Crafting the Blueprint to End Health Disparities and Inequities Among Black MSM in an Era of Uncertainty
YES, WE DEVELOP HIV MEDICINES. WE ALSO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT LINK YOUTH LIVING WITH HIV TO THE CARE THEY NEED.

ViiV Healthcare is proud to support the 2018 National African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice.

SOLELY FOCUSED ON HIV
Find out more at us.viivhealthcare.com and follow us @ViiVUS
WELCOME!

January 18, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past year, NAESM staff and volunteers have worked diligently and tirelessly to create this conference experience for you. On behalf of NAESM’s staff, Board of Directors, our clients and the individuals that were a part of this year’s creation, I would like to personally welcome you to NAESM’s 15th annual African-American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice here in our hometown of Atlanta, Georgia.

During the past year, NAESM has continued to stay strong to its mission in providing quality services for Black gay men throughout this country. In the earlier years, NAESM’s response to HIV mainly involved reaching out to communities of color through education sessions, group meetings, and “buddy” networks which served to support Black gay men in their quest of fighting stigma, discrimination, and misinformation associated with HIV acquisition. With a reinvestment into local and national programs such as mental health, substance abuse counseling, capacity building, and targeted MSM engagement, NAESM has worked to create innovative strategies for black gay men across the country but most importantly for black gay men in Atlanta, Georgia.

Out of the need to increase the dialogue between service providers around ending the spread of HIV/AIDS among African American gay men NAESM created the African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS in 2000. Since its inception, we found a need for evolution to become more inclusive of other health disparities impacting gay men, including hepatitis C, prostate cancer and obesity thus The African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice was branded. The African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice is unique because it is the only conference with a sole focus on addressing the health and wellness of black gay men.

The health status of men and especially poor men of color who have sex with men in the United States is alarming. Poor minority men experience significant disparities in health status as demonstrated by higher rates of morbidity and mortality. Multiple factors are associated with these differences including, low socioeconomic status, low educational attainment, precarious employment, poor housing, and cultural norms to name a few. The theme of this year’s conference is “Crafting the Blueprint to End Health Disparities and Inequities among Black MSM in an Era of Uncertainty”. Through this theme we want you to engage in robust discussions that really help to answer the question how do we really get to zero? As we give you the platform to engage in these conversations surrounding HIV/AIDS and other health disparities, take them back to not only your communities, but to your local, state and federal structures to educate them and receive their support in our common goal to end HIV/AIDS in our communities. I believe more than ever we have the right tools and the right leadership in place to end this epidemic RIGHT NOW! It is with these principles that I welcome you to NAESM’s 15th installment of the National African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice.

Sincerely,

Darwin Thompson
Executive Director
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18,
2:15 – 5 P.M.

Davinci
Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel

A RESEARCH LITERACY WORKSHOP

Join this fun and interactive workshop on the
purpose, process and value of HIV research.
We’ll break down the jargon and help you get
your HIV science on fleek.

Clare Collins, Microbicide Trials Network
Daniel Driffin, Thrive SS
Christopher Hucks-Ortiz, HIV Prevention Trials Network
Brian Minalga, HANC Legacy Project
Louis Shackelford, HANC Legacy Project
DaShawn Usher, New York Blood Center
S. Wakefield, HIV Vaccine Trials Network
Stephaun Wallace, HIV Vaccine Trials Network
Lisa Diane White, SisterLove, Inc.

2018 African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice
Ms. Sweetheart International & Friends

PERFORMING LIVE

at the MSM Leadership Conference

Opening Reception

Stasha Sanchez

THURSDAY

1.18.18

7:30 p.m.

Featuring:

Niesha Dupree
Nicole Luv Dupree
Chavon Scott
Destiny Monroe
Maya Monroe
Dynasty St. James

Sponsored by

National Coalition of STD Directors
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
We would like to thank the following organizations and persons for their generosity, time, talents, and kind support in the planning and development of this National Conference:

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## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018
- HBCU Summit: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- MSM Leadership Summit: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- YMSM Opening Reception: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018
- Transgender Summit: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- YMSM Leadership Summit: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- HPTN Black Caucus Meeting: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- HBCU Summit: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Institute Session I: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Lunch on your own: 12:45 PM – 2:15 PM
- Institute Session II: 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
- Opening Reception: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

### FRIDAY JANUARY 19, 2018
- Breakfast Plenary: 8:45 AM – 10:00 AM
- Workshop Sessions I: 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM
- Workshop Sessions II: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- Lunch Plenary: 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM
- Workshop Sessions III: 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
- Town Hall Meeting /MOBI Talk: 6:00 PM – 9:00 AM
- Social Event (Club Rain): 10:00 PM – UNTIL

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018
- Breakfast Plenary: 8:45 AM – 10:00 AM
- Workshop Sessions IV: 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM
- Workshop Sessions V: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- Lunch Plenary: 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM
- Workshop Session VI: 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018
- Closing Plenary: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ENGAGING PLENARY LUNCHEON

RE+IMAGINE OUR RESPONSE

Black Gay Men, Substance Use, and HIV

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018
1:45 PM TO 3:15 PM
Concourse Ballroom C & D, Banquet Level
Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel

Gregorio Millett, MPH
Vice President and Director, Public Policy
amfAR

Michael Everett, MHS
Project Director, ETR
Chief Executive Officer, Intimacy & Colour
During the 2017 conference three individuals were honored for their dedication and endless efforts to eradicate HIV/AIDS and other health disparities, from the African American MSM community. The three individuals were as follows: Martez Smith, a recipient of The Harold Philpot Award, Anthony Fox recipient of the Gerald Ludd Award, and Dr. Orlando Harris recipient of the Mark Colomb Award.

This year, during the 2018 National African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS and other Health Disparities and Social Justice, the Board of Directors of NAESM will honor three individuals for their outstanding community service, dedication and contributions to eliminating HIV/AIDS and other health disparities from our community.

THE HAROLD PHILPOT AWARD
Nominees for this award must meet the following criteria:
• 29 years of age or younger (as of Dec. 31, 2017)
• Have at least 2 years of work and or volunteer contributions in HIV/AIDS prevention targeting the African American MSM community
• Provided significant efforts in HIV prevention or shows exceptional leadership

THE GERALD LUDD AWARD
Nominees for this award must meet the following criteria:
• 30 years of age or older (as of Dec. 31, 2017)
• Have at least 7 years of work and or volunteer contributions in HIV/AIDS prevention targeting the African American MSM community
• Provided significant efforts in HIV prevention or shows exceptional leadership

THE DR. MARK COLOMB AWARD
Nominees for this award must meet the following criteria:
• 25 years of age or older (as of Dec. 31, 2017)
• Have stronger commitment to social justice, politics, research, integrity, and dedication to the health and well-being of black gay men
• Individual must represent intellectual forward progress in the empowerment of, and initiative to lead not follow
• Make a difference while advocating and serving our community while at the same time continuing his education in research and or social justice
• Assist in educating and leading by example for future leaders as was exemplified by Dr. Colomb
THE HAROLD PHILPOT AWARD

Martez Smith is a first year PhD student at the University of Rochester, School of Nursing. Hailing from Columbus, Ohio, he developed an interest in research and social justice work by way of the house ball community. The house ball community is a subculture of Black and Latino LGBTQ life comprised chosen kinship groups (known as houses) which participate in elaborate pageant-like events (known as balls) for prizes, social status, and affirmation. His experiences as a member of the House of Evisu, now known as the House of Xclusive-Lanvin, led him to pursue education in social work (The Ohio State University ‘13, BSW; Long Island University Brooklyn ‘17, MSW). Currently, Martez is researching the impact of kinship on health disparities among African diaspora LGBTQ communities, and organizing for social justice with the Keeping Ballroom Community Alive Network (KBCAN), which he co-founded in 2015.

