



## Welcome Jim Maynard!



*Jim Maynard, Associate Director for Community Development & Recruitment.*

The Community Education Unit welcomed Jim Maynard as the new Associate Director for Community Development and Recruitment (overseeing both Community Education and Communications) on May 16. Prior to the HVTN, Jim spent over 12 years at the Fenway Institute (part of Fenway Health) where he served as the Associate Director for Community Engagement. Jim brings a wealth of knowledge and experience gained during his years working with HVTN trials as well as the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) and the Adolescent Trials Network (ATN). His team leadership, site perspective, depth of experience, and relentlessly positive energy will be a welcome addition the Core team.

The Community Education Unit would also like to thank Niles Eaton his leadership and insight as interim Associate Director for this past year. We will miss his delicious homemade desserts and infectious laughter at staff meetings, but we look forward to continued collaboration with Niles as he returns to his role of Clinical Trials Manager.

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## The Global CAB Welcomes David Galetta as New Co-Chair

*By Carrie Schonwald, Community Education Unit*

We would like to announce the election of Reverend David Galetta as International GCAB Co-Chair. David is currently the CAB Chairperson of the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa, where he has been a CAB member since 2004. Rev. Galetta graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in International Research Ethics from the University of Cape Town in 2009 and serves on their Human Sciences Research Ethics Committee as



*David Galetta, new international GCAB Co-Chair.*

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## HVTN 505 Expands in Size and Scope

*By Rick Church, Rich Trevino, Coco Alinsug, Jason Roberts (Community members of the HVTN 505 protocol team) and Gail Broder, HVTN Community Education Unit*

HVTN 505 is undergoing an exciting renovation! DAIDS has given approval for HVTN 505 to be expanded to enroll 2200 men and transwomen who have sex with men, up from the previous goal of 1350. The revised protocol is going through the review process now, and the protocol team anticipates that sites will be able to implement the changes in August 2011. This increase in size will provide the ability to evaluate whether the vaccine regimen prevents infection as well as whether it has an impact on viral load among participants who become infected. Prevention of infection was always a secondary research question in the study, but the original trial size limited the ability to answer this question as a primary objective. The increase in size provides more accurate statistical ability for both research questions to be answered, in addition to the ongoing assessment of safety.

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# Cape Town CAB Member Nombeko Mpongo Publishes Memoir

By Carrie Schonwald, HVTN Community Education Unit

Nombeko Mpongo, a Cape Town CAB member since 2004, has recently written and published a short story that tells of her personal struggles and triumphs with HIV. Her story, called *Anyway*, is part of a new short story collection called *Whisper Not* that “celebrates the lives of 15 proud people living positively with and being deeply affected by HIV” ([www.openlypositive.com](http://www.openlypositive.com)). *Whisper Not* is published by Openly Positive, an organization whose mission is “to build a supportive, stigma-free environment for people living with HIV and AIDS to live positively and disclose.” Nombeko’s story is also being published in one of South Africa’s many languages, isiXhosa, and is called *Nakanjani*.

The legendary South African Archbishop and apartheid activist, Desmond Tutu, reviewed her story by saying, “In her heartfelt poetry, Nombeko shares her numbing pain in contracting HIV through being brutally gang-raped. Her faith and her resilience enable her to move out of ‘the walking death’ and to emerge from what she calls ‘the shadow in me’ to proclaim:

*'I release and let go of past hurts and grudges  
Because I am blessed.  
Now, I wipe my tears and give myself a hug  
And walk in the victory shouting I love me no  
matter what.'*

Nombeko currently works as an HIV/AIDS Information Officer for Cape Town’s municipal employee wellness program where she does peer educator trainings, workshops and counseling. Her program runs a 2-day clinic every week taking care of staff and their partners living with HIV. Since



*Nombeko Mpongo, Cape Town CAB member, author and advocate.*

the clinic started in 2003, the number of deaths of employees and their partners has decreased significantly. In her free time, Nombeko considers herself an active CAB member who always makes it her responsibility to promote community awareness and help people understand that those left behind have a major role to play in getting an effective HIV vaccine one day, bringing hope for the future.

Nombeko, like so many HVTN CAB members, has not only turned her trials into triumphs, but has chosen to use her hard-won lessons to help and inspire others. As colleagues and readers of her story, we lament the hardships she has endured, but we are also so grateful that she has transformed them into victories. We thank her for sharing it all with us by being such an active and talented CAB member.

