is evaluating a Vaccine Research Center (VRC) DNA plasmid product. In order to test this in combination with a boost vaccine, HVTN 057 was designed. This new trial will allow a comparison of the VRC DNA plasmid given in HVTN 052 alone (prime) with a VRC adenovirus product (boost).

When HVTN 052 was being designed, the VRC adenovirus product was not sufficiently advanced in the trials process to include it in 052 with the plasmid product. There was enough interest in the VRC plasmid product to move forward with it alone in HVTN 052. Now that the adenovirus product is available, it can be added to HVTN 052 with the rollover.

In order to maximize what can be learned from the 057 rollover trial, the Network has chosen to briefly pause enrollment of HVTN 052. This decision was made to allow for the best timing between the DNA prime being administered in HVTN 052 and the adenovirus boost given in HVTN 057. This pause will hopefully last only a few weeks. The challenge with rollover studies, as this demonstrates, comes from the difficulty of sewing together two sets of trial criteria so that they mesh into one coordinated, scientifically strong study.

With these rollover trials, sites will be looking for novel ways to encourage participants to extend their involvement and enroll in the rollover study. Community feedback will be integral to this process.

The other rollover trial will be with two Wyeth products, which are being tested individually in HVTN 056 and HVTN 058. The rollover combining these two products has not been given a protocol number. No other rollover trials are being planned or expected at this time. ☞

CAB Member Shares Experience

(Continued from page 3)

Q: Was the amount of work during the meeting more or less than you imagined it would be?

A: I don't really know what I was expecting. I guess I was hoping that there would be a great deal of discussion but most importantly, I hoped that we would culminate the meeting with a finished product. Often times, meetings have a lot of talk but nothing concrete to go home with. In this case, there was a technical writer and a protocol development specialist who took concise notes and recorded all comments on flip charts. We then split into thematic groups, but it wasn't that people just got randomly assigned. Each person was appropriately placed in topic area, with Andrew and I going to the informed consent group. Our group was very dynamic and we had meaningful discussions and communicated our solutions to the technical writer at the end of the first day. Day two started with an updated version of the protocol and each of us reviewed the document to be sure that our changes had been incorporated. We spent the rest of the day refining the document as a group and finished with a completed protocol by noon. ☞

Sugerencias deseadas por el CAC en el desarrollo de estrategias de reclutamiento

Los Comités de Asesores Comunitarios (CAC), son uno de los recursos más importantes del HVTN para adelantar los ensayos clínicos de vacunas contra el VIH. Desde el principio de la Red, los CAC han proporcionado las unidades locales con aconsejando en el espíritu de compromiso, altruismo y la voluntad de trabajar para adherirse a una buena práctica clínica.

Los CAC han sido positivos en el desarrollo y la implementación de los planes de educación comunitaria. Estos planes han ayudado a crear un ambiente en donde las percepciones erróneas históricas alrededor de la investigación pueden ser rotas. Dado que la revisión del CAC para el plan de educación comunitaria fue un gran éxito para todos en la Red, el nuevo plan de reclutamiento y retención también requiere su revisión.

A los CAC locales se les ha pedido participar y ayudar a las Unidades de Ensayos de Vacunas contra el VIH (HVTU en inglés) para preparar un plan de reclutamiento y retención anualmente. Esto representa un cambio en los requisitos anteriores en donde se exigía que cada sitio entregara un plan para cada protocolo. Los sitios todavía necesitan revisar su plan al comienzo de cada nuevo protocolo para asegurar que las estrategias sean apropiadas para los requisitos específicos del estudio. El propósito de escribir un plan de reclutamiento y retención es proporcionar un proceso organizado para el mantenimiento de las metas de enrolamiento y las fechas límites.

Los miembros del CAC pueden ayudar en el desarrollo de las estrategias y en el establecimiento de indicadores de éxito. Por ejemplo, algunas comunidades usan folletos o anuncios de radio como técnicas de reclutamiento. Otras pueden usar teatro de la calle, una entrevista de televisión con el investigador principal o un anuncio del principio de un estudio a través de un participante. Será importante pensar en como usar una variedad de esfuerzos de educación estratégica para maximizar el número de personas alcanzadas.

Los miembros del CAC pueden ayudar también en la determinación de los mensajes claves. Dado que algunos miembros son de las poblaciones deseadas, el CAC puede divulgar las concepciones erradas comunes que son necesarias dirigir durante el proceso de reclutamiento. Por ejemplo, si hay una desconfianza fuerte contra la investigación, resulta crítico que los reclutadores sepan ésta preocupación, para que puedan prepararse para contestar a ciertas preguntas.

