HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)

On July 12, 2000, The National Institutes of Health announced the formation of the international HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) to develop and test promising non-vaccine strategies to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. This global initiative will explore the potential of alternative measures to prevent or reduce infection with HIV.

The HPTN is a collaborative network of institutions comprised of the Core, Central Laboratories, HIV Prevention Trials Units (HPTUs), and the Statistical and Data Coordinating Center. The HPTN is designed to carry out a comprehensive scientific agenda of HIV prevention research.

**Dr. Sten Vermund**, Professor of Epidemiology and International Health; Director, Division of Geographic Medicine; and the Director of the John J. Sparkman Center for International Public Health Education, was awarded $750,000 for the first year of a five year funding period. Dr. Vermund will lead the HPTU research at UAB.

The network will conduct domestic and international clinical and related laboratory research focused on HIV prevention. The mission is to identify, prioritize and conduct research on promising intervention concepts for the prevention of HIV disease worldwide.

HPTN studies will focus on six key areas of prevention research:
- Drugs and/or vaccines
- Behavioral Science
- Interventions
- Research of IV drug abuse
- Measures to control STDs
- Antiretroviral therapy

The HPTN will transition ongoing studies from the current HIV Network for Prevention Trials, (HIVNET) and initiate new studies according to the scientific priorities of the network. Clinical trials of vaccines focused on questions around maternal-infant transmission will be conducted within the HPTN, and may be carried out in collaboration with the HVNT (see below) and the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Network.

**Human Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)**

Recognizing the need to expand and strengthen domestic and international HIV vaccine studies, the NIAID centralized its previous AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Group (AVEG) initiatives and its HIVNET initiatives into a coordinated, global framework for clinical HIV vaccine work—the Human Vaccine Trials Network.

The mission of the HVNT is to identify, prioritize, and conduct research on promising vaccine concepts for the prevention of HIV disease worldwide. Through this process the HVNT will transition ongoing studies from the AVEG and the HIVNET, and it will initiate new studies according to the scientific agenda of the network. In addition, the NIAID is supporting HVNT to perform Phase I, II and ultimately Phase III clinical trials of HIV vaccines.

This new network consists of a leadership group with a core operations center, a statistical and data management center and a central laboratory, as well as a network of nine domestic sites and one international site (South Africa).

**Dr. Mark Mulligan**, Director of Alabama Vaccine Research Clinic at UAB (AVRC), Associate Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, is the lead investigator at UAB for the HVNT. UAB is one of nine HVNT sites within the United States.

For more information on the vaccine trials or to become a volunteer, visit [www.uab.edu/avrc](http://www.uab.edu/avrc) or call the clinic at 205-975-2842.
Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO) AIDS Walk

Sunday, October 15, 2000
Kelly Ingram Park
Registration begins at noon, and the walk steps off at 3:00 p.m. Please visit the CFAR table while you are at the park. For more information, please call Charlie Weinsteger at 322-4197 ext. 21.

Dinner Lecture Series
www.uabcfar.uab.edu/lectures/dinner

Wednesday, October 25, 5:30 p.m.
Bevill Biomedical Research Building, Room 170
Peter S. Kim, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology and Howard Hughes Investigator
Whitehead Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
web.wi.mit.edu/kim/

Wednesday, November 29th, 5:30 p.m.
Bevill Biomedical Research Building, Room 170
Anna M. Skalka, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Division of Basic Science
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Institute for Cancer Research
http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=31265

The Center for AIDS Research hosts Dinner, Faculty, and Special Lecture series. If you would like to recommend a speaker for one of these series, please contact Rob McDonald at 934-2437 or by e-mail at rwm@uab.edu.

World AIDS Day Events
The Balm in Gilead, Inc.
www.balminglead.org/
presents:
"A Workshop for Leaders of Faith: Responding to the HIV Epidemic"
6:00-8:00 p.m., Monday, November 27th
Jefferson County Commission for Economic Opportunity

"Forming Collaborative Partnerships with Leaders of Faith in the Fight against HIV"
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 28th
Jefferson County Commission for Economic Opportunity
Reservations are required for both workshops: call Tracy Clark at 205-599-5547

Candlelight Walk and Interfaith Service
5:30 p.m. Walk; 6:30 p.m. Interfaith Service
Friday, December 1, 2000
Zion Hill Baptist Church, Birmingham
923 Graymont Avenue West
For further information, please call Laura Jackson at 205-934-8486

What's New?
If you have a topic of interest for the Quest newsletter, please contact Vicki Byrd at 975-7045 or by e-mail at vhbyrd@uab.edu

Richard J. Whitley, M.D. Recognized
Richard James Whitley, M.D., Loeb Eminent Scholar in Pediatrics, Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology and Medicine, and Associate Director for Clinical Studies at the Center for AIDS Research was recently honored with the 2000 Aventis Pharmaceuticals Award in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in antimicrobial chemotherapy.

Dr. Whitley's extensive body of work, particularly with HSV disease history, treatment and control, set new standards of excellence for many aspects of clinical virology. As part of the award, Dr. Whitley delivered the Aventis Pharmaceuticals Award Lecture at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC).