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: [https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium)  
Part of the [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium) and the [Virus Diseases Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium)  
Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License  
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License.

Repository Citation  
[https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2011/posters/5](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2011/posters/5)  
[https://doi.org/10.13028/7xcz-bc69](https://doi.org/10.13028/7xcz-bc69).

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.
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

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

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

My “T” Matters Campaign

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

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

Outreach Challenges

- Misconceptions
  - Government investigators
  - Stigma
  - Associated with HIV
  - Associated with vaccine
- Health concerns
  - Contracting HIV
  - Ineligibility for vaccine that works
- Vaccine induced treatment awareness (VIA)
  - Health insurance
  - International travel
  - Immigration
  - Blood donation

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
- Collaborate with peer leaders in your community of interest (LGBT, etc.)
  - Establish connections
  - Learn about current 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: LGBT rights, domestic violence, health disparities
- Online sourcing through use of social media: Facebook, Craigslist, college websites

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