Mientras el plan esté entregado anualmente, es posible que las estrategias que le sirvan a un estudio no le sirva a otro. La Red es consciente de los cambios que suceden durante un periodo de 12 meses y por eso, es importante que el sitio y el CAC revisen el plan más de una vez cada año. El plan está intentando ser flexible y el CAC debería estar cómodo para proponer modificaciones.

Una plantilla para el plan de reclutamiento y retención deberá ser suministrada a los sitios el 1ero de abril del 2004. La planificación debe ser completada para el 1ero de junio del 2004. Todos los miembros del CAC (cuanto menos un miembro) que participen en dando sus comentarios o sugerencias deben firmar el documento como señal de aprobación. Los miembros del CAC pueden jugar un rol clave en aconsejar al sitio en el reclutamiento y la retención de participantes.

El desarrollo de materiales

Antes de que el sitio empiece a alcanzar a las poblaciones identificadas, resulta crítico que la información esté distribuida de una forma poco apropiada para la comunidad específica. Sea una presentación oral o materiales escritos, el CAC debería verificar que la información esté dado de una manera clara y comprensible, mientras se mantiene científicamente precisa. El CAC puede actuar como una audiencia de prueba (asumiendo que el grupo sea diverso y tenga representación de la población deseada) para identificar las percepciones erróneas comunes en dicha comunidad.

Usando el CAC para ayudar en el reclutamiento

Es importante acordarse que los miembros del CAC *no* sean del equipo de reclutamiento. Por lo tanto, los miembros del CAC pueden ser una buena fuente de orientación en la interacción con las poblaciones que representan. En su rol de aconsejar, pueden ayudar para identificar lugares de reclutamiento, servir como un grupo focal para materiales de reclutamiento, actuar como portavoces (miembros del CAC que han participado o conocen a participantes que pueden dar historias personales), y mejorar los esfuerzos del sitio para reclutar a diversos grupos de participantes.

Se nota que los esfuerzos de reclutamiento deberían trabajar junto con los esfuerzos de educación comunitaria que informan a las poblaciones generales para desarrollar mayor apoyo para los participantes enrolados y el esfuerzo local de vacunas contra el VIH. ☘

Two Community Educators Take On New Leadership Roles

Josh Barnes (Nashville, TN) was recently named the new co-chair of the Community Educator/Recruitment Coordination (CERC) group. Josh will be taking over for Ben Perkins (Boston, MA), who accepted a position at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation to work full-time on the HIV Vaccine Communications Campaign. Along with fellow co-chair César Bazán (Lima, Perú), Josh will lead the monthly CERC conference call

where Community Educators and Recruiters have an opportunity to share cross-site issues. Josh has been working with HIV-infected and -affected communities for nearly 10 years (fairly significant given he is only 26 years old) with programs like Mobile AIDS Support Services and as a peer counselor for gay/lesbian youth.



Photo provided by Josh Barnes

Jennifer Sarche (San Francisco, CA) was selected to represent the CERC group on the NIAID HIV Vaccine Communications Steering Group. Jennifer will also be replacing Ben Perkins. She has been working at the site for 1.5 years, has hosted a community forum about African Americans and the VaxGen results, developed a social marketing campaign targeted to African Americans, took a leading role in a community coalition to plan the first ever National Latino AIDS Awareness Day celebration in San Francisco, and established collaborative ties with community based organizations working in the African American, Latino, and Asian & Pacific Islander communities.



Photo by HVTN

The HVTN looks forward to working with these outstanding educators. ☘



Calendar of Events



CAB PROTOCOL WORKING GROUP CONFERENCE CALL:

Friday, April 2, 2004, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.

Friday, May 7, 2004, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.

GLOBAL CAB CONFERENCE CALL:

Thursday, April 8, 2004, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.

Thursday, May 13, 2004, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION/RECRUITMENT COORDINATION CALL:

Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 12 p.m. E.T./ 9 a.m. P.T.

Due to a conflict with HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, the date for the May call has yet to be determined.

Upcoming Conferences

The 8th annual United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) will take place October 21–24, 2004 at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The conference consists of more than 3,000 service providers, people living with HIV/AIDS, policymakers, public officials, and funders, making it the largest AIDS-related gathering in the United States. For more information, please visit www.nmac.org.

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families will be hosting Voices 2004 on May 22–25, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. The conference offers an array of sessions presented by leaders in HIV/AIDS care, prevention, research, and advocacy. Since AIDS Alliance was awarded money through CEOPP (*see page 5*), HIV vaccines will be highlighted at the conference with a plenary session. For more information, please visit www.aids-alliance.org. ☘

Community Advisory Boards (CABs) are one way that the HVTN involves community in the research process. CABs consist of volunteers from diverse backgrounds that work with local research units and advise the site from a community perspective. Community input has been invaluable to the broad community education efforts as well as the development of this bulletin.

Send suggestions, questions, and article submissions to:

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