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ABOUT ACTION

The AIDS Clinical Trials Information and Orientation Network (ACTION) provides information and resources to those interested in HIV/AIDS clinical trials and supports 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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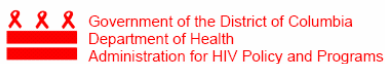
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202 223-9550 ext 15



www.dccare.org

with support from



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, being held September 14th at 1:00 PM, will be an overview of HIV Preventive Vaccine Research. 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: Georgetown

The Georgetown University Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases Clinical Trials Unit has conducted HIV/AIDS research trials in DC for over 15 years. The site receives federal funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (N.I.A.I.D.) as a member of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) network and as a major site for the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS).

The Georgetown Community Advisory Board (CAB) will have its next meeting on September 29th. The meeting will take place from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at DC CARE Consortium, 1156 15th St. NW. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events

- **September 9th** - 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 (Malcolm-X) Park. For more information contact wtfdcoutreach@gmail.com
- **September 14th** – 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 29th** – Georgetown Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting. The meeting will take place from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at DC CARE Consortium.
- **October 12th** - Microbicide 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.
- **November 18th** – Help the Homeless Walkathon. DC CARE Consortium is one of the beneficiaries of this event. Sign up at www.helpthehomelessdc.org and choose DC CARE Consortium as your beneficiary.



The Women's Interagency HIV Study

One of the longest-running HIV/AIDS Research studies in history, this August marks the 13th year of the WIHS Study. The study began in 1993 in an effort to better understand how HIV affects women in the United States.

2,635 Women were enrolled in the beginning of the study. Another 1,143 women enrolled in 2001 and 2002. These women are from the greater Washington DC Area and other WIHS Research sites around the country.

Every six months participants in the WIHS study participate in a follow-up visit, where they have a medical examination and provide information about their medical history, substance use, sexual behaviors, and a variety of other information. Some participants are involved in sub-studies which require additional information or tests. WIHS sub studies have looked at areas including cardiovascular health and metabolic functioning.

To date, over 290 papers have been published as a result of data collected in the WIHS study. This study has greatly expanded our knowledge of HIV in women.

Community Involvement in the WIHS STUDY

The WIHS Study incorporates community input through the WIHS National Community Advisory Board (NCAB). Our Washington, DC representatives to the NCAB are Kim Kelsey and Kathy Moore. The purpose of the National Community Advisory Board is to:

- Provide ongoing community, scientific, psycho-social and political input to the national WIHS agenda
- Assure that WIHS participants are representatives of the community at large
- Inform, educate and support these participants over time
- Help design mechanisms to assure access of HIV infected/infected women to WISH research sites and retention of these participants over time
- Advocate for adequate research funding, to allow the full WIHS research agenda to be fulfilled
- Provide support for local community advisory boards and encourage involvement at the local level
- Facilitate translation of WIHS-related information to the community
- Represent and be accessible to community members for WIHS related concerns.

In Their Own Words

Being part of the WIHS study and the WIHS National Community Advisory Board has been an exciting experience for Washington DC residents Kim Kelsey and Kathy Moore.


Kathy Moore writes: I have gained a lot of experience since joining this study. I have received a much needed lift in my self-confidence by having to speak in front of an audience. The conference calls have encouraged me to study further about HIV/AIDS, women, and our health issues. The Project Directors and the Principal Investigators on our conference call break things down so that the NCAB can understand those things that are above our heads. We are encouraged to ask any questions that we have and to voice our opinions.

Kim Kelsey writes: I've learned advocacy. I've learned public speaking. I've gotten the opportunity to travel. I've gotten a lot of education and information about HIV. When I first found out I was positive it made me very suicidal. I wanted to jump off a bridge. I was pregnant at the time. I was worried about my child – is my child going to be infected? But my child wasn't infected. So I got educated and learned you can live longer and that's when my life began to change.

WIHS Washington DC Metropolitan Consortium

- Georgetown University Medical Center: Mary Young, MD Principal Investigator
- George Washington University Medical Center: Sylvia Silver, DA
- Whitman-Walker Clinic: Kunthavi Sathasivam, MD
- Montgomery County Health Department: Carol Jordan, RN, MPH
- Inova Health System of Northern Virginia: Peggy Beckman, RN, C.A.N.P
- Community Advisors: Kimberly Kelsey, Kathy Moore

For more information about the WIHS Study in DC, contact project coordinator Stacey Cooper at 202 784-2687 or slc55@georgetown.edu.



Are you ready to Volunteer?

Want to support the battle against HIV/AIDS, but don't know where to begin? Start with SERVE, the one-stop training and placement program for HIV/AIDS volunteers.

We'll tell you who needs help and give you the basic training you need to start making a difference right away.

Become a SERVE Volunteer. For more information e-mail thandy@dccare.org or call 202 223-9550 extension 17