THE GERALD LUDD AWARD

Anthony Fox is a PhD candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision at Walden University. I hold a Master’s degree in Community Counseling from Jackson State University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Organizational Management from Crichton College.

I have a total of twenty eight (28) years of experience working in the Public Health and Health Care arena, of which, Twenty (20) years of experience was in HIV Prevention and Care. In these twenty eight (28) years, I have worked in many capacities across many sectors of the United States. Currently, I serve as the Division Chief over the Capacity Building, Housing and Community Partnerships Division within the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration for the District of Columbia Department of Health. I am responsible for the administration and oversight of all housing, training, partnerships, capacity building and technical assistance activities within the total administration. Most recently, I served as the Deputy Director for the Bureau of Chronic Disease at the Mississippi State Department of Health. I was responsible for the administration and oversight of all categorically funded chronic disease specific programs (i.e., cancer, diabetes, arthritis, heart disease and stroke). I have served as a Lead Trainer for the Mississippi Prevention Training Center where I provided training and technical assistance across the nation on evidence-base HIV prevention interventions. In addition prior to this position as the Capacity Building Assistance Manager, I provided training and technical assistance to community based organization on program design, implementation and evaluation.

I am currently licensed as a LGPC for the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. I am a member of the Maryland Counseling Association, a member of the American Counseling Association, the Association for Counselor, Education, and Supervision, the Golden Key International Honor Society, and Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International. Throughout my entire journey I have worked to empower, improve, and build up the African-American, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. Outside of my working relationship, I have volunteered thousands of hours to this cause. For fun, I like to travel, swim, and movies.
THE MARK COLOMB AWARD

Orlando O. Harris, Ph.D, RN, FNP, MPH, completed his Masters in Nursing and his doctorate in Health Practice Research from the University of Rochester. He also received a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing, a Bachelor’s of Science in Human Development, and a Bachelor’s of Arts in Africana studies simultaneously from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Dr. Harris was a 2012-2013 United States Fulbright Fellow to Jamaica, where he conducted in-depth qualitative research with high risk sexual minorities. His dissertation thesis examined the “Social and Cultural Determinants of HIV Risk among Young Jamaican Men who have Sex with Men.”

Dr. Harris’ primary interest is in addressing the intersections of race, culture, class, and gender and how they impact the sexual health practices of young adolescent males of color. He is also interested in preserving the health and well-being of young Afro-Caribbean men, both here in the United States, and within the diaspora. During his postdoctoral fellowship training, he is collaborating with CAPS faculty conducting international research with marginalized populations, primarily within the Caribbean. He hopes that this collaborative effort will support him in developing culturally-relevant HIV prevention interventions to address the sexual health needs of young Caribbean gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. Dr. Harris is also interested in examining the migratory patterns of Caribbean gay and bisexual men and how they navigate the clinical, social, and cultural environments to reduce HIV risk post-migration. Dr. Harris completed a Master’s in Public Health from the University of California, at Berkeley.
Following the successful launch of their personal and professional development series in New York City, Mobilizing Our Brothers Initiative (MOBI) comes to Atlanta. Hosted by Founder, DaShawn Usher, and Celebrity Ambassador, Julian Walker, MOBItalks Atlanta will feature special guest speakers at the 2018 National African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018  6 PM - 8 PM

ATLANTA RENAISSANCE CONCOURSE HOTEL
ONE HARTSFIELD CENTRE PARKWAY, ATLANTA, GA  30354
ROOM CONCOURSE A

www.MOBI-NYC.com
2017 BLACK GAY MEN’S
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Mr. Marc Meachem’s leadership at ViiV Healthcare has helped amplify the voices of Black gay men through community grants and other community innovation initiatives and programs specifically focused on improving prevention, treatment, and care for Black gay men at risk, living with, or affected by HIV. Marc’s efforts have also helped organize and support the infrastructure for organizations working towards ending the epidemic, with a particular focus on the critical work in Black gay communities.

Marc was instrumental in driving the funding for ACCELERATE!, ViiV Healthcare’s four-year, $10 million commitment to fund innovative projects that support the health and well-being of Black gay men in Baltimore, MD, and Jackson, MS. Marc’s efforts have also helped organize and support the infrastructure for organizations working towards ending the epidemic, with a particular focus on the critical work in Black gay communities. Marc continues to be a champion for the Black gay community, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that our voice informs research and development as well as programming efforts at ViiV Healthcare and beyond. Marc continues to foster community dialogue and facilitates engagement opportunities with and with the HIV community. He works with countless individuals, organizations, policymakers, healthcare providers, media, community writers, business and civic leaders, and faith-based groups – all whom we know are critical in our efforts to address the disparities that continue to exist in Black gay communities. Marc has received many awards throughout his career, and recently received the Gay Men of African Descent’s 2016 Angel Award and was named one of Black AIDS’ Institute’s 2016 Heroes in the Struggle.
SATURDAY LUNCH PLENARY
Sponsored by NAESM, Inc.
1.20.18
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

JOSEPH WILLIAMS
The Misunderstood Social Worker

BLACK GAY MEN
Barriers, Bondage, & Becoming Better!

A raw and introspective discussion on black LGBT social norms and the impact those norms have on one's self-esteem, emotional functioning & behaviors.

OUTCOMES: to provide listeners with healthy coping strategies to overcome obstacles related to depression, social expectations, self-esteem, and maladaptive behaviors.
In New Jersey, MSM is the only HIV transmission mode to have experienced an increase in the last 10 years. Additionally, young HIV+ MSMs are at greater risk to experience homelessness, stigma, mental health disorders, sexual abuse, PTSD, and engage in high risk behaviors such as substance use and sex work. Anything that interferes with HIV-treatment must become part of HIV-care. To serve this disparity, the AIDS Resource Foundation opened Project Nest, the first Transitional Home designed specifically for young (18-25) year old HIV+ gay men in the state of NJ.

We provide residents with stigma-free care, a culture of respect and dignity; honest sexual health information, and constant celebration of individual identity. Project Nest believes in the practice of repurposing what could be an insufferable loss (coming out as gay and losing family/friends; facing homelessness) into a gain full of joy, purpose, integrity, and health.

The impact of Crystal Meth use among black gay men has largely been ignored. There has been minimal press coverage, largely driven by the heartbreaking death of Gemmel Moore, but the media response has been very limited. Despite the rich history of black advocates in the harm reduction movement and the courageous voices of some HIV advocates, there is still very little information about how to respond to and support black gay men around crystal meth use. This session seeks to fill the gap in the HIV landscape and offer insights, tools, and perspectives to better equip service providers, advocates, and researchers to address this issue.