To learn more about Nombeko’s powerful story and other such stories, visit; [www.openlypositive.com](http://www.openlypositive.com).



**SANTO DOMINGO, DR**

► The site organized face-to-face outreach led by Lic. Pura Cordero, in the waiting room of the Our Lady of Grace Maternity Hospital. In this photo, counselor Mechi Lara pins a red ribbon on a patient (upside-down to symbolize vaccines) while distributing an information sheet.



**CAPE TOWN, RSA**

► Based on the encouragement of CAB members, the site hosted a community feedback meeting called 'Imbizo' to update the community about progress made in HIV prevention research, which involved presentations by CAB members like the one pictured here.



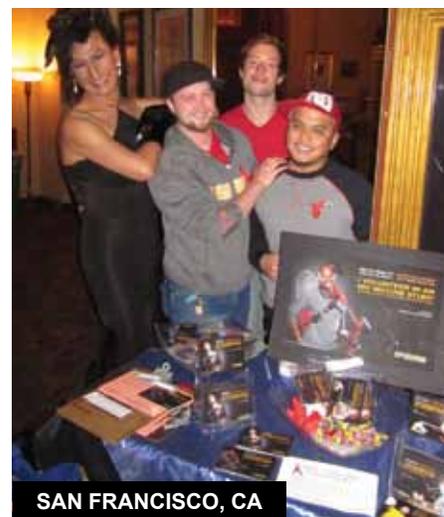
**LIMA, PE**

► What better way to celebrate HVAD than with the volunteer firefighters of Lima? Site staff shared information and updates on HIV prevention including HIV vaccine studies. It was a day of active participation and enthusiasm as everyone reflected on what it would take to find an effective vaccine for all.



**MEDUNSA (PRETORIA), RSA**

► Medunsa's theme for HVAD was "It takes a village to fight HIV/AIDS." CAB members joined with the site to provide education and awareness about preventive HIV vaccine studies, testing options and other health issues.



**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

► The San Francisco team presented participant videos at the historical Castro Theatre ([www.SFisReady.org](http://www.SFisReady.org)). Dr. Susan Buchbinder also shared recent successes in HIV prevention research and the need to continue to partner with communities to find a safe and effective HIV vaccine.



**CLEVELAND, OH**

► The Cleveland outreach team and staff members commemorate HVAD with HIV vaccine trial supporters, Veranda L'Ni (wearing the hat) and Bunny Beretta (right).



**ROCHESTER, NY**

► Rochester participated in numerous events over the HVAD weekend. In this photo, recruiter Cody Gardner staffed a table and led a discussion with patrons at a local sports pub.



**BOSTON, MA (FENWAY)**

► Vince Pancucci, recruiter at Fenway Health, tabling at Boston Commons.

## Conference Highlights

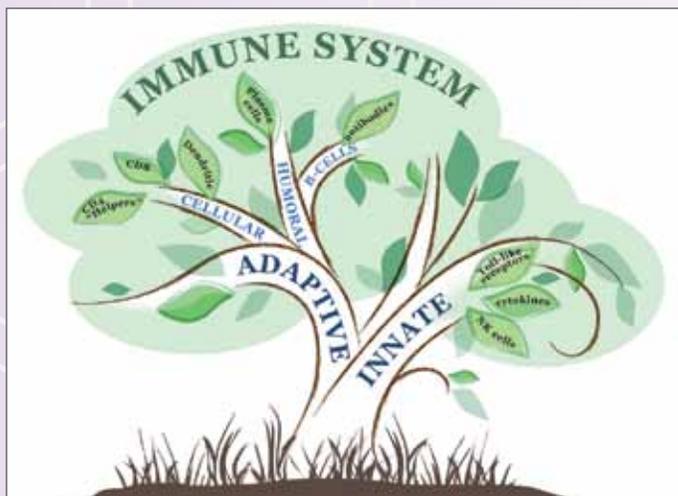
By Genevieve Meyer, Community Education Unit

### Day 1

#### New Immunology Presentation Makes a Splash

On the first morning of the conference, Gail Broder gave an updated version of her immunology and vaccinology presentations. Typically, both topics are covered during one session. This time the components were divided into 2 different 90 minute sessions allowing for more questions, discussion and interactive activities. For example, to demonstrate how natural killer (NK) cells cause HIV infected cells to burst, she had a balloon filled with water and a pin and invited a volunteer to come up and demonstrate the destruction. Needless to say, the presentation caused quite a splash! To view the updated slides from each presentation, go to:

<http://hvtn.org/meeting/>



One of the many new images used in Gail Broder's Intro to Immunology presentation.

