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### ABOUT ACTION

The AIDS Clinical Trials Information and Orientation Network (ACTION) exists to provide information and resources to those interested in HIV/AIDS clinical trials, and to support an active community voice in local HIV/AIDS research.

### ABOUT DC CARE


DC CARE Consortium works to advocate for and to assure the availability of appropriate HIV/AIDS services in the community, including ensuring the equitable distribution of funding for these services, and promoting quality assurance in their delivery.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**DC CARE CONSORTIUM**  
www.dccare.org

with support from

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## ACTION Speaker Series

Starting in September, ACTION will launch a series of free informational lunch events that will address different aspects of HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS research in the Greater Washington Area. Staff from local AIDS Service Organizations and concerned community members are welcome to join us (RSVP required).

Our first presentation is an overview of HIV Preventive Vaccine Research which will be September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Participants will gain a knowledge of current research, and information about a prevention vaccine research study currently underway. For more information or to reserve your seat, contact David Mariner at dmariner@dccare.org or 202 223 9550 ext 15.

## CAB News: Capital Area Vaccine Effort

Capital Area Vaccine Effort (CAVE) is one of several HIV/AIDS Community Advisory Boards in the Greater Washington Area. CAVE is a voluntary panel of individuals who work in partnership with the institutions conducting HIV/AIDS Vaccine research in the District.

CAVE acts as a liaison between the researchers and the communities affected by HIV/AIDS in the district. CAVE works in partnership with researchers to raise awareness and knowledge of HIV Vaccine research in our local communities. CAVE further works to address the needs and concerns of the community with regards to all aspects of the research process.

Everyone is welcome to attend the next CAVE Community Advisory Board meeting which will be held August 9<sup>th</sup> at the DC CARE Consortium starting at 6:30 PM.

## Upcoming Events

- **August 9<sup>th</sup>** – Capital Area Vaccine Effort (CAVE) Meeting. CAVE is the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the Vaccine Research Center. Join us for this CAB meeting being held at DC CARE starting at 6:30 PM.
- **August 13<sup>th</sup>**: Man2Man Barbecue being held at P Street Beach (23rd and P Sts, N.W) starting at 2.00 PM. \$5 per plate to benefit the Man2Man program for more information call Chris Rothermel at 202 797-3563 or visit [www.wvc.org/man2man](http://www.wvc.org/man2man).
- **September 9<sup>th</sup>** - The DC Metro Chapter of the Younger Women's Task Force will host a picnic event entitled "Younger Women and HIV/AIDS: Building Community in Washington DC" from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at Meridian Hill (Malcom-X) Park. For more information contact [ywtfdcoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:ywtfdcoutreach@gmail.com).
- **September 14<sup>th</sup>** – **ACTION Speaker Series: HIV Prevention Vaccine Research Luncheon.** This event starts at 1:00 PM and will be held at DC CARE. For more information or to reserve your seat, contact David Mariner at dmariner@dccare.org or 202 223 9550 ext 15. Sponsored by DC CARE and the Vaccine Research Center (VRC).
- **September 29<sup>th</sup>** – Georgetown Medical Center CAB Meeting. The meeting will take place from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at DC CARE.

# THERAPEUTIC HIV VACCINE RESEARCH:

## HELP US IN OUR EFFORT TO FIGHT HIV

Diane R. Johnson, MPH | Contractor: Sr. Specialist, Recruitment and Outreach | Vaccine Research Center/NIAID/NIH

During the 1997 commencement address at Morgan State University, former President William J. Clinton charged the scientific research community to develop an HIV vaccine within ten years. This speech spearheaded the initiative to break ground on what is now the *Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center* (VRC) in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Since opening, the Vaccine Research Center has been working to develop HIV vaccines and vaccines for other infectious diseases. Development of preventive HIV vaccines is intended to generate an immune response against HIV *prior* to an individual's exposure to the virus. Conversely, the goal of therapeutic HIV vaccines is to *better* stimulate the immune response for an individual that is already HIV infected.

