RAMP Project Abstract:

Project Title:
Stick2PrEP Cisgender Women/Trans Individuals: Increasing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Uptake, Adherence, and Retention in Care, and Understanding PrEP Preferences Among Predominantly Black and Latinx Cisgender Women and Transgender Individuals

Project Overview:
As part of your work with the Columbia Research Unit, you will work in an interdisciplinary team with clinical research investigators on a project regarding HIV prevention. The goal of the project is to explore cisgender women and trans individuals’ (CWTI) preferences for HIV prevention, including different PrEP modalities, PrEP level measurement techniques, and healthcare experiences. Additional project goals are to understand whether individualized feedback impacts retention in sexual health care. Individuals who identify as Black and/or Latinx are prioritized for enrollment. As a member of the research team, you will spend 8-10 weeks learning how to recruit, consent, and enroll CWTI into a longitudinal, prospective study. You will learn how to teach participants to collect dried blood spot testing for PrEP level measurement. After 175 participants have been enrolled, you will work with the clinical research team, epidemiologists, and statisticians to analyze data and complete a manuscript to describe study findings. This project requires working onsite at our research unit in New York City.

Project Summary:
This project aims to understand CWTI’s preferences for PrEP and HIV prevention. We will enroll up to 175 patients in a prospective study using longitudinal online surveys. Participants who are on PrEP will receive a text message-based intervention consisting of individual feedback to understand whether this intervention is associated with improved adherence in sexual healthcare. Participants on PrEP also have the option of providing dried blood spot samples for PrEP level measurement. In addition, 24 participants will be invited to participate in in-depth qualitative interviews.

Study endpoints include:
1. A description of CWTI’s preferences for different PrEP modalities and the relationship between preference and PrEP initiation/persistence in care,
2. CWTI’s experience with and preferences regarding laboratory measurement techniques for PrEP,
3. The effect of individualized feedback on retention in care at 12 months,
4. CWTI’s experience with self-reporting adherence and receiving individualized feedback, and
5. Risk factors that may be associated with poor retention and adherence in sexual health care.

Regulatory requirements for the project and plans for completing them:
This project has been approved by the Columbia University Irving Medical Center Institutional Review Board. RAMP Scholar will need to complete CITI and other required IRB trainings to be added to the IRB protocol. We will assist in completing all the necessary modules, and IRB modifications to add personnel are approved quickly.
Expected Deliverables:

1. HVTN – presentation
2. Manuscript for submission

Project Contact Person(s) (Name, Email):

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