This institute will help define and further explore the interconnectedness of the mind, body, and spirit. Strategies will be shared that can be used to help reduce shame, guilt, and homophobia when considering both mental and spiritual health. Additionally, a discussion will be had to enhance understanding around the relationship between shame, guilt, and internalized homophobia and its contribution toward low self-esteem.
The Real Leaders of HIV Prevention: An Candid and Complex Conversation on the Realities of Leadership Among Black Gay Men  
**Location:** Concourse A  
**Presenters:** Adrian Neil, Jessie Milan, Yolo Akili, Dr. Robert “Bobby” Hilliard Jr., Michael Everett, Cody Lopez-Dyer & Venton Hill-Jones

How do we, as Black Gay men, embrace expression and diversity in leadership? How do we bridge communication gaps among Black Gay men who are leaders and those aspiring to be leaders? How do we maintain the essential balance of still being rooted in community while moving up the hierarchical structure of leadership? What does leadership look like for Black Gay men? This session will address these questions and more and allow participants to engage in meaningful conversations with a panelist of 3-4 leaders about how we can elevate the voices of Black Gay men, so they can be effective change agents and builders of community.

**Addressing Race, Gender, and Sexual Stigma**  
**Location:** Concourse B  
**Presented by:** HealthHIV

The institute, Addressing Race, Gender, and Sexual Stigma to Transform Access to HIV Care for Black Gay and Bisexual Men, will provide participants an opportunity to self-assess bias regarding race, gender and/or sexuality, and to examine how that bias plays out in service provision. Participants will also strategize on how to reduce racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination to improve access to care and other services. As a result of participating in this institute, attendees will understand the unique challenges facing Black gay and bisexual men when accessing care, and to collaboratively identify strategies and solutions to improve access to and the quality of care for this community.

This institute will utilize evidence-based strategies and public health data, as well as interactive exercises and role play, to assist participants in identifying explicit and implicit bias; conducting values clarification, and exploring strategies to effectively address the health care needs of Black gay and bisexual men.

**Institute Session 2: 02:15 PM - 05:00 PM**  
**From Tokenization to Self-Actualization**  
**Location:** Davinci  
**Presenters:** Mr. Aunsha Hall-Everett & Mr. Michael Everett

CDC has reported that 1 in 2 Black MSM will live with HIV during their lifetime and 1 in 5 Black Transwomen are currently living with HIV. CBOs ASOs, and health departments are actively recruiting Black MSM and Black Trans women as service providers to be the public face of their HIV work. However, we must ask ourselves, “are we doing our organizations and our staff a disservice by not fully cultivating and maximizing our staff’s potential?” Supporting the professional development of Black MSM and Black Trans women providers is crucial to actually get to zero. This institute is designed to ask the hard questions around what we do and what we don’t do for our Black MSM and Black Trans women colleagues. In addition, this institute will arm attendees with appropriate tools to really invest in our Black MSM and Black Trans women to lead our organizations.
Who Cares Self-Cares!!: Navigating Wellness....
Location: Concourse A
Presenters: Adrian Neil Jr. & Kelly Stevens

This session will focus on the importance of developing wellness and resilience strategies among leaders living with HIV

PrEP: Incorporating it into your practice & What role does it play (in a partner that has an undetectable HIV-VL)
Location: Narita
Presenters: Dr. Mesfin Fransua & Damon Johnson

During this presentation, evidence-based strategies will be discussed related to PrEP and HIV preventions. Missed opportunities and underutilization of PrEP within racial minorities will be explored. Additionally, with the latest information available related to an undetectable HIV viral load the risk of transmission eliminated (U=U), the role of PrEP and relationship to transmission risk, particularly in serodiscordant couples.

Getting Your HIV Science Fleeky: A research literacy workshop
Location: Degaulle
Presenter: Stephaun Wallace

So what’s really up with HIV prevention research? When it comes to HIV and other health issues, insight into research and science can lead to healthier communities, but it can also be overwhelming and difficult to understand and communicate scientific ideas. Join this interactive workshop to get your HIV science on fleek by exploring the purpose, process and value of HIV prevention research. Common scientific concepts will be explained in an attempt to break down the jargon and encourage greater involvement in and regard for HIV research. Speakers will also provide the latest updates in biomedical HIV prevention research and advocacy for you to share in your communities.

2017 CRIBB Fellowship Presentations
Location: Logan Room
Presenters: Remmington Belford & Ederick Johnson

The CRIBB Fellowship is a year long program that works with Young Black Gay Men under 29 to provide intentional professional development. Each fellow is required to complete a community project and present it in order to successfully complete the program.

“Successes and Challenges in the THRIVE Project”
Location: Concourse B
Presenters: Dr. Karen Hoover, Dr. Kashif Iqbal, Dr. Mary Tanner, Dr. Ken Dominiguez & Jerris Raiford

The Targeted Highly-Effective Interventions to Reverse the HIV Epidemic (THRIVE) demonstration project supports state and local health departments to develop community collaboratives that provide comprehensive HIV prevention and care services for MSM of color. Each health department leads a collaborative that includes funded community-based organizations (CBOs) and other unfunded partners such as health care providers and behavioral health and social services providers in their jurisdictions. This forum will highlight the successes and challenges providers had with implementing PrEP, while discussing strategies to increase uptake among MSM of color.
Conference Opening Reception: 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM
Location: Concourse A & B

FRIDAY, 1/19/2018

FRIDAY OPENING PLENARY: 08:30 AM - 10:00 AM
HIV Prevention 2018 and Beyond.....
Location: Concourse C & D
Presenters: Dr. Eugene McCray, Darwin Thompson, Dr. DeMarc Hickson, Kevin Jones & David Johns

This plenary session will feature Dr. Eugene McCray Division Director for HIV/AIDS for the Center for Disease Control as he provides an update on HIV Prevention efforts for Black MSM on a Federal Level.

Following his update newly appointed Executive Directors from UCHAPS, Us Helping Us, and NBJC will talk about their local and national efforts to assisting with eradicating HIV among Black MSM. This panel will be moderated by Darwin Thompson NAESM, Inc.

Workshop Session 1: 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM
Changes in healthcare, Will it Kill My People?
Location: Narita
Presenters: Mr. Matthew Rose & Mr. Ramon Gardenhire

The nature of the healthcare landscape continues to be filled with turbulence that makes it hard to find one’s footing. As in the rapid nature of the field changes, it moves and with it become unstable for the lives of those in need or had just become to think they understood how to have their needs answer. Moreover as a field who has leveraged their progress on the back of this law we must take a stand to protect what is ours and what is owned to us

The ACA has succeeded in sharply increasing insurance coverage. Since the ACA became law, the uninsured rate has declined by 43%, from 16.0% in 2010 to 9.1% in 2015,7 with most of that decline occurring after the law’s main coverage provisions took effect in 2014. People of color have had larger gains in coverage compared to Whites since the implementation of the ACA.

The Power of Collaboration Among Agencies: An Alliance of Youth-Affirming Organizations in Action
Location: Concourse B
Presenter: ViiV Healthcare

A session focused on strategies for building alliances in and across agencies that best support youth living with HIV to achieve independent, long-term health and well-being. Attendees will develop and share best practices about building alliances - particularly among youth-serving agencies, and look at how mentorships are best implemented when youth are leveraging services across agencies.
Community Engagement and Participation in HIV Prevention Trials Among Black MSM: Reflecting on Examples from the Field

Location: Shannon 2
Presenters: Craig Hutchinson, MPH, Josephine Ayankoya, MPH and DaShawn Usher

Models for operationalizing good participatory practices in research are limited in the HIV prevention research literature. This workshop session sponsored by HPTN: “Community Engagement and Participation in HIV Prevention Trials Among Black MSM: Reflecting on Examples from the Field” will describe the application of Good Participatory Practices (GPP) in the design and implementation of research using examples from two HIV prevention trials with Black men who have sex with men: HPTN 061 and 073. This session will also be looking at how GPP is best applied to engaging with communities with regard to HPTN studies using field case studies from AMP and HPTN 083.

