

FILM & ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

ENDING HIV: THE JOURNEY TO A VACCINE

JURY AWARD
BEST DOCUMENTARY



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Any firefighter will tell you that when a bushfire is smoldering, it is not time to go home and forget about it. We have never treated our way out of a single epidemic ever. The only real gains we've made is when we've had a preventive, effective vaccine that has been able to stop all the smoldering flames across the world.

- Linda Gail Bekker, in *ENDING HIV: THE JOURNEY TO A VACCINE*

FILM SYNOPSIS

Ending HIV: The Journey to a Vaccine chronicles 25 years of research through the diverse lenses of scientists, doctors, community members, and trial participants from around the globe. At a time when many people in the United States have a mistrust of science in general and clinical trials in particular, this film introduces broad audiences to one of medicine’s

most urgent and ambitious quests. The film details how research is done, the passionate individuals who have committed their lives to this effort, the affected communities and volunteers who step forward to support it, and the scientific challenge of finding an HIV vaccine.



Letter from Dr. Larry Corey

Dear Audience,

Ending HIV: The Search for a Vaccine was made to illustrate how research is done, and introduce the personalities who engage in the difficult quest for an effective vaccine. Our hope is that this film educates, inspires, rallies support, and generates curiosity. We want to engage audiences not only into the dramatic and historical search for a preventive HIV vaccine, but also to invite a new generation of volunteers, advocates, and researchers to get involved in the effort.

The film illustrates that HIV affects the scientists working in the field of HIV as much as individual community members affected by HIV and AIDS. Scientists and advocates share the hopes of the communities they work in, and their connection with community drives their passion. We want an HIV vaccine for ourselves, for our loved ones, for friends and acquaintances, for our kids and grandkids, and frankly all people walking our planet.

There could not be a more important moment to be teaching about the search for a preventive HIV vaccine. In the United States, an increasing distrust of public institutions, and myths and misinformation are fueling an anti-vaccine movement. We hope the film offers a pathway for understanding why an HIV vaccine is needed and that such a goal is obtainable. Hopefully, it is an invitation for everyone and anyone to actively get involved, give input, and participate in the research itself.

Telling the story of the research in this film is a message of connection and hope, that the transparent and deeply considered science we conduct together leads us all to a safe and effective vaccine to prevent HIV worldwide. All of us featured in the film feel it is an honor to be involved.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larry Corey
Co-Principal Investigator, HIV Vaccine Trials Network
Professor, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division
Fred Hutch Cancer Center

GUIDE OVERVIEW

This guide will help people in multiple settings use this film for public education, community engagement, teaching opportunities for health care providers, and more. The guide invites audiences to:

- **Understand** the natural history of HIV/AIDS and the social and research movement it elicited;
- **Explore** the role of broad community input in the conduct of ethical and transparent HIV vaccine research;
- **Examine** the scientific challenges inherent to finding a preventive HIV vaccine, pioneering work using broadly neutralizing antibodies, and how this research contributes to treating other diseases such as cancer, cardiac disease, and aging;
- **Recognize** and address stigma as a key barrier to addressing HIV/AIDS and HIV-related research, hear from diverse people living with HIV, and learn about where cases are increasing in the U.S.;
- **Discover** how to stay up to date and support research to find an HIV vaccine.

MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCIENCE:

in alphabetical order



MICHELE PEAKE ANDRASIK, PHD, EDM
Director, HVTN Social & Behavioral Sciences and Community Engagement Unit
Principal Staff Scientist, Fred Hutch Cancer Ctr



LINDSEY BADEN, MD
Professor, Harvard Medical School; Vice President of Clinical Research, Brigham and Women’s Hospital



DAN BAROUCH, MD, PHD
Professor, Harvard Medical School
Director, Center for Virology & Vaccine Research, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Ctr



LINDA GAIL BEKKER, MD, PHD
CEO, Desmond Tutu Health Foundation; Director, Prof of Medicine, The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre



