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ABOUT ACTION

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

ABOUT DC CARE

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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DC CARE CONSORTIUM

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DC Tobacco Free Families Launches 1 800 QUIT-NOW



DC Tobacco Free Families has launched a 10 million dollar campaign to help DC residents quit smoking. The campaign is sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the Department of Health, and the American Lung Association of DC.

All DC residents can receive FREE nicotine patches and lozenges to help them quit smoking, along with 24/7 counseling.

According to the Tobacco Free Families: "DC has some of the highest rates of cancer and heart disease and mortality in the United States, and tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the District."

Smoking has additional risks for people living with HIV. Smoking weakens the immune system. It can make it harder to fight off HIV-related infections. HIV associated malignancies, such as anal and cervical cancer, are observed more frequently among HIV/AIDS patients who smoke. Other cancers commonly associated with smoking such as lung, head, and neck, are observed more frequently among HIV-positive smokers compared with other smokers. Additionally, AIDS Dementia Complex is more common among HIV positive smokers than non-smokers.*

For more information, call 1 800 QUIT-NOW or visit www.dctff.org.

*A free fact sheet on smoking and HIV is available from the National Coalition for LGBT Health at: <http://lgbthealth.net/downloads/tobacco/factsheets/smokinghiv.pdf>

Community Speakout on HIV/AIDS

As part of this year's American Public Health Association annual meeting in Washington, DC, on November 3, DC Fights Back and the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association (MWPHA) have planned a community Speak Out and Neighborhood March on HIV/AIDS.

This community dialogue will continue and expand on what started this past May, where community members gathered for the first Speak Out to develop a plan of action to respond to the needs of people most impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Washington, DC; and the March has the goal of engaging more people who live in nearby communities in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. Both events will be excellent opportunities to illustrate and discuss the relationship between ill-health, HIV, and the many social disparities that exist in our nation's capital.

The Speakout will be held at the Washington Highlands Neighborhood Library, 115 Atlantic Street, SW. Washington, DC 20032. For more information, or to get involved in planning, contact Karyn Pomerantz at kpomeran@gwu.edu.

Spotlight on Youth and HIV in the District

On National HIV Testing Day, the HIV/AIDS Administration launched a new 2007-2010 Youth and HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative Plan. The plan can be downloaded at: <http://doh.dc.gov>.

Also on National HIV Testing Day, Metro Teen AIDS released the results of a survey on HIV Testing among Youth in DC. The survey results are available at www.metroteenids.org.

Upcoming Events

August 4th – FAITH (Families Affected / Infected through HIV/AIDS) will meet from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at 1440 Meridian Place NW, Basement Level. Children are welcome, Food is provided.

August 9th – ACTION Lunch. National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS), presented by Dr. Manya Magnus, George Washington University School of Public Health. 1:00 PM at the DC CARE Consortium, 1156 15th Street NW. To register for this event, call 202 223-9550 ext 15 or e-mail dmariner@dccare.org.

August 9th & August 10th: Healing the Light Body, a Tibetan Buddhist Healing Ceremony for People with HIV in DC. Find out more at: www.healingsciences.org.

August 27-30th – Damien Ministries retreat for people living with HIV/AIDS. Find out more at: www.damienministries.org.

August 24th – Howard University Hospital Pediatric Clinic Community Advisory Board Meeting. 10:30 AM. All are welcome. For additional information, contact Patty Yu at phouston@howard.edu or (202) 865-4578.

August 24th – Health Disparities Professional Development Workshop: Sponsored by the MidAtlantic Public Health Training Center. 4-7 PM at 777 N. Capitol St NE in the Training Center. Registration required. For more information contact: maphtc@hotmail.com.

August 31st – September 3rd: Quality of Life Retreat for People Living with HIV sponsored by the United Methodist Church. Find out more at: www.qualityofliferetreatshiv.org.

September 13th – ACTION Lunch. Youth Risk Behavior Survey, presented by Dr. Marc Clark, DC Public Schools. 1:00 PM at the DC CARE Consortium, 1156 15th Street NW. To register for this event, call 202 223-9550 ext 15 or e-mail dmariner@dccare.org.