Proactive HIV Prevention with Truvada for PrEP?

Location: Degaulle
Presented By: Gilead Sciences

This presentation will include information about TRUVADA for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of HIV-1 infection in certain high-risk, uninfected individuals and will include information about the indication, prescribing considerations, important safety information including BOXED WARNING, clinical trials data, and Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program.

What Does A Theory of Syndemic Production Look Like for Black Gay and Bisexual Men?

Location: Davinci
Presenter: Dr. Typhanye Dyer

HIV is an important public health concern among Black gay (BGM) and Black bisexual men (BBM) in the US. BGM and BBM represent approximately 72% of new infections among all Black men and 25% of all new infections in the US, annually. Compared to BGM, BBM experience elevated levels of HIV vulnerability factors, including depression, experiences with trauma, substance use, intimate partner violence (IPV), racism and incarceration. These factors may work independent of one another but often work in a reinforcing manner, referred to as syndemics, which increase HIV risk among BBM. BBM, often omitted from HIV prevention studies, occupy a position of epidemiologic importance given their elevated HIV risk and their potential to bridge infection to female partners. Syndemic theory may be important for predicting HIV risk and incidence in BBM. However, the understanding of syndemics and HIV in this group is limited. We used data from The HIV Prevention Trials Network Brothers Study (HPTN061) to describe the prevalence of syndemics at baseline and identify the factors most likely to co-occur in the population among BBM.

Succession Planning: Organizational Stability and

Location: Concourse A
Presenters: Mr. Zach Ford
Minister Rob Newells, Larry Lehman & Rachael Gibson

This session will focus on the importance of an organizational succession plan to ensure seamless transitions in senior leadership and uninterrupted client services. The session will incorporate the importance of fostering a culture of leadership development within an organization to identify and nurture the next generation of leadership within the field.
HIV/HCV: New Infections on the Rise: MSM & Minorities  
Location: Shannon 1  
Presenter: Dr. Quinton Robinson

Current epidemiologic data related to HIV and HCV infection rates within MSM and minority communities will be shared during this presentation. Additionally, the various challenges in preventing new cases with MSM and minority communities will be examined. Lastly, strategies will be shared that could help thwart the continued rise in new infections.

Workshop Session 2: 12:00 PM - 01:30 PM

Campaign to Free Michael Johnson: Lessons Learned  
Location: Narita  
Presenter: Mr. Charles Stephens

Michael Johnson is a young black gay man who was imprisoned under Missouri’s HIV criminalization law. He ultimately received a prison sentence of 10 years, but had previously been sentenced to 30.5 years, before the appeals court threw out the original conviction. Since 2015 a national advocacy network formed to provide support for Michael and work toward his freedom has been active. Some of our efforts include: (1) Crafting an open letter of solidarity for Michael. (2) Organizing a series of community updates. And (3), raising money for Michael's legal defense. This workshop will highlight our efforts to support Michael and offer participants lessons learned in future efforts to work toward the decriminalization of HIV.

A Song of the South: Structural disparities in HIV  
Location: Concourse B  
Presenters: Dr, Derrick Matthews  
Dr. Andre, L. Brown  
Mr. Cristian J. Chandler  
Dr. Melvin C. Hampton

Despite overwhelming scientific consensus that disparities in HIV epidemic experienced by Black MSM in the United States are not a result of individual sexual risk behaviors, insufficient attention has been paid to structural solutions. Additionally, even as the HIV epidemic has stabilized nationally, young Black MSM have the highest incidence rate of any U.S. subgroup - especially in the South. We argue for the benefits of a reenvisioned system of engagement that is based upon a holistic continuum of HIV services. We point to exemplars of where current models in which HIV testing, PrEP access, and HIV care fail to meet the needs of Black MSM.

CBOs and PrEP: A Deeper Dive  
Location: Degaulle  
Presenter: Mr. Keith Green

Community-based organizations (CBOs) are uniquely positioned to help Black gay/bisexual men and transgender women access PrEP. However, PrEP presents unique challenges and opportunities for CBOs. In this workshop, findings from the first comparative case analysis of CBOs that provide HIV prevention services across the country will be presented and discussed. Attendees will also work through case studies designed to address challenges with PrEP implementation within CBOs.

By the end of the workshop, attendees will be able to: 1) describe how CBOs in regions with varying ACA implementation strategies are integrating PrEP into their existing prevention services, 2) describe the barriers to/facilitators of PrEP implementation and uptake for Black MSM and transgender women, and 3) describe best practices for PrEP implementation in regions where political support and government resources are particularly limited.
Together for one goal.

Let’s help stop the virus together.

Gilead proudly supports NAESM.

For videos and more information, visit YouTube.com/GileadHIV
People who engage in anal sex need HIV prevention options that they desire to use. Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a safe and very effective method to prevent HIV, but daily pill taking is not desirable for everyone. Additional HIV prevention options are needed to address the complexity of sex, human nature, pleasure and HIV. Rectal microbicides - formulated as gels, douches, fast-dissolving rectal tablets and suppositories - may fulfill the need for a non-systemic, short-acting product that can be used around the time of sexual activity, embodying an approach to HIV prevention that appreciates the spontaneous and pleasurable practice of anal sex.

This session will explore where rectal microbicide research is heading and why it is vitally needed. Panelists will address rectal microbicides that incorporate common anal sex practices and those that could help enhance the sexual experience.

Race, the U=U Campaign and HIV Law Reform
Location: Shannon 2
Presenters: Mr. Eric Paulk & Ace Brooks

Undetectable = Untransmittable ("U=U") affirms that people living with HIV ("PLHIV") who reach a sustained, undetectable viral load pose effectively no risk of transmission to a sexual partner. U=U aims to promote universal access to care and dismantle HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Relying on U=U as the lynchpin argument for HIV criminal law reform could produce unintended consequences (1) Leading with U=U privileges the biomedical over the structural, and can shift focus away systemic inequalities in the criminal legal system and their interaction with disparities in treatment access; (2) Reliance on U=U may suggest that, absent ART or an undetectable viral load, prosecution of PLHIV is warranted, minimizing the fact that these laws were never justified; (3) Centralizing U=U can suggest that PLHIV who are not undetectable pose a significant risk or that an HIV diagnosis is akin to a death sentence, both of which are false.

Leadership Development: Pathways to Effective Conflict Resolution as a Leader
Location: Concourse A
Presenters: Adrian Neil & Kelly Stevens

Participants in this workshop will discuss the importance and develop strategies for conflict resolution as a leader.

Between the Lines: The provider's role in utilizing the continuum of care to address low engagement and retention in care for black gay men living with HIV
Location: Shannon 1
Presenters: Dr. David Malebranche & Neena Smith-Bankhead

The current state of the opioid epidemic amongst Black and MSM communities will be reviewed. The intersection of the social factors that contribute to the opioid depended will be explored. Lastly, effective treatment and community programs will be shared that combat the rise of substance abuse and HIV infections within these communities will be discussed.
FRIDAY LUNCH PLENARY
Sponsored by Gilead Sciences: 01:45 PM - 03:15 PM

REIMAGINE OUR RESPONSE
Black Gay Men, Substance Use, and HIV
Location: Concourse C & D

Addressing crystal meth and opioid use among black gay men is critical to individual and community health. The impact of this ‘second epidemic’ stretches across the HIV care continuum.