CHRIS BEYRER, MD, MPH, SCD. (HONS)
Director, Duke Global Health Institute, Duke University School of Medicine



SUSAN BUCHBINDER, MD
Director, Bridge HIV Research Unit, San Francisco Dept. of Public Health



MYRON COHEN, MD
Director, Institute of Global Health and Infectious Diseases, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill



NADJI DAWKINS
Study Volunteer, San Francisco



CARL W. DIEFFENBACH, PHD
Director, DAIDS, NIAID, NIH (2008-2025)



EDGAR DURÁN
Study Volunteer, San Francisco

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GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING A GREAT SCREENING EVENT

TIPS FOR AN EVENT

BE INTENTIONAL IN YOUR INVITATIONS.

If you are an advocate of HIV vaccine research, it may be tempting to think of the whole world as your audience. But your invitees will be better able to understand why they have been invited, and feel connected to the screening, if you are clear and specific about who you want to attend and why.

ARTICULATE YOUR PURPOSE.

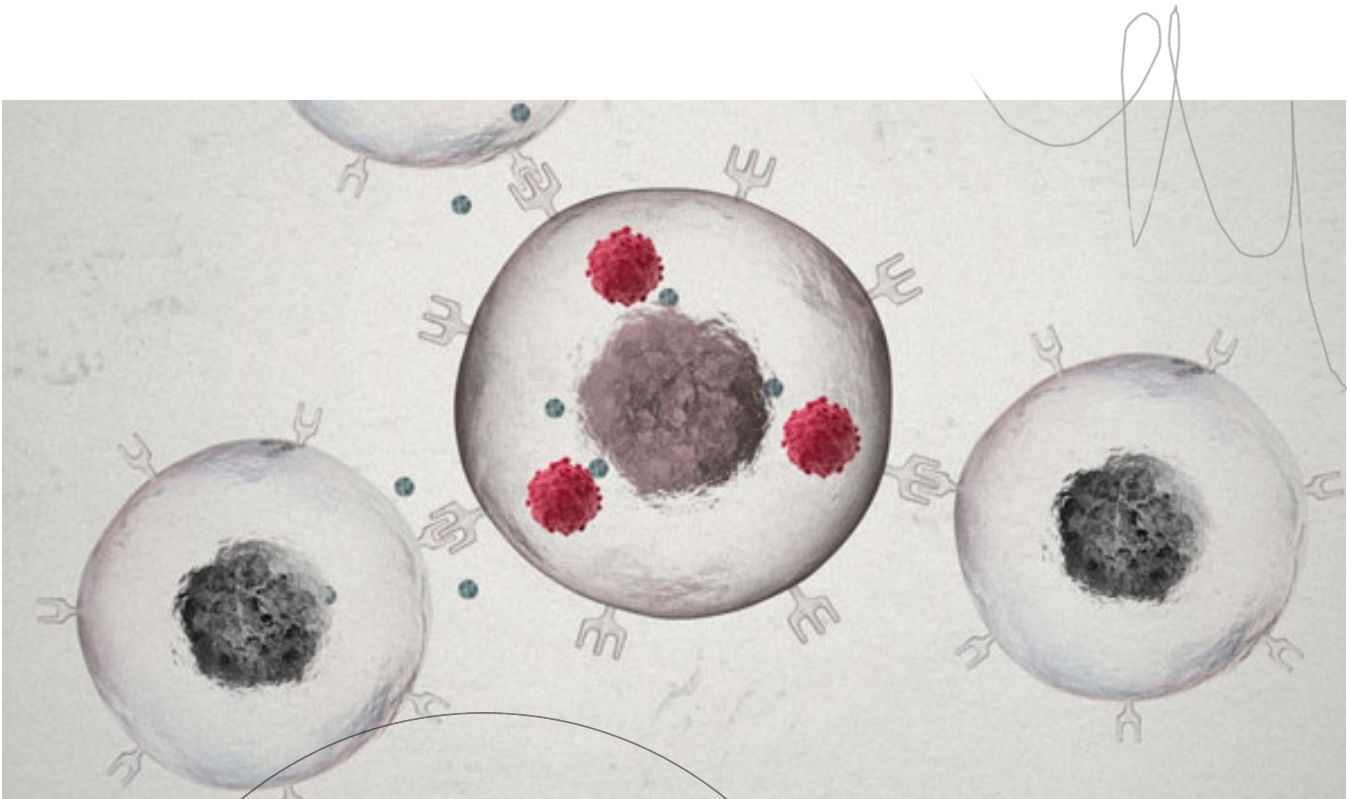
Be explicit about why you are excited about the film, because doing so will help get your audience excited. Maybe your goal is to honor research participants, or inspire infectious disease residents to get involved in research, or to share the rich history of HIV vaccine research. Doing so will help your audience know what to expect, and help you shape the conversation.