#### Vaccine Vixens Take the Stage

This year, to spice up the HVTN Reception, at the suggestion of CER Kevin Trimell Jones from Philly, the CEU organized a special performance of drag celebrities from across the U.S. The goal of the evening was to highlight to network members, both scientists and non-scientists, U.S. and international, how many of our sites engage with drag performers to help spread vaccine messages

through their art. These amazing performers act as vaccine ambassadors for the sites they are affiliated with by incorporating awareness messages into their acts. During the reception, hosted by the one and only Coco Alinsug from the Boston (Fenway) site, spectators were wowed by performances from Peppermint, a vaccine awareness diva in New York City; Lady Marisa, Ms. Lady Vaccine of Philadelphia; and Garza, head of the House of

Dr. Larry Corey, PI of HVTN hits the dance floor with Garza, one of the three drag performers who dazzled spectators at the reception.



Garza in San Francisco. Just before the final act, Dr. Larry Corey, Principal Investigator of the HVTN and President of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, presented a thank you gift to Dr. Peggy Johnston, who retired from NIAID earlier this year. For the past 12 years she served as the director of the Vaccine Research Program at the Division of AIDS (DAIDS).

Master of Ceremonies Coco Alinsug.



The reception featured performances by (left to right) Lady Marisa, Garza, and attendees.

## Day 2

### Highlighting our Committed CAB Members



*Kate Miller, GCAB co-chair and member of the Chicago CAB, leading a CAB discussion.*

Kate Miller, GCAB co-chair and member of the Chicago CAB, facilitated a lively discussion with Carl Dieffenbach, director of DAIDS, on the importance of sustained funding for community education activities in the next 7-year network funding cycle. Kate and other CAB members in the audience pressed Dr. Dieffenbach for responses to the letter which

they had recently submitted to Dr. Alan Fix at DAIDS. While no specific answers were provided, Dr. Dieffenbach did say that all concerns were being considered seriously by those at DAIDS involved in the restructuring and grant proposal process. He asked for names of those interested in serving as reviewers for the site application process that will begin after DAIDS issues its request for applications. Those interested in serving as reviewers should contact their Community Education Project Manager- Gail, Carrie or Genevieve.

Kate also oversaw the CAB breakout session later that afternoon. One topic of particular interest was improving the chain of communication between Core, CAB coordinators GCAB members and local

CAB members. It seems that network updates and requests for information or participation are not always reaching local CAB members. Conversely, local CAB concerns may not be reaching Core. One area identified for improvement is to make sure GCAB representatives are clear on their responsibilities as the conduit between Core, the site and their local CAB. The CEU and GCAB co-chairs will work on drafting an official document to share with GCAB members and sites. Thank you Kate for your leadership and facilitation!



*EWG co-chair Lindiwe Mvubu of Durban, South Africa & Ro Yoon, Educator from Seattle facilitating at the General Community session.*

EWG co-chair Lindiwe Mvubu of Durban, South Africa and co-facilitator Ro Yoon, Educator from the Seattle site, led a powerful discussion on maintaining CAB engagement at a site level. Lindiwe shared examples of how her CAB stays involved with the Durban site's activities, and Robert facilitated a discussion where many sites shared examples of how the site and CAB work together. Thank you Lindiwe and Ro!



*Seattle CAB member Miko Robertson received the Community Service Award.*

Miko Robertson - long time Seattle CAB member, GCAB member, and current GCAB representative to the Scientific Steering Committee - was honored with the Octavio Valente, Jr. Community Service Award. We look forward to her continued involvement with and insight on CAB activities at the site and Network levels.

The CEU would also like to thank and acknowledge the many CER staff who also helped make this day a success: Ro Yoon of Seattle (mentioned above), CER co-chair Gabriela Calazans of Sao Paulo who facilitated the CER breakout session, and the four panelists who shared their successful events during the General Community Session: James Mapson of Birmingham, Lucia Ruiz of Iquitos, Coco Alinsug of Boston (Fenway), and Ntando Yola of Cape Town.