A whole health approach recognizes and responds to the multiple factors driving the HIV epidemic and the substance use crisis.

Please join us to explore a holistic response that addresses the intersection of substance use, HIV, and the health of black gay men.

Together, we can help stop the virus

SPEAKERS

Gregorio Millett, MPH
Vice President and Director, Public Policy
amfAR

Michael Everett, MHS
Project Director, ETR and Chief Executive Officer Intimacy & Colour

Workshop Session 3: 03:30 PM - 05:00 PM

Fix My EBI: Using Innovative Strategies and Adaption
Location: Narita
Presenters: Mr. Justin Lofton & Mr. Ronellis Tunstill

The HIV/AIDS crisis among African American men who have sex with men (AAMSM) continues to thrive, and the prevention interventions created to induce behavior change within this community face great challenges. Contributing factors are funding, engagement, retention and the stigma in the African American community associated with HIV. AAMSM often internalize that stigma resulting in self-destructive behavior, and often do not have the tools to critically evaluate the ideas hurled against them. HIV prevention interventions are to equip AAMSM with these tools to help them reconcile their minds through critical thinking, which ultimately leads to critical revelation. Without addressing the egregious challenges faced by agencies implementing these interventions, it is not likely that we can effectively walk them through tools to minimize risk behaviors that help to alleviate trajectories that are not in favor of this community.
**Our Health: Past, Present & Future**  
*Location: Shannon 2*  
*Presenter: Mr. Amber David*

HEARTS is a project focused on the health and wellness of Gay, Bisexual and Questioning Men from their communities. It is a unique, organic, community-based approach to HIV prevention in a City Health Department. Hearts is made up of Black Gay Men for Black and Brown Gay Men whose sole purpose is the betterment of sexual health. Through education of clinicians, community partners, patients and their partners we strive to improve the responsiveness, care and community building in the health community. We provide direct education courses around anal health, penis health, oral health, advocating for one’s healthcare needs and then using that knowledge for community betterment. HEARTS provides critical cultural competence training to all levels of providers with tools to better serve the population. We work to remove barriers to care.

**Recruiting and Retaining Young Black MSM**  
*Location: Degaulle*  
*Presenters: Ms. Marie-Fatima Hyacinthe & Mr. Joshua Polk*

True to our motto, “Our People, Our Problem, Our Solution”, the Black AIDS Institute often grapples with the best ways to create meaningful programs that will bring HIV education and resources to communities which need them the most. In this session, we will share best practices from our experiences recruiting for and building programs for young Black MSM. This session will go beyond traditional recruitment theories, and will instead discuss the work that goes into recruiting and engaging young men in a way that is authentic and beneficial to all involved. This interactive session will include anecdotes from our work in Los Angeles as well as case studies and scenarios that mirror the real challenges of recruitment.

**T Cells & Jail Cells: HIV Research & Criminalization**  
*Location: Davinci*  
*Presenter: Brian Minalga*

HIV criminalization laws contradict the body of knowledge gained over the past three decades of HIV research. These antiquated, draconian laws exacerbate the HIV epidemic, and they are disparately enforced, targeting and unjustifiably harming key populations in HIV clinical research? Especially communities of color, people involved in sex work, and all communities bearing the double burden of overrepresentation in the HIV epidemic and the penal system. The HIV research enterprise has an obligation to protect clinical trials participants and the greater public from the injustice of these laws. This workshop will present data on the harmful impact of HIV criminalization and generate advocacy strategies for response.

**Policy and Advocacy: How to Develop New Leaders and Drive our Message**  
*Location: Concourse A*  
*Presenters: Mr. Carl Baloney & Ramon Gardenhire*

AIDS United will assemble a panel of 3-5 leaders, one being Ramon Gardenhire, Vice President of Policy at AIDS Foundation of Chicago. The additional panelists will be leaders from HIV organizations around the country who will share lived experiences and best practices to grow as a leader and shape the conversation.
Opioid Abuse: The correlation between Opioid abuse and the transmission of HIV/HCV
Location: Shannon 1
Presenter: Father Tommie Watkins

The current state of the opioid epidemic amongst Black and MSM communities will be reviewed. The intersection of the social factors that contribute to the opioid depended will be explored. Lastly, effective treatment and community programs will be shared that combat the rise of substance abuse and HIV infections within these communities will be discussed.

PILL PUSHER: Intersections of PrEP Inconsistencies
Location: Concourse B
Presenter: Mr. George Mizrahi

“Pill pushing” seems to be the next wave of HIV prevention. But why are many providers “reluctant” to embrace biomedical HIV prevention? Provider stigma and personal beliefs often dictate if a patient is granted or denied access to these life saving tools. This interactive workshop is designed for healthcare providers, community members, and navigators to explore the intersections between their personal beliefs and biases versus the benefits and strengths of Biomedical HIV Prevention. “The Pill Pusher” will set the stage for a robust discussion of strategies and best practices for patient advocacy, patient navigation and managing personal beliefs by using the real-life experiences and challenges of a Biomedical HIV Prevention Coordinator’s efforts with access and advocacy for PEP and PrEP at his CBO, APEB. Attend this hot topic workshop and you’ll leave with a better understanding your role plays in Biomedical HIV Prevention.

Poster Presentations:  05:00 PM -  06:00 PM
Location: Exhibit Hall

Effects of Spirituality on YBMSM Condom Use:
Mr. DaRel Barksdale

Young, Black gay, bisexual, and other MSM (YBMSM) are at high risk of HIV infection. Therefore, condom use is an important part of any multi-pronged strategy to address the spread of HIV. Understanding how social and community factors, such as spirituality, affect YBMSM's self-efficacy to use condoms is often underappreciated, but is critical in the design and implementation of HIV prevention programs. While spirituality has been shown to serve a protective role in the lives of many in the Black community, it may serve a less positive role in the lives of YBMSM.

Integrating free HIV/STI testing into university:
Johnny L. Gossett

The CDC estimates that nearly half of the 20 million STIs diagnosed each year are among those between 15 and 24 years old. Similarly, 26% of new HIV infections occur among those between ages 13 and 24. Therefore, college students, most of whom are under 25, are at-risk HIV/STIs. Limited access to HIV/STI testing and treatment can present a significant barrier for college students. Furthermore, integrated care, the systematic coordination of physical and mental health services, allows for immediate and easily accessible HIV/STI intervention for students.

This project details the implementation of a free HIV/STI testing program in a large, urban, majority-minority university system during the 2016 - 2017 school year. The program addressed a gap in health services by providing free testing, linkage to care and counseling, and provides a model for integrating sexual health care into psychological services in a university setting.
“What About Your Friends”?
Mr. Obie McNair
Mr. Reginald Stevenson

African-American men who have sex with men (AAMSM) are usually the targeted group associated with HIV prevention since the 1990s. AAMSM are more at risk to contract the virus and this increases for those between the age of 13-24. Social networks, and their input on practicing safe sex, shape the decisions made by the individuals during the time of having condomless anal intercourse. For this project, we analyzed effects of psychological (optimism), physical (body image), and environmental (social support) factors to see which play a role in the lack of condom usage within AAMSM.