FIND THE RIGHT SPACE.

Make sure your space can fit your audience comfortably, is broadly accessible to people with different needs, and has the right equipment to project the film and make sure the sound is audible to everyone in the audience.

PLAN FOR YOUR CALLS TO ACTION.

Depending on the goal for the event, maybe you want to ask your audience to join your mailing list, to tell five friends what they learned, to post on their social media about it, or to join a vaccine study. Think about how to align your call to action with your event goal.



TIPS FOR FACILITATING A GREAT CONVERSATION:

BE PREPARED.

Watch the film ahead of time, read through this guide and other available information, and have a sense of what interests you the most and what you feel strongly about sharing with your audience.

BE OPEN TO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.

People in your audience will likely enter with different life experiences and ideas about HIV, about research, and about vaccines in general. As a facilitator you can allow time and space for different ideas to emerge. Encourage listening to understand rather than persuade.

GENTLY ADDRESS INACCURACIES

There are many inaccuracies and misunderstandings circulating about vaccines. If someone in your audience feels strongly about a piece of information that they believe to be true, you can acknowledge that there are different sources of information that exist, and that for this event you are going to draw from the body of evidence used by the HIV Vaccine Trials Network and the National Institutes of Health. If necessary, you may invite a person to further conversation over email or at a different time to get the conversation back to the event's purpose.

REFLECT ON YOUR OWN LANGUAGE AND BREAK DOWN STIGMA.

Stigma causes objective, measurable harm and has fueled the HIV/AIDS epidemic in many ways. The language around HIV/AIDS, various medical conditions, and around different identities is constantly evolving. Read through the [Tips for Hosting a Stigma-Aware Event](#) for your reference. And, understand that members of your community or your audience may use different phrases or words. The most important thing is to be open to learning and change, and to make sure everyone in the room is clear about the definitions of the words you are using together.

ACCESSING THE FILM AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The film is available at <https://www.helpendhiv.org/ending-hiv-documentary/>. The film may be screened for educational, community, or fundraising events, but tickets may not be sold for the film itself.

Visit [HelpEndHIV.org](https://www.helpendhiv.org) to access further resources including:

- Explainer Videos on HIV Vaccine Research Topics
- Glossary of Acronyms and Terms from the Film
- Timeline of Events in the Film
- Tips for Hosting a Stigma-Aware Event
- Who's Who in the Film

You know, I remember one night ... we get to the hospital. I fill out the form, and the lovely person behind the counter, I go to hand her the pen back, and she says, well, if you've got what he's got, just drop that in the trash. I can see that woman. She was afraid of HIV. I was afraid of HIV.

- Wakefield, in ENDING HIV: THE JOURNEY TO A VACCINE

FILM CHAPTER BREAKDOWN

FOR DIFFERENT TIMEFRAMES/AUDIENCES

The film Ending HIV: The Journey to a Vaccine is freely available to screen in educational settings at <https://www.helpendhiv.org/ending-hiv-documentary/>. The full film is 74 minutes long.

