

Nov 4th, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

# Brigham and Women's Hospital HIV Vaccine Trials Unit: Using Research to Engage Communities in HIV Prevention

Teress Votto

*Brigham and Women's Hospital*

Kathleen Krause

*Brigham and Women's Hospital*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr\\_symposium](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium)

 Part of the [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](#), and the [Virus Diseases Commons](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License](#).

Votto, Teress and Krause, Kathleen, "Brigham and Women's Hospital HIV Vaccine Trials Unit: Using Research to Engage Communities in HIV Prevention" (2011). *Community Engagement and Research Symposia*. 5.  
[http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr\\_symposium/2011/posters/5](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2011/posters/5)

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Community Engagement and Research Symposia by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact [Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu](mailto:Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu).





# Brigham and Women's Hospital HIV Vaccine Trials Unit: Using Research to Engage Communities in HIV Prevention

Teress Votto, Community Outreach and Education Coordinator & Kathleen Krause, MSc, Clinical Research Project Manager, Email: [vaccines@partners.org](mailto:vaccines@partners.org)

## Who we are

A unit of physicians, nurses and research staff performing clinical trials research in order to find a safe and effective HIV vaccine. We strive to:

- Increase the visibility of our HIV vaccine research studies within the Boston community as an:
  - Educational resource
  - Community advocate
  - Clinical research site
- Promote our academic and humanitarian mission through:
  - Leading and contributing to discussions about HIV
  - Making connections within scientific, student, and activist communities

## My "T" Matters Campaign

- Focus on transgender women
- Creation of trans-specific ads with local members of the transgender community



## MY T MATTERS

**Currently Looking For:**  
Transgender Women who are between 18-50 years old, HIV negative (-) & healthy who can take action by volunteering for an HIV Vaccine Research Study.\*

**Participants must be able to come to study visits for at least 1 year.**  
*All participants receive confidential HIV counseling and testing at no cost. Compensation also provided.*

**\*FACT: You cannot get HIV from participating in an HIV Vaccine Research Study.**

vaccines@partners.org  
617-525-7327

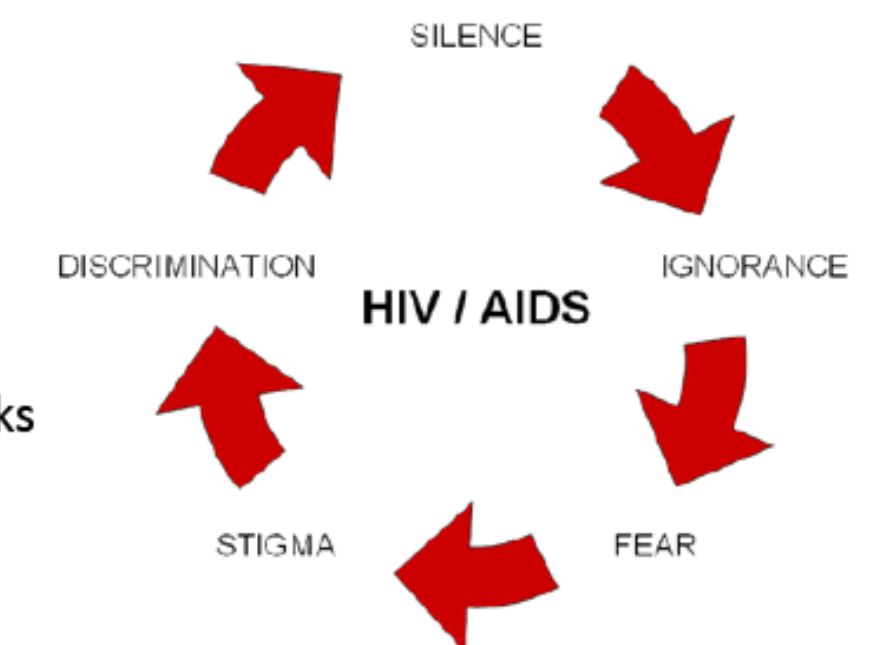


Photography by Stefany Cunningham



## Outreach Challenges

- Mistrust**
  - Government
  - Investigators
- Stigma**
  - Associated with HIV
  - Associated with vaccine
- Health concerns**
  - Contracting HIV
  - Ineligibility for vaccine that works
- Vaccine-induced Seropositivity (VISP)**
  - Health insurance
  - International travel
  - Immigration
  - Blood donation



## Our collaborators include:

### Scientific/research partners:

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)
- Fenway Health
- HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)
- The Ragon Institute
- Division of AIDS (DAIDS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

### Community partners:

- AIDS Action Committee
- Boomerangs
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Medical Center
- Boston University/ School of Public Health
- Harvard Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)
- Harvard Institute for Global Health
- Latino Health Institute
- Male Center
- Multicultural AIDS Coalition-Boston
- TransCEND

## Transgender women focus group

- Focus group held in early 2011: exploring barriers and facilitators to participation in clinical trials/vaccine research
- Feedback from the participants highlighted a need for community:
  - "I honestly know nothing about how these vaccines work. I understand the reason why they're doing them. I just don't understand how they work."

## Transgender women and HIV

- CDC cites transgender communities as among the groups at highest risk for infection in US
- Meta-analysis of 29 studies suggested that 27.7% of transgender women are HIV-positive
- One study found that up to 73% of HIV-positive transgender women were unaware of their HIV status

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/transgender/>

## Engaging the community

- Plan and attend events that focus on raising awareness about HIV/AIDS in general community and events that target scientific community
- Where there are gaps in programming, create our own HIV vaccine awareness/recruitment campaigns
- Collaborating with group leaders in your community of interest allows you to:
  - establish connections
  - learn about important issues within the community
  - find legitimacy and support for your efforts
  - access and engage community members in a meaningful way
- Support organizations that address HIV related issues: GLBT rights, domestic violence, health disparities
- Online canvassing through use of social media: Facebook, Craigslist, college websites