

## News

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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.

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## Upcoming Events

### You're invited!

Please join the LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council (community members and LinCS 2 Durham staff) for our January meeting and annual retreat in February. The details are below.

**What:** Collaborative Council meeting

**When:** Monday, January 31, 2011  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Where:** Main Branch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Durham County Public Library  
300 North Roxboro Street  
Durham, NC 27701

[Get directions here.](#)

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**What:** Collaborative Council annual retreat

**When:** Saturday, February 19, 2011  
10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

**Where:** Stanford L. Warren Branch, Room 1  
Durham County Public Library  
1201 Fayetteville Street  
Durham, NC 27707

[Get directions here.](#)

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## LinCS 2 Durham Supports World AIDS Day 2010

Two events in Durham marked this year's observance of World AIDS Day. LinCS 2 Durham had a strong presence at both.

On November 30, WUNC radio host Frank Stasio moderated a panel discussion on "AIDS and African American Identity," taped before a live audience at Hayti Heritage Center, in Durham. The panelists, including LinCS 2 Durham staff member and Collaborative Council coordinator Randy Rogers, talked about why the African-American community is carrying the burden of an epidemic that disproportionately affects its members. The program aired the following day. If you missed it (or want to listen again), click [here](#).

On December 1, the center was also the site of the Durham County World AIDS Day Commemoration: "Recapturing the Spirit of the Fight to End AIDS." Community members of the LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council along with LinCS 2 Durham staff presided over a table in the exhibit room. There they talked to visitors about the opportunity for members of Durham's Black community to explore solutions to the epidemic in partnership with researchers. The program of speakers and performances included a welcome address by Randy Rogers and a moving speech by David Jolly ((LinCS 2 Durham co-investigator and chair of the department of public health education at North Carolina Central University) that combined factual history and personal witness.



David Jolly (Photo: Natalie Eley/FHI)

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## Staff Profile: Timberly Butler



Timberly Butler (Photo: Tierra Butler)

Timberly Butler is a senior at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), in Durham, and the newest member of the LinCS 2 Durham field team. She joined the staff this fall.

Timberly, whose hometown is Roseboro, North Carolina, is majoring in biology, minoring in chemistry, and applying to medical school. When she was chosen for the North Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program—a research opportunity offered to just a few students at Central each year—she surprised her advisors by requesting assignment to a social science research project. Timberly was the first student in the Stokes program’s history at Central to move in that direction, rather than laboratory science, engineering, technology, or math.

“Lots of doctors also have a master’s in public health,” she explains. “I want to work with the underserved, so I looked for a research project that would connect my interests in medicine and community service. And that turned out to be LinCS 2 Durham.” Timberly says she’s had some chances to do community service at Central—cheerleading summer camps for neighborhood children (she’s head of the school’s cheerleading squad) and work on behalf of the American Cancer Society—“but I knew I wanted to do more.”

As a LinCS 2 Durham research assistant, Timberly has been focused on the planning and pre-pilot and pilot surveys of sexual attitudes and behavior of young Black people in Durham. “We had many hours of training on informed consent, screening and enrollment, scheduling, and administering the survey,” she says. “We also did a lot of role-play. At first I thought it would be hard, asking people about their sexual activity. But we were trained to do our best to make people feel comfortable and not judged. That helped me to feel comfortable, too.”

Timberly plans to stay with the project until she graduates, in May.

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## Point of View: Allison Winfield Kalloo

*LinCS 2 Durham welcomes the chance to share the views of participants in the initiative. The opinions expressed here are those of the writer.*

Changing the paradigm of diversity in clinical research is an acute empowerment issue that includes addressing the fact that only a tiny fraction of clinical research is conducted by minorities. Of the dozen studies I have participated in as a healthy volunteer, none of the principal investigators has been Black.



Allison Winfield Kalloo, LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council member

My background in biology and public health, and a fair amount of health literacy, does not negate the fact that I'd feel more at ease if those in the white coats looked more like me.

I get how my resolve to participate might be viewed as risky by other people of color. In each instance, transparency about the study goals, process, and my rights eclipsed any lingering concerns that the risks would outweigh the benefits of my participating. In addition, my mother was a virologist. I grew up with scientific curiosity, a slightly different point of view, and a level of understanding about the risks inherent in research. *What if I get sick from the study drug? What if I get struck by lightning?* If I die of something, I'm certain it won't be complacency. For me, the biggest gamble is accepting the status quo.

[Please click here to read this essay in full.](#)

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## HIV and Black America in the News

### Expanded HIV screening an effective prevention tool

Results of a study published this month in the [Annals of Internal Medicine](#) show that expanding screening for HIV to every American at least once and annually for those who are at higher risk could prevent more than 80,000 infections over the next 20 years. As reported by the news service [Reuters](#), more than 56,000 Americans are newly infected each year and 21 percent of them are not aware of their status. "Those at highest risk in the United States include gay and bisexual men, blacks and injecting drug users," according to the report. Elisa F. Long, one of the study's authors, told Reuters, "We find that expanded screening and treatment could offer substantial health benefits, preventing 15 to 20

percent of new cases. And the strategy of one-time screening of low-risk individuals and annual screening of high-risk individuals is very cost-effective."

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## 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!

To reach Natalie, e-mail her at [lincs2durham@fhi.org](mailto:lincs2durham@fhi.org). Or get in touch with Randy Rogers, a public health education specialist for the Durham County Health Department and coordinator of the LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council: [rrogers@co.durham.nc.us](mailto:rrogers@co.durham.nc.us); (919) 560-7675.

### Join us online

Become a [Facebook](#) friend of LinCS 2 Durham! You can also follow us on [Twitter](#). The LinCS 2 Durham Web site (where you can learn about the project's background, news, and events and find links to related resources) is [here](#). The Collaborative Council's Web site (minutes of meetings, photo gallery, and a blog) is [here](#).

### 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 and your family, friends, and neighbors
- Suggestions to improve support for people living with HIV and 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](mailto:lincs2durham@fhi.org).