Watching a film together provides a shared emotional experience that can bring groups together, spark dialogue and understanding, and increase curiosity for further learning. Ideally, you will be able to host a screening that allows for your audience to watch the full film together, have some group discussion, and make use of one or more of the audience engagement strategies suggested later in this guide.

However, if you are presenting during a professional meeting, a class, grand rounds, or in other settings, it may be that you have less time. The following is a breakdown of the contents of film “chapters” you could choose from to focus on in the time you have allowed. Use the timecodes listed below to find the relevant chapter for your purpose.

0:00-12:23 INTRODUCTION

- Meet the Researchers
- Natural History of HIV
- Why We Need a Preventive HIV Vaccine

12:24-27:39 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HVTN

- Community Engagement and HIV Research
- Meet Research Participants
- Need for a Globally Effective Vaccine

27:40-37:31 THE SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES OF FINDING A PREVENTIVE HIV VACCINE

- Evolution of Vaccine Science
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

37:32-47:03 WHERE NEW CASES ARE EMERGING

- Many Americans Do not Realize they are Vulnerable to HIV (monogamous people, cisgender women)
- The Global HIV Epidemic Persists, and is Deadly and Costly

47:04-53:40 A NEW FOCUS ON BROADLY NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODIES

53:41-1:03:01 HVTN STEPS UP IN THE COVID VACCINE EFFORT

1:03:02-1:14:05 HIV VACCINES AND THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When watching any part of the film for any audience, prepare a few general discussion questions to both highlight main themes of the film and to get audiences reflecting on how the film relates personally to them.



What is your understanding of why a vaccine for HIV is necessary?

Was there a particular person or story in the film that surprised you or resonated with you? In what ways?

How does engaging communities in research benefit science and public health?

What did you learn about why finding an HIV vaccine is so challenging?

What gives you hope for the future of HIV vaccine research?

Why do you think HIV research has contributed to so many other facets of science, including the COVID vaccines?

Has your perception of who can be exposed to HIV changed as a result of watching this film? What do you think are the barriers to seeking prevention options?

How do you think stigma impacts research, and ultimately the distribution and use of an HIV vaccine?

VIEW THE FULL FILM HERE (74MIN)

Scan this QR Code or [visit our website:](#)



My dad .. was put in a hospital ... we as family could go visit ... His lover and his friends couldn't ... And the sense of injustice I felt and the sense that there was something seriously wrong here - I decided at that point I was going to commit my laboratory to working on HIV and I was going to stay in the field until we had really made profound contributions.

- Carl Dieffenbach, in ENDING HIV: THE JOURNEY TO A VACCINE

TIMELINE OF EVENTS IN THE FILM

BEGINNING OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

An unprecedented virus appears and quickly threatens the entire world. The cities of New York and Los Angeles are the first to report cases.

1981

The cities of New York and Los Angeles are the first to report a mysterious illness affecting gay men. Soon, the CDC issues the first official report of what we now know as the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

1983

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier at the Pasteur Institute isolate the virus that we know today as the cause of AIDS.

HIV AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Stigma and fear spread with the virus, adding to the complexity of the response.

1985

The Quilt, conceived by Cleve Jones, is made of coffin-sized panels created in honor of friends and loved ones who died of AIDS. It is a visual representation of the devastating human cost of the disease.

1987

ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is founded in New York City. Its goal is to achieve better legislation and healthcare for people living with HIV, and to promote scientific research to eradicate this disease.

1988

On December 1, 1988, the first World AIDS Day was established to commemorate those who have died, and to promote access to prevention and treatment.

HIV: A FIGHT FOR ALL OF US

Community members, scientists, and the US government find new ways to work together to address the virus and its impact.

1994

AIDS becomes the leading cause of death among Americans ages 25 to 44.

1996

The 11th International AIDS Conference announces the efficacy of HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy, that rapidly reduces AIDS-related deaths by 47%.

1997

On May 18, President Clinton announces that the goal of finding an effective vaccine for HIV in 10 years will be a top national priority.