*Peppermint. Following the show, the dance floor opened up to all conference*

## Day 2 (continued)

### Community Social



Paris Mullen of the Legacy Project

Like the HVTN General Reception, this meeting's community social also took a new turn in the form of a talent show. Vic Sorrell, recruiter from Nashville and Paris Mullen of the Legacy Project kicked off the evening with a dazzling duet; San Francisco diva Dulce de Leche wowed the crowd with her powerful voice; Garza took to the stage



Dulce de Leche



Garza

again in a sultry cabaret-inspired performance, Nashville CAB member Mark Hubbard read a beautiful and evocative poem; Vic returned with our own Gail Broder for a tender duet. What an honor to know that we are all working with not only intelligent and committed staff and CAB members, but talented as well! The CEU thanks you all for your participation.



Mark Hubbard



Gail Broder and Vic Sorrell

## Day 3

### New Test Detects More Neutralizing Antibodies

As usual, scientists from around the globe presented data and findings on a range of topics from pre-clinical studies to human studies in the field. One presentation of particular note was that of Dr. David Montefiori of Duke University. Dr. Montefiori presented data on neutralizing antibody detection from HVTN 078 samples. He discovered that by modifying the current assay (or lab test) to use a new cell line called A3R5, which is more similar to the CD4 T cells found in the human body, he could detect more neutralizing antibodies to relevant types of HIV than previously found using the standard TZM-bl cell assay. This is exciting news for the vaccine scientists, because if they can figure out which antibodies neutralize circulating strains of HIV (that is, which antibodies prevent viruses from infecting cells), they may be able to use that information to develop a effective and safe HIV vaccine.

### Expanding the Prevention Toolbox

Dr. Shelly Karuna, Director of Clinical Development at the HVTN, presented on the value of cross-network collaboration and specifically, on the possibility of a future partnership between the HVTN and the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN). Given the recent findings of RV144, CAPRISA 004, iPrEx and Fem-PrEP, the drive for collaboration has never been greater. No vaccine-PrEP combination studies are underway at this time, but study ideas include combining HIV vaccines with either oral (such as PrEP) or topical microbicides (vaginal or rectal gels) to look at the safety, immunogenicity and ultimately effectiveness of the combined prevention methods compared to a single method.

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## HVTN 505 Expands in Size and Scope

So why make this change now? There have been several changes in the field of HIV prevention since the protocol was originally written. The results

*" There have been several changes in the field of HIV prevention since the protocol was originally written."*

from both the CAPRISA 004 vaginal microbicide trial and the iPrEx trial of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) have underscored the importance of looking at prevention of new infections in people, not just in animal models. In addition, as data

analysis from the Thai Trial (RV144) continues, new information is emerging about how that vaccine regimen may have worked to prevent infections.

One leading theory is that the canarypox and protein vaccine regimen used in the Thai Trial appears to have elicited binding antibodies which can attach to HIV and alert other parts of the immune system to take action against it. In previous trials of the DNA-Ad5 regimen that is being used in HVTN 505, binding antibodies have also been elicited, as was presented at the HVTN Full Group Meeting in May 2010 by Rick Koup of the Vaccine

Research Center. The regimens in both trials have also been successful in causing the body to produce CD4 and CD8 T-cells which can recognize and kill infected cells, while the 505 regimen does an even better job of eliciting HIV-specific CD8 T-cells. This new information, along with additional information coming from animal models, provides a strong scientific rationale for expanding the scope of the HVTN 505.

It is also important to note that part of the reason we are able to undertake this expansion is because our sites have been doing a stellar job of enrolling participants! While recruitment initially got off to a slow start, over the past year the rate of enrollment has steadily improved and has remained constant over recent months, proving that we are capable of enrolling the study efficiently.

This expansion is an exciting development in the HVTN. Although this vaccine regimen is not on a path to licensure, HVTN 505 is the only large phase II preventive HIV vaccine study in the world at this time. The information that we learn will play an important role in the scientific discovery process for the entire field, helping us get closer to the goal of finding a safe and effective vaccine.

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## Welcome Jim Maynard!