Protective Health Effect of Legal Intervention on People Living with HIV (PLWH):
M. Guillaume Bagal III

Research indicates that 98 percent of PLWH experience legal problems in areas including healthcare, immigration, and employment. Furthermore, partnerships between medical and legal providers to address health-harming legal needs have resulted in decreased hospital admittance among people with chronic illnesses, and improved medication adherence. While most PLWH report having legal needs, few are successful in receiving legal assistance. Very little data exists about health outcomes when addressing health-harming legal issues.

The Sexual Health Consequences of Alcohol:
Dr. Vincent Allen

Black men who have sex with men (MSM) are the most at-risk group for HIV infection. Efforts are needed to understand correlates of HIV risk among this group. Alcohol consumption is highly prevalent among MSM, is associated with condomless sex and may contribute to HIV risk among Black MSM. This study aimed to examine the association between alcohol consumption (i.e. drinking before/during sex and levels of alcohol use problems) and condom use globally, during the past 6 months and at the event level.

SATURDAY, 1/20/2018

SATURDAY BREAKFAST PLENARY: 08:30 AM - 10:00 AM

2017 CRIBB Fellowship Graduation
Location: Templehoff
Presenters: CRIBB Alumni & Faculty

Where are We Going: HIV Prevention Science
Presenters: HPTN & HVTN Networks

This plenary will provide a primer for audiences that have limited or minimal knowledge about developing avenues of biomedical HIV prevention science. The strategies that will be highlighted in this plenary are HIV antibody mediated prevention and long acting injectable PrEP, including a focus on where we are currently in research and what we can expect over the next few years. Following the overview of the science and next steps in research, the audience will receive brief updates on major studies in the field for both Networks, including the AMP Study (HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)-704/HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)-085) - a pioneering study seeking to reduce HIV infection in people through the use of special broadly neutralizing antibodies, and HPTN 083- an innovative study comparing the protective effects of injectable PrEP to oral PrEP. Please join the HPTN and the HVTN for this special plenary.
San Francisco AIDS Foundation: Adopting PrEP Initiatives into our existing programs for AAMSM  
**Location:** Narita  
**Presenters:** Mr. Anthony Bradford, Mr. Travis Wise, Mr. Terrance Wilder & Mr. Joe Anthony Gonzalez

San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) began in 1982 as only the second AIDS service organization in the United States. Since then, SFAF has successfully provided services for gay men and other men who have sex with men (G/MSM), people of color, and transgender people in SF. We provide education, advocacy and direct services for prevention and care to the communities in SF most vulnerable to HIV, including all races, ethnicities, ages, and genders. Recognizing the disproportionate HIV burden endured by AA - G/MSM in San Francisco for the past 35 years, this group has been a main focus of our programs since our inception.

Since opening in 2003, Magnet has offered a variety of community and health resources for G/MSM and transgender people. In 2015, SFAF provides PrEP to nearly 10% of those currently taking PrEP in San Francisco overall; WE NEED TO increase the proportion of clients on PrEP who are African American.

AMAAD: Addressing Crystal Meth in South L.A.  
**Location:** Narita  
**Presenter:** Mr. Gerald Garth

The AMAAD Institute (Arming Minorities Against Addiction and Disease) has the central focus of providing programs and services to LGBTQ communities of color in South Los Angeles particularly in HIV prevention and recovery support.

Following a string of crystal meth related deaths among young Black gay men in Los Angeles in 2017, the AMAAD Institute in conjunction with In the Meantime Men reconvened the South Los Angeles Crystal Meth Taskforce (SOLA Meth) with the goal of addressing the epidemic and exploring the intersections among Black gay men, particularly in South Los Angeles.

SOLA Meth developed a survey to drive proactive community engagement and mobilization to form an informed response to the growing concerns around crystal meth in the South Los Angeles area.

This workshop will explore the findings from the data, focus groups, and community forums as well as best practices, barriers, and recommendations.

2NP: A New Narrative for young, Black gay men  
**Location:** Concourse B  
**Presenter:** Dr. Ron Simmons

There is a clear disparity between YBGM and other gay men in terms of their relatively lower HIV risk behavior yet higher rates of HIV infection. Research shows that social determinants (e.g., poverty, lack of education, undiagnosed HIV infection in sexual networks, high incidence of STI infection, and the lack of access or non-engagement in primary medical care) drive HIV infection among YBGM, but the resources necessary to develop programs to counter those determinants are scarce and may not exist under the new administration. There is an urgent need to develop a cultural narrative for YBGM that builds individual resilience and self-empowerment. Such a narrative should not lead YBGM to seek the power, privilege and patriarchy of straight black men or be white gay men with black faces.
Black and Latino MSM: Partnerships to Address HIV  
**Location:** Degaulle  
**Presenters:** Mr. Louis Shackelford, Dr. Michele P Andrasik, Dr. Sheldon Fields, Dr. Jose A Bauermeister, Rev. Shawn Torres

Black and Latinx MSM experience the greatest impact of HIV and AIDS in the US. According to CDC data, unless current HIV diagnoses rates are reduced, about 1 in 2 Black MSM and 1 in 4 Latino MSM in the US will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetime. Stigma, racism, fear, discrimination, and homophobia have been linked to higher HIV risk for Blacks and Latinx MSM. Research highlights the multitude of social and structural challenges that similarly affect Black and Latinx MSM, contributing to higher HIV infection rates among Black and Latinx MSM. Smaller population sizes leads to tighter sexual networks, and the higher likelihood of assortative mixing (within race sexual partnerships), increasing the risk of HIV infection with each new sexual encounter. In addition, Blacks and Latinx experience higher rates of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which can significantly increase the risk of getting or transmitting HIV.

Leadership Skills for the 21st Century  
**Location:** Davinci  
**Presenter:** Mr. Christopher H. Bates

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is not over. The CDC reports that there continues to be approximately 43 thousand new cases diagnosed each year. In spite of all the scientific advances in treatment and prevention new infections are being diagnosed daily across the U.S. Well prepared leaders in this area of public health are an ongoing need for the nation. The workshop will address the core elements of leadership: self-knowledge, message delivery, diversity competency, and legacy planning. Following the panel presentations the workshop participants will be encouraged to ask questions and shown how to use the elements, and how to avoid leadership pitfalls, and understand strategies for developing a personal style, and methods for addressing ongoing leadership skills enhancement.

Leadership Development: Developing Strategies for Effective Communication as a Leader  
**Location:** Concourse A  
**Presenters:** Adrian Neil & Kelly Stevens

Leadership can be defined in many ways but there are certain skills that are necessary to become an effective leader. During this interactive workshop participants will explore what leadership is for themselves and gain various tools and techniques that will strengthen their ability to lead as well explore strategies for effective communication.