1999

Founded by the National Institutes of Health, the HIV Vaccine Trials Network establishes an international network of clinical study sites for experimental HIV vaccine studies.

2001

May 18 is the first annual observance of HIV Vaccine Awareness Day.

2003

To combat AIDS in the most affected countries, President George W. Bush announced the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

RV144 STUDY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN HIV VACCINE

After several years of research, results begin to give hope for the possibility of a vaccine that can prevent HIV acquisition.

It's not just about, you know, creating a vaccine that theoretically works. It's about really bringing it to the people that need it the most, and working hand in hand to ensure that it works for them. When we meet people where they are, that creates better science.

- Louis Shackelford, in ENDING HIV: THE JOURNEY TO A VACCINE

2003

The Phase 3 efficacy study of an HIV vaccine, RV144, begins in Thailand.

2009

The Phase 3 Thai Trial (RV144) results present the first and, to date only, vaccine candidate to show a positive signal with an estimated efficacy of 31% at 3.5 years after injection.

2010

HVTN laboratory scientists and statisticians, led by Principal Investigator, Dr. Larry Corey, collaborate with the US Military HIV Research Program and the Thai government to analyze potential immune responses that correlate with the risk of acquiring HIV in the RV144 study.

2012

Additional analyses of samples from RV144 provide insight into what types of immune responses may be needed for an effective vaccine.

The FDA approves the use of Truvada® for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

2016

HVTN and HPTN (NIAID*-funded networks) launch the AMP Studies to test whether intravenous infusions of the antibody VRC01 are safe, tolerable and effective at preventing HIV. The trials were also designed to answer fundamental scientific questions for HIV prevention and vaccine research.

*NIAID: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

You can almost go back and laugh at how naive we have ended up being, but you can turn it around and I will look at it and say, how much you can learn if you do a scientific experiment. And even if that experiment becomes disappointing, how, if you learn from it, you can move the field forward.

- Larry Corey, in ENDING HIV: THE JOURNEY TO A VACCINE

2017

HVTN launches HVTN 705 (MOSAICO) in collaboration with Janssen, testing the efficacy of an experimental mosaic vaccine designed to protect against global HIV strains. The goal of the study is to prompt a broad immune response that would be effective worldwide, regardless of the type of HIV in circulation.

2020

At the beginning of the decade, 1.5 million new cases of HIV/AIDS are reported annually and 27.4 million people are being treated for HIV.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ADVANCEMENTS

The HVTN is directed to pivot and become the coordinating center of the COVID-19 Prevention Network, supporting the implementation of the 5 federally funded COVID vaccine studies.

That same year, the results of the AMP studies are published, the first studies to show that broadly neutralizing antibody infusions can protect people against some strains of HIV that are sensitive to the antibody.

2020

As a result of learnings from decades of research, mRNA vaccines by Moderna and Pfizer are developed against COVID-19 that show greater than 90% efficacy. The use of mRNA will make it possible to more quickly develop and iterate potential vaccine candidates to prevent HIV.

2021

As COVID-19 vaccines begin widespread distribution in the US, the COVID-19 Prevention Network launches CoVPN 3008, the Ubuntu study, testing mRNA vaccines in Africa.

2022

Injectable Cabotegravir administered every 2 months is approved by the FDA for use as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

2025

The first every-6-months injectable PrEP, lenacapavir, is approved by the FDA.

2026

After 40 years of research and tireless work by scientists, communities, and caregivers, new breakthroughs in the search for a vaccine against HIV are on the horizon. But to make this possible, we need the participation and support of all of us.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

FOR ALL AUDIENCES:

Look up local HIV organizations and researchers, and your local and state HIV offices to be prepared to talk about what is happening in your community.

HOST A PANEL DISCUSSION

If you are planning a full screening of the film, a panel discussion is a useful strategy to invite multiple perspectives and lived experiences, and to learn about research currently happening in your community.

Depending on the goal of your screening event you may consider inviting a local researcher, a local HIV or infectious disease doctor, a study participant, an HIV test counselor, a representative of a community based organization providing AIDS services, or an activist.