### In his own words:

I started my work at Fenway Health many years ago running a help line for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth, many living in remote and isolated communities across the U.S. Often I would get questions from their parents, scared that their child would get "that disease," HIV. It is with great excitement that I join the team at the HVTN to find a way to keep all of our children safe from a virus that continues to roll across our planet stealing the futures of so many that we love. I have been and will continue to be a community educator, recruiter and community member at heart and I'm looking forward to being a coworker as we work together to find a vaccine that can and will stop HIV for good!

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## The Global CAB Welcomes David Galetta as New Co-Chair

a layperson and reviewer. David also serves on HVTN protocol teams, the CAB Scientific Working Group, and the Global CAB and the Network Evaluation Committee. In 2009 he was awarded the HVTN Network Citizenship Award for exemplary contributions and citizenship.

David was instrumental in setting up the CAB for The South African TB Vaccine Initiative (SATVI). He is frequently sought after by international and local researchers to give input regarding community engagement strategies and implementation. We are thrilled that he will now be adding International GCAB Co-Chair to his already exemplary résumé. Welcome, David!

## Expanding the Prevention Toolbox (continued)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RECENT BIOMEDICAL HIV PREVENTION STUDIES -

**CAPRISA 004:** <http://www.caprisa.org/joomla/index.php/component/content/article/1/225>

**iPrEx:** [http://www.globaliprex.com/pdfs/iPrEx\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_Key\\_Results\\_Final\\_PNE.pdf](http://www.globaliprex.com/pdfs/iPrEx_Fact_Sheet_Key_Results_Final_PNE.pdf)

**RV144:** <https://www01.hjf.org/apps/internet/hivnewscenter.nsf/phase3faqs>

**Fem PrEP:** <http://www.fhi.org/en/Research/Projects/FEM-PrEP.htm>

**Microbicides Trials Network:** <http://www.mtnstopshiv.org/>

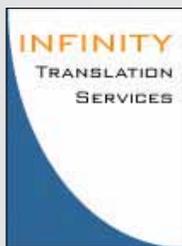
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**Lisa Donohue**, Layout

Thank you to the many people who helped with this issue: *Ryan Jensen, Jin Bae, Nicole Frahm, Shelly Karuna, Carrie Schonwald, Gail Broder, Niles Eaton, Jim Maynard, Erik Schwab and Adi Ferrara.*

Translation of the CAB Bulletin from English to Spanish and French provided by Infinity Translation Services.  
[www.infinitytranslations.com](http://www.infinitytranslations.com)



### ABOUT CABS

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

### MISSED AN ISSUE?

If you have missed an issue of the CAB Bulletin, all of our past issues are archived on the HVTN website community pages (no password required!). View past issues including featured clinical research sites, scientific updates, CAB experiences and much more. [www.hvtn.org/community/bulletin.html](http://www.hvtn.org/community/bulletin.html)

### CAB CONFERENCE CALLS

If you are interested in joining one of these calls, email Genevieve Meyer (gmeyer@hvtn.org)

#### GLOBAL GCAB CALL\*

Second Thursday of every month

Thurs., July 14th  
8 a.m. PT/11 a.m. ET

Thurs., August 11th,  
8 a.m. PT/11 a.m. ET

#### GLOBAL ETHICS WORKING GROUP CALL

First Tuesday of every month

Tues., July 5th,  
9 a.m. PT/12 p.m. ET

Tues., August 2nd,  
9 a.m. PT/12 p.m. ET

#### CAB SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP CALL

First Friday of every month

Fri., July 1st,  
(may be postponed due to U.S. holiday)  
8 a.m. PT/11 a.m. ET

Fri., August 5th,  
8 a.m. PT/11 a.m. ET

#### FRENCH LANGUAGE CAB CALL

Second Wednesday of even months

Wed., August 10th,  
9 a.m. PT/12 p.m. ET

Wed., October 12th,  
9 a.m. PT/12 p.m. ET

#### SPANISH LANGUAGE CAB CALL

Third Thursday of odd months

Thurs., July 21st,  
9 a.m. PT/12 p.m. ET

Thurs., September 15th,  
9 a.m. PT/12 p.m. ET

#### AFRICAN REGIONAL CAB CALL

Third Thursday of even months

Thurs., August 18th,  
9 a.m. PT/6 p.m. RSA

Thurs., October 20th,  
9 a.m. PT/6 p.m. RSA

**\*Please note that the GCAB call is only open to GCAB representatives and alternates at each site. All other CAB calls are open to any and all CAB members.**