Undiagnosed HIV Cases: Increase in the number of young people ages 13-29 years of age  
**Location:** Shannon 1  
**Presenters:** Dr. Mesfin Fransua & Damon Johnson

During this presentation, current epidemiologic data related to new HIV infections by age, race, and sexual orientation will be shared. Furthermore, the epidemiology of HIV in racial minorities within the United States will be discussed. Lastly, practical approaches that can be utilized to reach high-risk African American youth for HIV testing and preventive care will be explored.
Workshop Session 5: 12:00 PM - 01:30 PM

The Blackbox: Outreach through Theater
Location: Narita
Presenters: Mr. Anthony Green
Mr. Antonious Smith
Mr. Dewayne Murrell

Memphis has recently been flooded with numerous SNS recruitment programs and PrEP Navigators across multiple agencies. Our city’s rising rate of new infections among black MSMs made this area an easy target for community based organizations to receive tons of funding and meet their grant requirements. Numerous agencies are focus only on HIV testing numbers and Truvada prescription numbers. The feedback from the community has been that outreach workers only view black MSMs as numbers to fulfill a grant. My program set out to provide outreach that not just provided a service or sexual health education but also, invested in these young men beyond their HIV status. The belief was that if we changed the narrative that these young men were broken and desperately needed help, we’d have better luck in engaging them in risk reduction activities as well as empower them. We wanted to affirm their talents, interests and accomplishments.

PrEPping For Sex: An Intimate Conversation
Location: Concourse B
Presenters: Mr. Anthony Fox & Mr. Kenneth E. Pettigrew

The Washington, DC, region as like many other communities across this country have a complex urban/rural epidemic, with high rates of HIV/AIDS, STDs, and viral and chronic hepatitis. As many as one in five gay and bisexual men are living with HIV in the District of Columbia. African-Americans account for the majority of living HIV/AIDS cases in the District. As complex as the Washington DC area is, it’s challenges regarding health healthy sexual attitudes and the uptake of PrEP mirror those in both rural and urban settings across the county. This panel discussion is to help participants take a fresh look at sexual health in a more positive light. Sexual activity has become stigmatized over the resent years with the increase of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. This discussion will address positive sexual health from four perspectives: Physical, Emotional/Mental, Affirmation/Spiritual, and Intergenerational.

3MV - Stronger Today for a Healthier Future
Location: Davinci
Presenter: Ms. Maureen Scahill

Many Men, Many Voices (3MV) is a CDC-prioritized effective behavioral intervention for Black gay men (BGM, identified as Black/African American men who have sex with men [Black MSM]). For over 10 years, Black MSM have had the highest proportion of new HIV infections. 3MV addresses behavioral and social determinants of health (SDH) and related risks for HIV/STD for BGM. Updates reflect advances in prevention/care, and SDH understanding over the past 15 years; in 2016, the CDC authorized formal 3MV revisions to include biomedical prevention - PrEP, PEP, HIV treatment, vaccines, new HIV/STD screening. Resilience is formally identified and stressed as an important power for BGM. These revisions do not change core elements. This workshop, which will provide an overview with discussion, is appropriate for experienced and new 3MV facilitators as well as for supervisors and others who provide services to Black MSM.
Beyond the Red Ribbon
Location: Degaulle
Presenter: Mr. Rod McCoy

The HIV and STD epidemics continue to rage and ravage many communities in our country, including the Leather and Fetish Communities. But what conversations are we having among ourselves to prevent the spread of infections among our Brothers and Sisters? How do we speak honestly and openly about what we do sexually? How does stigma keep us from integrating risk reduction practices in our sex and play? “Beyond the Red Ribbon” is a facilitated discussion that will provide a space for the community to explore and address the issues raised above, and to learn ways we can reduce our risks while enjoying the various ways we experience sex and erotic play.

Becoming Trauma-Informed: Trauma-Informed Care
Location: Shannon 2
Presenter: Mr. Temitope Oke

Being black, male and a same-gender loving man is enough tragedy to put any black man in a traumatic situation. As if that is not enough, living with HIV/AIDS makes it even worse and a double tragedy for black men who loves and/or have sex with other black men. Trauma-informed social work takes into account the potential role of traumatic life events and development of individuals using service delivery systems. It is not the event that determines whether something is traumatic to someone, but the individual’s experience of the event. Receiving an HIV diagnosis can be a traumatic experience for any black gay man. It is essential to understand the consequences of trauma in order to promote prevention and recovery as a community.

Increasing STI’s in MSM: How are STI’s affecting the MSM community
Location: Shannon 1
Presenter: Dr. Quinton Robinson

During this presentation, current epidemiologic data related to sexually transmitted infections in men who have sex with man. Various factors that have contributed to the increase in cases will be discuss followed by an exploration of strategies that have been found to be successful in helping to decrease rates of new infections.

Nurturing the Next Wave of PLHIV Leaders: Experiences from the Positive Organizing Project
Location: Concourse A
Presenters: Julio Fonseca, Daniel Driffin, & Mark Anthony Hughes

How do organizations incorporate meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (MIPA) in their community efforts while preparing them for long term leadership? What are opportunities and challenges to passing the torch of knowledge to people living with HIV and bolstering their skills while building upon their desires to be the next generation of PLHIV leader? This session will feature Brothers United and THRIVE SS both of whom have received Positive Organizing Project grants from AIDS United. Attendees will gain perspectives and real-life examples of how to implement true MIPA, how to adjust to meet the changing policy and community demands, and ensuring that their organizations have skills to develop a leadership pipeline for PLHIV.
SATURDAY LUNCH PLENARY  Sponsored by NAESM, Inc.:  
01:45 PM - 03:15 PM

BLACK GAY MEN: Barriers, Bondage, & Becoming BETTER!  
**Location**: Concourse C & D  
**Presenter**: Joseph Williams

A Raw and Introspective discussion on Black LGBT Social Norms and the impact those norms have on ones Self-Esteem, Emotional Functioning & Behaviors.

Outcomes: To provide listeners with healthy coping strategies to overcome obstacles related to depression, social expectations, self-esteem, and maladaptive behaviors.

Workshop Session 6: 03:30 PM - 05:00 PM

**Confronting Internalized Oppression and Healing**  
**Location**: Concourse B  
**Presenter**: Mr. Michael Diaz

Internalized Oppression is the incorporation and acceptance by individuals within an oppressed group of the prejudices against them within the dominant society (Pheterson, 1990). In public health, internalized oppression translates into internalized stigma for a variety of queer bodies and experiences of color including HIV positive persons, persons who use substances, and persons who engage in sex work. These social identities are perversely policed and demonized. This process devalues community members already suffering from multiple forms of systemic oppressions. Internalized oppression works to perpetually distort ones idea of self so that pathology defines experiences rather than full personhood. During this workshop we will explore how a person’s internally and externally constructed identities affect their HIV prevention choices.

**Opioid and Prescription Drug Overdose**  
**Location**: Degaulle  
**Presenter**: Dr. Lawrence Bryant

The purpose of this session is to engage participants in the Opioid and Prescription Drug Overdose conversation. People who are Same Gender Loving (SGL) oftentimes experience societal oppression and rejection, which may contribute to the prevalence of drug abuse in this communities. The party scene, which is especially popular among young SGL men, often encourages heavy drug abuse. The opioid epidemic correlates with an increase in infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C, since there is an increase in opioid use among SGL individuals, this directly impacts their health and wellbeing.