In order to make sure your panelists are prepared, offer them the opportunity to watch the film in advance of the event. Explain the format of your event so they aren't surprised. You may ask them to prepare remarks in alignment with your event's goals, or provide them with a list of discussion questions the moderator is planning to ask, or let them know there will be an open audience question and answer period.

Panels may also be a great opportunity to invite partner organizations or research groups to pass out materials about their own programs, and resources available to your community.

A CASE STUDY ON HOW RESEARCH HAPPENS - THE AMP STUDIES

For an audience who is interested in learning how clinical trials research happens, or who want to get involved with clinical trials as researchers and/or clinicians, use the AMP studies to examine the lifecycle of the studies. Split your audience into small groups to look for information on:

- The decision on which preventive approach to test;
- The design of the studies themselves;
- The methods for community engagement and involvement;
- The recruitment and consent of volunteers;
- The dissemination of results;
- The development of new relevant research questions based on what was learned.

Have small groups share back with one another about what they learned.

FOR ALL AUDIENCES:

Access the [AMP Studies Informed Consent document](#).

FOR GROUPS WITH POST-GRADUATE LEVEL EDUCATION:

Consider accessing the March 17, 2021 article from the New England Journal of Medicine, [Two Randomized Trials of Neutralizing Antibodies to Prevent HIV-1 Acquisition](#).

FOR STUDENTS AT POST-SECONDARY LEVEL, OR ADVANCED SECONDARY LEVEL:

Access the July 13, 2021 AVAC report, [Understanding Results of the AMP Trials](#).

Many other articles and publications include information on the AMP studies. Audiences can also conduct research of their own, so long as they can clarify why they trust their chosen source.

Ask groups to look for information on their topic and present to one another their findings. **Discuss:**

- What was particularly surprising or interesting to you about what you learned?
- What did you learn about how clinical trials research is conducted?

In the film, Dr. Anthony Fauci says, "One of the best

EXPLORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

things I've ever done in my life is to reach out to the activists...They wanted to be part of the discussion. And the scientific community at first thought that that was a bad idea, that scientists know better than the people who were essentially being afflicted."

With your audience, discuss:

Dr. Fauci implies that he had a change of heart about the value of community input into the research. Why do you think it's important to include the people who are most affected by HIV into conversations about HIV prevention research?

There are historical and current examples of clinical trials research exploiting and putting people in danger, in particular people who hold marginalized identities. **For example, in the U.S.:**

1932: The Tuskegee Syphilis Study began, concealing the study's purpose from 600 Black men who enrolled. The study was observing the long-term effects of syphilis, and later withheld penicillin from men who had acquired syphilis, not telling them that the treatment was available in 1947. 128 participants in the study died of syphilis, 40 of their wives were infected, and 19 children were born with congenital syphilis. Though the experiment ended in 1972, the harm persists¹.

After the harms of the Nazi medical experiments in World War II and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, the U.S. Congress created the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. In 1976, the Commission published the [Belmont Report](#) outlining ethical

¹Content drawn from <https://eji.org/news/history-racial-injustice-tuskegee-syphilis-experiment/>

principles and guidelines to address the potential for exploitation. That Report is supported by other international guidelines, including the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) and the [CIOMS Guidelines](#).

Still, many new HIV diagnoses are among people with identities that continue to be marginalized in the U.S. and around the world, such as gay/bi and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, people of color, sex workers, and others.

Community Engagement is the HVTN's strategy for building trust with communities in order to ensure the study protocols are culturally responsive, that trial sites convene and consult with active Community Advisory Boards, and that they conduct community education activities.

In the film, Dr. Larry Corey says, "Science can give us the tool, but it's people who give us the ability to obtain a cure or a preventive vaccine."

Discuss:

- What do you see as effective strategies to gain community engagement into clinical trials research?
- How do you imagine the Tuskegee Syphilis Study might have been designed differently under the Belmont Report, and with input from a Community Advisory Board?
- What questions would you have for researchers conducting clinical trials in your community?