In the past five years, the VRC has conducted more than 10 clinical trials and recruited more than 200 volunteers in the Washington, DC Metro community. Favorable VRC preventive HIV vaccine products have been moved into Phase II clinical trials in collaboration with private and public organizations, both nationally and internationally. Additionally, the same vaccine product administered as a preventive vaccine is being administered to HIV infected volunteers as a therapeutic vaccine to see if the vaccine can assist the immune system in reducing viral burden.

Clinical trials of therapeutic vaccines could be helpful to find ways to enhance and maintain the bodies healthiest immune function. Therapeutic vaccines may be used alone or in conjunction with antiretroviral medications. Vaccines may be a way to decrease viral resistance and toxicity to medications or allow for lower viral set points in early infection.

***It is important to note that that currently, there is no effective HIV vaccine***—either for HIV-uninfected **or** HIV-infected individuals. However, the VRC—as well as other scientists and researchers, hospitals, and organizations—is one of many working diligently to develop a viable vaccine and conduct clinical trials to test the safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy of HIV vaccine products. *(continued next page)*

Advertisement

## CALLING ALL WOMEN WHO COULD USE A BREAK

- Do you ever feel like you could use a day off?
- Would you like to talk with a group of women who understand?
- Are there just times when some friendly advice is needed?
- Would you like to discover how to relax, relieve stress, and improve outlook?
- Do you want to learn more about being healthy and enjoying life?

Well ... Check out:



## THE SISTER CIRCLE

A Project of the Family Connections Program

Give us a call to find out more

(202) 884-5469



The Vaccine Research Center is conducting an investigational, therapeutic, HIV vaccine trial. The trial will evaluate the safety and tolerability of an HIV vaccine regimen. Potential volunteers may qualify if the individual:

- is HIV positive
- is between the ages of 18–50 years old
- has a CD4 count greater than (>) 350
- has a viral load less than (<) 400; and,
- meets other eligibility criteria.

All potential volunteers must be on an active antiretroviral (ARV) therapy regimen for at least six months prior to enrollment in this study. ***It is important to note that the vaccine regimen for participation in this study is not a replacement for your current therapy and/or treatment.*** Financial compensation is provided to all volunteers who participate in a VRC clinical trial.

If you or someone you know is interested in additional information regarding this—or any other VRC clinical trial—please call **866.833.LIFE** or locate the VRC on the internet at <http://www.vrc.nih.gov>.

## THE NIAID HIV/AIDS Clinical Trial Networks

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks are an affiliated group of national and international medical research institutions and investigators that conduct clinical HIV/AIDS research to develop safe and effective drugs, prevention strategies and HIV vaccines.

NIAID has restructured its HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks to better address emerging domestic and international challenges. There are now six networks; many of whom have (or will have) research sites right here in Washington, DC. Here are the Networks:

### AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG)

<http://www.aactg.org/>

ACTG plays a major role in setting standards of care for HIV infection and opportunistic diseases related to HIV/AIDS in the United States and the developed world.

### HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)

<http://www.hptn.org>

HPTN develops and tests the safety and efficacy of primarily non-vaccine interventions designed to prevent the transmission of HIV.

### HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)

<http://www.hvtn.org>

The HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) is an international collaboration of scientists and educators searching for an effective and safe HIV vaccine.

### Microbicide Trials Network (MTN)

(no website yet)

The MTN will conduct studies of microbicide safety and effectiveness with the goal of supporting licensure of products that will reduce the sexual transmission of HIV.

### International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Group (IMPAACT)

<http://pactg.s-3.com/>

IMPAACT will develop and evaluate approaches for the interruption of mother-to-infant transmission; evaluate treatment for HIV-infected children, adolescents, and pregnant women; and evaluate vaccines for the prevention of HIV transmission among adolescents.

### International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT)

<http://www.cpcra.org> | <http://www.espritstudy.org>

INSIGHT will conduct studies in the area of optimization of clinical management of HIV, including co-morbidities