

AVAC's Take

Here we are in 2017. It's a time for lots of action and well-chosen words. Let's be real, bold, forceful and clear. Here are 12 rallying cries (hash-tagged for today's world)—to get us going. The centerspread for this issue provides an at-a-glance view of the current prevention trials landscape. It's as rich and complex as it's been since *Px Wire* first launched—ten years ago! We're in it for the long haul and are so glad you're along for the ride. #Onwards #UntilTheEpidemicIsOver—@hivpxresearch

#NotOneInch

January brings new political leadership in the US. Will these and changes elsewhere in the world roll back hard-won gains in human rights and access to health care? Not if we stand shoulder to shoulder and refuse to compromise. We won't budge an inch (or 2.54 centimeters, either!).

#OneWomanManyChoices

In February, the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) will feature new data on how contraceptives impact women's bodies. One key question: do any methods, particularly the injectable hormonal contraceptive DMPA (also known as Depo-Provera), increase risk of acquiring HIV? Stay tuned for developments on this question from the WHO, too. Stand up for a world where women don't have to choose between effective contraception and HIV prevention.


#BigDataRealPeople

By March, the process of developing Country Operation Plans for PEPFAR and concept notes for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria will be well underway. Both should be data-driven—as long as common sense applies. Key population estimates are underreported; there aren't yet data for PrEP programs; and there are spotty data on how women and girls use health services—scale-up must happen anyway!

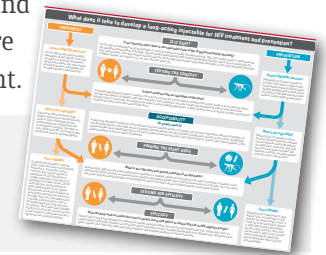
#RingInTheNewYear

It's been about a year since the dapivirine vaginal ring showed moderate efficacy in two large-scale efficacy trials. Those results triggered several next steps. Open-label extension trials were designed and launched—both HOPE and DREAM are now up and running. The International Partnership for Microbicides also plunged into assembling the data and documentation that regulatory agencies use to determine whether a product should be approved for widespread use. This “dossier” will be submitted to regulators in Q2 and it is hoped that the first decision will come in 2018.


#PrEPPipelineProject

 Next-generation PrEP strategies include long-acting injectable antiretrovirals like cabotegravir. Will a bi-monthly injection be safe, acceptable and efficacious? The trials, including HPTN 083 and HPTN 084, seek to answer these questions and have complex designs and require intensive stakeholder engagement.

For more, read our Introduction to Long-Acting Injectables:
www.avac.org/lai



#TheWorldStillNeedsAnHIVVaccine

 Don't believe the hype. Leaders are pointing to the great gains in epidemic control that can be made with today's tools. And they are right. But a vaccine and a cure are key elements of the end of AIDS. HVTN 702 started just as 2016 was ending, and 2017 will see an additional efficacy trial begin of another candidate, developed with the support of the pharmaceutical company Janssen. The field has not had two vaccine efficacy trials running simultaneously in almost a decade!

Efficacy Trial

2017

2018

2019

2020



HOPE (MTN 025)

Open-label trial of the once-monthly slow-release dapivirine vaginal ring; ongoing in 2,500 women in Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe

DREAM (IPM 032)

Open-label trial of the once-monthly slow-release dapivirine vaginal ring; ongoing in 1,400 women in South Africa and Uganda



AMP (HVTN 704/
HPTN 085)

Randomized controlled trial of the VRC01 antibody infused every two months; ongoing in 2,700 MSM and transgender persons in Brazil, Peru, Switzerland and US

AMP (HVTN 703/
HPTN 081)

Randomized controlled trial of the VRC01 antibody infused every two months; ongoing in 1,500 women in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe



DISCOVER

Randomized controlled trial of once-daily F/TAF as PrEP; ongoing in 5,000 MSM and transgender women at approximately 90 sites in Europe and the Americas



HPTN 083

Randomized controlled trial of injectable cabotegravir every two months; ongoing in 4500 MSM and transgender persons in Argentina, Brazil, India, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, US, Vietnam

HPTN 084

Randomized unblinded trial of injectable cabotegravir every two months; planned for women in Southern and East African countries



ALVAC/gp120
w/MF59

HVTN 702

Randomized controlled trial of ALVAC/gp120 prime-boost with MF59 adjuvant, five doses over 12 months; ongoing in 5,400 men and women in South Africa

Ad26/MVA
boost

HVTN 705/HPX2008

Randomized controlled trial of Ad26 prime and MVA boost; planned for men and women in the Americas and Southern and East Africa

> Continued from front

#PrEPinPeopleNotOnPaper



By mid-2017, there could be more sub-Saharan African countries including daily oral PrEP in their national guidelines than ones that do not. But will policies translate into programs and will programs meet people's needs? Nothing is guaranteed. This is a year to take stock and take action!

#NeutralizeThis



Broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies (bNABs) are potent, human-made biochemical responses that can block the activity of many different viral strains. In an ideal world, there will be a vaccine that teaches the body to make bNABs. In the near-term, scientists are evaluating whether lab-made bNABs are safe and effective for preventing HIV. Stay tuned for early reports on enrollment and retention from the "AMP" (antibody-mediated prevention) trials exploring this frontier in prevention research.

Four pages, five top-line updates—
a quick, colorful and comprehensive
overview of HIV vaccine research:
www.avac.org/vaccine-update



#AdvocacyInAction

In 2016 advocates voiced concern over civil society engagement (or lack thereof) in the run-up to the start of Gilead's DISCOVER oral PrEP trial, which is testing daily F/TAF (marketed for treatment as Descovy) as PrEP. A coalition of advocates pushed for community consultation and Gilead responded. Sort of. Advocates are eager for more. Will 2017 be the year that all prevention trials, regardless of sponsor, require Good Participatory Practice (GPP) guidelines as part of a trial's standard operating procedures?



AVAC is pleased to announce the fifth offering of its global GPP online training course. Learn more at www.avac.org/gpp-course.

#AfricanSolutions

The latest round of global financing estimates from UNAIDS set a high bar for government contributions in low- and middle-income countries. There are already signs that these goals—which many said were unrealistic—won't be met. 2017 should be the year when African-led coalitions set and secure commitments from their own governments.

#StandardOfPrevention



As daily oral PrEP is included in policy by the governments of many countries where prevention trials are planned or ongoing, will it become a standard offering in prevention trials? What will this look like and how will trial designs need to adapt? In 2017 let's pave the way to finding the answers.

#AIDSisntOver

More than one million cases of HIV in Russia. Plummeting funding for middle-income countries where injection-drug use, stigma and political neglect is driving epidemics. Unchanging, unacceptable rates of new diagnoses in African adolescent girls and young women. A "youth bulge" that means there are 30 percent more young people in Southern Africa today than there were at the beginning of the epidemic. It ain't over. Not by a longshot.

#AimHighBeReal

We're three years away from 2020—the finish line for the Fast Track goals. Targets accelerate pace and catalyze political will—even when they aren't met. But as this interim milestone looms closer, it's time to adjust rhetoric and strategy to ensure we're keeping the pace needed for the long-haul.

About AVAC



AVAC works to accelerate the development and global delivery of HIV prevention tools. To receive regular updates via email sign up at www.avac.org/signup.

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