Scan this QR Code to watch film shorts on:



- Faith & HIV
- CAB Member's Perspective
- Study Volunteers' Viewpoints
- Volunteers Around the World

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

DIVE DEEPER INTO THE SCIENCE

If your audience would like to learn more about various aspects of vaccine science raised in the film, the following is a list of short films, talks, and presentations by researchers and staff members of the HVTN and various partner organizations you could watch together and develop new and further research questions.

Scan this QR code or view our [YouTube Playlist](#) for short animations and short films including:

- **HIV vaccine phases:** Explains the different phases of vaccine research and how each step ensures safety and effectiveness.
- **Is joining an HIV vaccine study like being a Guinea pig?:** Explains how each study volunteer goes through a process called informed consent before participating in a clinical study.
- **What are the side effects of a study vaccine?:** Outlines typical side effects and how study participants are made aware of these during the informed consent process.
- **Will the study participants will be given HIV virus as part of the study?:** Explains that HIV vaccines do not contain the virus and cannot cause HIV infection.
- **Is HIV still a thing?:** Highlights key statistics to show the ongoing impact of HIV and urgency to find an effective HIV vaccine.
- **Importance of the participation of regular people and different communities in HIV research:** Explains why diverse participation is essential to developing an effective HIV vaccine for everyone.



FOR AUDIENCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION OR POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

[Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies: HIV's Next Breakthrough](#), a presentation by Gail Broder, HVTN's Associate Director, Social Behavioral Science & Community Engagement Unit, explaining what broadly neutralizing antibodies are, and their potential impact on HIV vaccine and cure research. The presentation was published to Raif Derrazi's YouTube channel on April 24, 2026.

[The HIV Vaccine Germline Targeting Program](#), a presentation by Dr. Vincent Muturi-Kioi, HIV Vaccine Product Development Team Lead, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). Presentation given May 5, 2025 on Roger Tatoud's Science After Hours Podcast. Dr. Muturi-Kioi's presentation is from minute 15:25-47:53, and offers wonderful insight into the latest in broadly neutralizing antibody research.

[Advances in HIV Vaccine Platforms](#), a presentation given July 16, 2025 at the International AIDS Conference, moderated by Caroline T. Teimessen of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases.

Visit our [YouTube Playlist](#) for Video Shorts on:

- **Voices of Volunteers: Why Participating in HIV Research Matters:** Highlights real experiences from HIV vaccine study participants, including their motivations, concerns, and the role they play in advancing research. Emphasizes the importance of community participation and representation in developing an effective vaccine.
- **Leading the Search for an HIV Vaccine:** Explains the role of the HVTN as a global leader in HIV vaccine research, highlighting the collaboration between scientists, communities, and institutions working together to advance the science.
- **From Skeptic to Advocate: A Volunteer's Journey in HIV Research:** Shares how trust, education, and community engagement can transform skepticism into participation, highlighting the role of local voices in shaping HIV research.
- **Maria & Lunga: Finding Strength Through HIV Research:** Tells a personal story of living with HIV, emphasizing how support systems, access to information, and participation in research can improve health outcomes and create hope for future generations.
- **Why an HIV Vaccine Is So Hard to Develop:** Breaks down the scientific complexity of HIV and explains why developing a vaccine is particularly difficult, including how the virus mutates and evades the immune system.
- **Community Voices: Bridging Research and Real Life:** Explores the role of community representatives in HIV research, focusing on how they build trust, address concerns, and ensure studies reflect the needs of the communities they serve.
- **HIV, Faith, and the Power of Trust:** Examines the intersection of faith and HIV, highlighting how religious leaders can help reduce stigma, build trust, and support informed participation in research.
- **The Promise of Antibodies in HIV Vaccine Research:** Introduces the role of broadly neutralizing antibodies in HIV prevention and explains how they are shaping new strategies for vaccine development.
- **Why We Still Need an HIV Vaccine:** Explains why existing treatments are not enough to stop HIV and highlights the critical role a vaccine would play in preventing new infections worldwide.

FURTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

To stay up to date on the latest in preventive HIV vaccine research, visit:



[HVTN.org](#)



[HelpEndHIV.org](#)



[AVAC.org](#)



[IAVI.org](#)

APPENDIX

TIPS FOR HOSTING A STIGMA-AWARE EVENT

It is well documented that stigma is both a factor in perpetuating the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and a barrier to creating and enacting policies, practices, and social norms that support prevention. HIV/AIDS affects populations across the world who have historically been marginalized, and as a result the language of stigma is particularly important to identify and deconstruct.

Here are some tips and guidelines for hosting an event that is stigma-aware, and ideally stigma-free:

- Acknowledge that language around HIV, HIV acquisition, and the groups most affected by HIV/AIDS can contribute to and reinforce systems of marginalization, and state explicitly that your goal is to deconstruct those systems.

Consider inviting the audience to monitor both you as facilitator and themselves by initiating a system of “oops” and “ouch” - or other simple ways for audience members to signal when a particular word or phrase feels harmful to them.
- Declare your intention to use shared terms in your event with agreed-upon definitions, and welcome the idea that language is constantly evolving - some terms that felt welcoming in another town or a few years ago now have a different connotation.
- Be willing to update your language. State your openness to learning new perspectives, and using terms and phrases that make sense for this audience once consensus has been reached on what common terms mean.

Begin with a shared glossary. It is helpful to begin the conversation with an agreed-upon set of terms for concepts that will likely come up, such as:

- a. **Person-first language.** Use “Person living with HIV” rather than an “HIV-positive person” to signal that all people are more than just their diagnosis. This also applies to language like “at-risk or high-risk populations.” Try “Groups with greater likelihood of acquiring HIV” or “affected populations.”
- b. **Be specific with diagnoses,** that is, try to avoid using “HIV” and “AIDS” interchangeably. Rather, use “HIV” to refer to the virus, “AIDS” to refer to the opportunistic infections experienced by a person whose immune system has been significantly weakened by the virus.
- c. **Avoid the term “subject”** when referring to people participating in HIV research. The terms “participant” or “volunteer” acknowledge each person’s agency to decide whether to enroll in a study or not.
- d. **Explore gender-expansive terms,** such as “transgender,” “non-binary,” and others that are embraced by people whose gender identity does not match their sex assigned at birth. These terms vary by community, by region, and by person, so stay open and honor the terms a person uses to refer to themselves and their communities.
- e. **Be mindful of gender binary terms** like “men who have sex with men” that can feel exclusive to people with gender expansive identities. Try “Gay/bi and other men who have sex with men.” Use the term “cisgender” for people whose gender identity matches their sex assigned at birth.

Not every example can be included here. Remember that language continues to evolve, so the best approach is to explicitly state your intention for inclusivity and invite feedback and learning.

MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCIENCE:

in alphabetical order



ANTHONY FAUCI, MD
Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (1984-2022)
Distinguished University Professor, Georgetown University



PETER GILBERT, PHD
Principal Investigator, Statistical Data Management Center, HVTN, Fred Hutch Cancer Center



RAFAEL GONZALEZ
Sr. Community Engagement Project Manager, HVTN, Fred Hutch Cancer Center



BARNEY S. GRAHAM, MD, PHD
Professor, Morehouse School of Medicine. Inventor of COVID-19 and RSV vaccines



PAUL GOEPFERT, MD
Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine



GLENDA GRAY, MBBCH, FCPAED (SA)
Co-Principal Investigator, HVTN
First female President & CEO, South African Medical Research Council



KELLY HILL
Mom, Therapist, Person living with HIV, Seattle



YUNDA HUANG
Co-Principal Investigator, HVTN Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC) Fred Hutch Cancer Center



MARCUS D. JOHNSON-TALTOAN
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