

News

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“Young and old, men and women, they bring rich lives and a wealth of collective experience to share.” – Kate MacQueen, LinCS 2 Durham principal investigator, describing the members of the Community Advisory Board

LinCS 2 Durham provides opportunities for members of Black communities in Durham, North Carolina and scientists in the region to learn and work together to find new ways to prevent HIV. Read on to find out what’s happening.

LinCS 2 Durham’s got pride!



The North Carolina Pride Parade and Festival took place on September 26th and LinCS 2 Durham was there! LinCS 2 Durham staffers Chris Reed, Kimberly Hooks, Randy Rogers, and Stella Kirkendale (above, from left to right) had a display at the annual event, where they discussed LinCS 2 Durham with passersby and handed out project materials. (Photo courtesy of Stella Kirkendale)

LinCS 2 Durham holds its first Community Advisory Board Partnership Meeting

September 30 was a milestone day for LinCS 2 Durham. The first official meeting of the LinCS’ Community Advisory Board Partnership was held at

the main branch of the Durham Public Library. The role of a Community Advisory Board or CAB in HIV research is to serve as a crucial link between researchers and the community members. CABs provide feedback on protocols, surveys, and recruitment and outreach events. CABs can also offer crucial insight into their communities and propose research ideas. LinCS 2 Durham is seeking to build a partnership that will go beyond this traditional advisory role to one of active collaboration. For now, we are calling this a CAB Partnership but the group may decide to come up with a new name in coming months. Stay tuned!

Randy Rogers, the LinCS 2 Durham project's public health education specialist, facilitated the meeting, which 18 people attended. The session's purpose was to familiarize CAB Partnership members with one another and with the LinCS 2 Durham staff present. Randy described the aims of the LinCS 2 Durham project and the many important functions that the CAB Partnership will have. He pointed out that everyone involved with the CAB Partnership had demonstrated two powerful connections to the LinCS project already: a willingness to serve their community and strong ties to Durham.

Kate MacQueen, LinCS 2 Durham's principal investigator, said that the gathering went well. "It was such a pleasure to meet and talk with the people who came to the first LinCS 2 Durham partnership meeting," she says. "Young and old, men and women, they brought rich lives and a wealth of collective experience to share. I look forward to our learning and working together in the coming months."

One matter that CAB Partnership members will address in meetings to follow is a community survey, which is planned to begin in mid-2010. The CAB Partnership will provide input on the survey content and participant recruitment.

The next CAB Partnership meeting will be held on October 26th.

Staff Profile



Alexandria Horne, LinCS 2 Durham research assistant
(Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)

Alexandria Horne is working on a degree in Psychology and Family and Consumer Sciences at North Carolina Central University. In the past year, she

has also worked with Project CONNECT, a program dedicated to promoting outreach by staff members of clinical trials to minority groups. A Durham native, Alexandria says that it “feels like this project [LinCS 2 Durham] is getting me closer to my community,” and that it is exciting to have this type of HIV prevention research taking place here. “I’m happy I am able to contribute to the process,” she says. “This project [LinCS 2 Durham] is going to do great things in Durham.”

[HIV and Black America in the News](#)

National Institutes of Health hosts Engaging the Public in Research Week, October 26-30

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is hosting the first Engaging the Public in Research Week Oct. 26-30 in recognition of the significance of public involvement in biomedical and behavioral research. The week will be marked by workshops and forums exploring and celebrating public involvement in research. You can read about some of the events [here](#).

“Down Low” men not responsible for HIV rates in women

High rates of HIV in Black women are mainly linked to male partners having concurrent relationships with other women, not to “Down Low” men--the term for men who have sex with women while also secretly having sex with men. The [Seattle Medium](#) writes extensively about CDC findings showing which risk factors contribute most to HIV acquisition in Black women.

Progress slow on HIV

This opinion piece by Dr. Julianne Malveaux, president of Bennett College for Women, focuses on the continued high rates of new HIV infections in the United States. Members of Black communities account for half of new infections each year. The author calls for a coordinated national plan to address HIV, as well as increased funding and mechanisms for easy access to treatment and care. You can read more in the [News & Observer](#).

Hope for a vaccine

The results of a clinical trial for a vaccine protecting against HIV showed that the vaccine reduced the chance of infection by 31 percent. [Black Voice News](#) discusses why a vaccine is a “benchmark” in the fight against HIV. For additional updates on the results of this HIV vaccine trial see the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition [website](#).

College students learn about HIV

Students at Coppin State University, a historically Black campus, in Baltimore, Maryland, met with U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings at a symposium to discuss HIV, writes [ABC2](#). This article touched upon the fact that nearly half of Americans with HIV are Black. Free testing

services were available at the event, which focused on youth.

Real Talk!

Be a part of the LinCS 2 Durham project

Join the conversation about ways to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Durham's Black communities. Please contact Natalie Eley, the LinCS 2 Durham study coordinator, to request information about the LinCS 2 Durham project and find out how to participate.

You're also invited to share your knowledge with the LinCS 2 Durham project team. Tell us what you think about this effort. If you come across something interesting in the news related to HIV, send it to us. And let us know about local events that would be good opportunities to spread the word about LinCS 2 Durham. We thank you for your interest and help!

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Contribute to the LinCS 2 Durham newsletter

Our purpose with this newsletter is to keep you informed about the project's many activities and accomplishments. The newsletter is also a forum for information that isn't part of the project but related to it:

- Articles from the news
- Community events with an HIV message
- Stories of the impact of HIV on you, your family, friends, and neighbors
- Suggestions to improve support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers
- Your ideas about ways to stop the spread of HIV in Durham

You deserve credit for your contributions to the newsletter. However, if you prefer to contribute confidentially, just let us know. In that case we won't identify you as the source and we'll guard your anonymity.

The LinCS 2 Durham newsletter is a work in progress. We'd like to know what you think of it, so we can make it better.

E-mail us at lincs2durham@fhi.org.