October 6th – AIDS Walk Washington benefiting the Whitman-Walker Clinic. Find out more at: www.aidswalkwashington.org

ACTION LUNCH SERIES



National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Dr. Manya Magnus

Thursday, August 9th,
1:00 PM. DC CARE Consortium
1156 15th Street NW Suite 500

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance gathers information about individuals at high risk for HIV. This year, the study known locally as 'Word Up', looks at heterosexuals at high risk for HIV, other populations will be looked at in future studies. Join us to learn more. RSVP to David Mariner at dmariner@dccare.org or 202 223-9550.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Days

Save these dates. For more information, visit:
www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays



National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
October 15th, 2007 – www.nlaad.org



World AIDS Day
December 1st, 2007



National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
February 7th, 2008 – www.blackaidsday.org



National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
March 10th, 2008



National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
March 20, 2008 – www.nnaapc.org



HIV Vaccine Awareness Day
May 18th, 2008 – local info at www.aidsvaccine.org



Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
May 19th, 2008 – www.banyantreeproject.org



Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
June 8th, 2008



National HIV Testing Day
June 27th, 2008 – www.napwa.org

The Men of MACS

Multi-AIDS Cohort Study Marks 24 Years of Progress

Last April marked the twenty-fourth year of the Multi-AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), a prospective study of gay and bisexual men that has been going on almost as long as the epidemic itself. From 1984 through 1985, 4954 men were enrolled in the study. MACS has added participants over the years for a total of 6,973 men. This includes HIV positive men and a comparison group of HIV negative men.

The MACS study takes place in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles, and Baltimore.

About 180 active participants are right here in DC at the Whitman-Walker Clinic site, a sub-site of Baltimore.

Joe Izzo, a staff-member of Whitman-Walker, is one of the participants. Joe participates in the study as a way to help others:

“being HIV negative for all of these years I feel grateful and I felt I needed to give back to the community in some way.”

There are other benefits, however, “It’s also a wonderful way to get a complete physical every six months; it’s a great way to monitor your health whether you’re positive or negative.”

These men come in faithfully every six months for a follow up visit where they have a medical examination and provide information about their medical history. Dr. Michael Plankey commented on the remarkable dedication of these participants: “We have about 50 MACS volunteers in DC that have never missed a single appointment in 24 years.”

The data collected from these men has contributed to many areas of HIV research. MACS researchers have written over 1,000 scientific manuscripts on topics including virology, sexual behavior, substance use, hpv, hepatitis, and quality of life to name a few.

The MACS study is funded through the National Institutes of Health. MACS Researchers expect to re-apply for funding to continue the study in the next year.

Dr. Plankey points to three areas where MACS data could be particularly useful in the future if the study is continued: HIV and Aging, HIV and Cardiovascular Disease, and HIV and Neural and Cognitive Function.

A community advisory board, made up of trial participants from both Baltimore and Washington, meets about once a month and provides input on the MACS research agenda.

To find out more about the MACS Study in DC contact Max Menna at mmenna@wwc.org.

To find out more about the MACS Study in General, visit: www.statepi.jhsph.edu/macs

“We have about 50 MACS volunteers in DC that have never missed a single appointment in 24 years.”

-Dr. Michael Plankey

ACTION LUNCH SERIES

Understanding the HIV Epidemic in DC

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

Thursday, August 9th at 1:00 PM

Manya Magnus, Ph.D., M.P.H.,
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance gathers information about individuals at high risk for HIV. This year, the study known locally as ‘Word Up’, looks at heterosexuals at high risk for HIV. DC CARE Consortium, 1156 15th Street NW, Suite 500. RSVP to David Mariner at dmariner@dccare.org or 202 223-9550.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Thursday, September 13th at 1:00 PM

Marc D. Clark, Ph.D. Director, Health Operations, DC Public Schools

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) helps us better understand young people in the District and what behaviors may put them at risk for HIV. Join us for a preliminary look at the 2007 YRBS data. DC CARE Consortium, 1156 15th Street NW, Suite 500. RSVP to David Mariner at dmariner@dccare.org or 202 223-9550.

DC 2001-2006 HIV Surveillance Report

Thursday, October 11th at 1:00 PM

Tiffany West-Ojo, MPH, MSPH,
Interim Bureau Chief, Bureau of Surveillance and Epidemiology
HIV/AIDS Administration

The 2001-2006 HIV Surveillance Report will be released towards the end of September. Join us for a detailed look at this important new information about HIV and AIDS cases in the District. DC CARE Consortium, 1156 15th Street NW, Suite 500. RSVP to David Mariner at dmariner@dccare.org or 202 223-9550.