In dealing with the stressors from everyday life, SGL individuals may turn to illicit drugs as an outlet, oftentimes leading to negative consequences. Others receive opioid medications for co-occurring disorders, such as depression, HIV pain, or anxiety that stem from the internal confusion of handling one’s feelings alone. These prescriptions can quickly lead to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and overdose. These and other issues are important in making sure this community is not overlooked in our fight against this continuously evolving epidemic. The session will include research-based and best practice information and support for these programs.
HIV Prevention with Networks of Chosen Kin  
**Location:** Davinci  
**Presenter:** Mr. Martez Smith

African-American men who have sex with men (AAMSM) continue to bear the brunt of new HIV infections. In 2015, AAMSM accounted for 58% of all new infections among all African-Americans. Additionally, African Americans accounted for 52% of all HIV diagnoses among transgender people between 2009 and 2014. Disproportionate rates of HIV infection could be addressed through utilization of components of African American networks of chosen kin, namely, gay families and ballroom houses. The networks have been found to influence protective and risk factors for HIV transmission. This workshop will include a discussion on current relevant scientific literature, directions for future research, and tips for conducting successful community-engaged research.

Let's discuss work: AA Men and Women Talking  
**Location:** Shannon 2  
**Presenters:** Dr. Marsha Martin  
Ms. Pernessa Seele  
Dr. Bambi Gaddist  
Ms. Marlene McNeese

This special session will bring together African American women working in HIV for a dialogue with young African American gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. The focus of the dialogue is best practices and lessons learned working in a CBO, FBO, health department, local/state and federal government.

Self-Testing: 3 site screening for STI’s (oral sex, anal sex, etc.)  
**Location:** Shannon 1  
**Presenter:** Jewel Sawyer

During this presentation, current STI screening and treatment guidelines will be shared. Discussion will ensue around barriers and challenges to routine STI screening. Additionally, methods of 3 site self-collection will be shared, as well as, a comparison against clinician-collected sampling techniques and results.

Stepping Up: Strengthening Organizational Capacity to Support Trans Leadership  
**Location:** Concourse A  
**Presenters:** Shannon Wyss & Tori Cooper

Participants in this session will learn how to implement the principle of meaningful involvement of transgender communities. It will assist clinical providers, social service providers, and funders in strengthening their understanding of how to provide the best possible HIV clinical care environment, social services, and funding support for trans communities. Participants will also identify their needs related to caring for transgender clients and supporting transgender staff. The session will offer a workshop setting in which organizations can assess how to implement these principles, exploring their strengths in working with transgender staff and clients, as well as opportunities to increase that support.

**Movie Screening:** 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM
SUNDAY CLOSING BRUNCH PLENARY: 11:00 AM - 01:00 PM

A Brunch for The People: Social Change on Behalf of Trans Communities

Join Crystal LaBeija Organizing Fellows and community members for a roundtable discussion on applying lessons learned to social and political change for trans communities. The aim of this discussion is to highlight mechanisms for social change by reflecting on the lessons we have learned via everyday experiences, particularly as they relate to our trans sisters and brothers. Relevant themes include health and wellness, community organizing, activism, education, research, and policy. The discussion will be open to all in attendance. This space will be dedicated to prioritizing the lives and experiences of people who identify as trans*. 
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-JOSEPH BEAM

ADVOCATING AROUND ISSUES IMPACTING BLACK GAY MEN, AND STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER MOVEMENTS COMMITTED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE.

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The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) is dedicated to the discovery and development of new and innovative research strategies to reduce the acquisition and transmission of HIV.

Learn more at HPTN.org

In 2018, the HPTN will continue implementation of the following studies:

**HVTN 704/HPTN 085 (The AMP Study)**
Evaluating the use of broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) to reduce HIV infection in HIV-uninfected men and transgender people who have sex with men
www.ampstudy.org

**HPTN 083 (#GivePrEPaShot)**
Comparing oral and injectable PrEP in HIV uninfected cisgender MSM and transgender women who have sex with men
www.giveprepashot.org
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HPTN 083 (#GivePrEPaShot) Comparing oral and injectable PrEP in HIV uninfected cisgender MSM and transgender women who have sex with men

www.giveprepashot.org

In 2018, the HPTN will continue implementation of the following studies:

HPTN.org

Learn more at Prevention Now!

It is estimated that 13% of individuals living with HIV don’t know they are infected, and as many as 54-70% of new HIV infections are transmitted by those unaware of their positive status.1,2 Statistics like these emphasize the importance of diagnosing HIV infections earlier, and allowing individuals to seek medical care sooner.

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AIDS United Presents

**Blaze Your Trail**
**Generation Leadership**

All sessions will be held in Concourse A

**Thursday, January 18**

10:00am  **A Candid & Complex Conversation on the Realities of Leadership Among Black Gay Men**

2:30pm  **Navigating Wellness Strategies for HIV Positive Leaders**

**Friday, January 19**

10:15am  **Succession Planning: Organizational Stability & Leadership Development**

12:00pm  **Pathways to Effective Conflict Resolution**

3:30 pm  **Policy & Advocacy: How to Develop New Leaders and Drive our Message**

**Saturday, January 20**

10:15 am  **Developing Strategies for Effective Communication**

12:00pm  **Nurturing the Next Wave of PLHIV Leaders**

3:30pm  **Stepping Up: Strengthening Organizational Capacity to Support Trans Leadership**

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aidsunited.org
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Welcomes
NAESM conference attendees to Atlanta

We welcome your ideas & insight as we partner together to end the epidemic.

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The HVTN’s mission is to fully characterize the safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy of HIV vaccine candidates with the goal of developing a safe, effective vaccine as rapidly as possible for prevention of HIV infections globally.

At the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), we believe that well-informed communities contribute to better science. We engage community members in all phases of the research process. This helps to foster trust and mutual understanding of research issues, and ensures that our research strategies and approaches respect the values and cultural and ethnic differences among participants. Our global community engagement efforts:

- Help to ensure the ethical and scientific quality of proposed research;
- Help to ensure relevance to and acceptance by affected communities;
- Help to ensure the involvement of groups that have been historically under-represented in medical research and who are disproportionately impacted by the AIDS epidemic, such as racial and ethnic minority communities and women;
- Involve community representatives in the design, development and implementation of trials and distribution of trial results; and
- Establish a process for arriving at standards and best practices in community engagement at international, national, and local levels.

For more information about the HVTN, our research agenda, or our community programs, please visit us at: www.hvtn.org
Many ask the question: if not us then who? If not now, then when? The Time Is Always Now.

Join us in the Magic City for the 6th Annual Saving Ourselves Symposium, June 6-10 at the Birmingham Sheraton.

Registration, abstract, scholarship and hotel information can be found at www.trdfoundation.com

The Saving Ourselves Symposium (SOS), hosted by The Red Door Foundation, addresses the health and wellness of the Black LGBTQ community in the South, focusing on HIV and other health disparities.

SOS is an annual conference designed to provide cutting edge research, promising practices, and HIV/AIDS behavior change techniques in efforts to educate, encourage, and empower the Black LGBTQ community. Started in 2013, SOS is a one-of-a-kind conference that has provided first-hand information to service providers and service users working within and throughout the Black LGBTQ community.
Our fight against infectious diseases is a global effort.

Join Us.

At Janssen, we have ambitious goals. We strive to prevent, diagnose, treat and cure infectious diseases. From hepatitis C and HIV to Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and the flu, our mission is to improve the lives of people affected today and ensure future generations can live without fear.

With goals like these, there’s no time to waste. That’s why we partner with organizations around the world, connecting our own expertise with that of others.

These problems are not insurmountable. They can be conquered the same way all of humanity’s greatest problems have been solved: constant effort and game-changing innovation. Thankfully, we have both.

We are Janssen. We collaborate with the world for the health of everyone in it.

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