

News

August 2010

Volume 2

Issue 6

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.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

You're invited!

What: Collaborative Council meeting

When: Monday, August 9, 2010
6 PM – 8 PM

Where: Durham County Public Library -
Stanford L. Warren Library branch
1201 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27707
[Get directions here](#)

Details: Please join LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council (CC) members and staffers for our August meeting. The September CC meeting will take place on September 20 at the Durham County Public Library – main branch.

What: Collaborative Council retreat

When: Saturday, August 28, 2010
10 AM - 2PM

Where: Durham County Public Library –
Stanford L. Warren Library branch
1201 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27707
[Get directions here](#)

Details: Please email Randy Rogers at rrogers@co.durham.nc.us for more information on the Collaborative Council retreat.

What: Centerfest

When: Saturday, September 18, 2010
10 AM – 6 PM

Where: 401 Foster Street
Durham, NC 27701
[Get directions here](#)

Details: LinCS 2 Durham staff will be at the 37th annual Centerfest, distributing materials and talking with Durham residents about the project.

Don't forget to become a fan of the LinCS 2 Durham [Facebook](#)! You can also follow us on [Twitter](#).

LinCS Featured on Local Radio Program

LinCS 2 Durham was featured on WUNC's "North Carolina Voices – Global Health Comes Home" radio show on June 30. Randy Rogers, LinCS outreach coordinator, and Kate MacQueen, LinCS principal investigator, were both interviewed, as was Rhonda Royal Hatton, a LinCS Collaborative Council member. The story discussed the ways that LinCS is engaging with Durham residents to find new ways to reduce HIV infection rates. Randy said, "This group can evolve into. . . [a] clearinghouse to examine the. . . opportunities that may come into this area just based on the relationship [of LinCS staff and community members]. . . you are not going to go far with any type of study, truth be told, if you don't have the support of the community."

You can listen to the story, or read a transcript, [here](#).

Microbicide Gel a Breakthrough in Reducing Risk of HIV and Genital Herpes Infections in Women

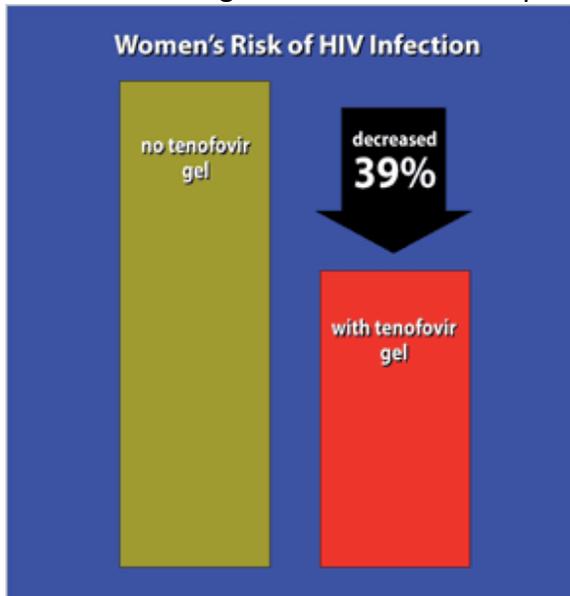
Scientists have been studying microbicides (vaginal and rectal gels to reduce risk of HIV transmission) since the 1990s. The study of one such product—a gel mixed with a small amount of an antiretroviral drug (tenofovir) that is widely used in pill form to treat HIV—is the first microbicide trial that has shown a modest but significant decrease in the rate of HIV acquisition. The gel also protected women from acquiring genital herpes—a virus that significantly increases women's risk of acquiring HIV. The gel gives women a means of protection from HIV and genital herpes that does not require their partners' cooperation. Although the protection is modest, and not as effective as condoms, it opens up the potential for finding more effective microbicides.



South African scientists describe how to use the microbicide gel and applicators (Image courtesy of CAPRISA).

The study, known as CAPRISA 004, was led by South African scientists at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), with funding from United States Agency for International Development and the South African government. The results of this ground-breaking safety and effectiveness study of an antiretroviral microbicide gel were reported July 20 by CAPRISA at the 28th International AIDS Conference, in Vienna, Austria. CAPRISA's partners in the work were FHI and CONRAD.

The microbicide gel was found to be 39-percent effective in reducing



HIV infections and 51-percent effective in preventing genital herpes infections in the women participating in the trial.

Kate MacQueen, LinCS principal investigator, provided behavioral science support for the study.

You can watch a video about the results of the CAPRISA study [here](#).

Graphic courtesy of FHI.

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

Ford Foundation to tackle HIV In Washington, DC, the South

The Ford Foundation has announced it will dedicate \$25 million to fight HIV among Black Americans in Washington, DC and nine Southern states.

[Essence](#) provides coverage of this new initiative, which will offer grants to grassroots organizations to address stigma and generate awareness of HIV.

White House unveils National AIDS Strategy

The White House unveiled the country's first national HIV and AIDS strategy on July 13. The U.S. has never had a national strategy to tackle HIV and AIDS, and this new plan will direct activities to teach people how they can protect themselves from HIV. Prevention activities will also specifically address African-Americans and men who have sex with men. The strategy will also focus on rural populations in the South and East, where HIV is becoming increasingly prevalent. You can listen to commentary about the strategy that aired on National Public Radio the day the strategy was released or read the transcript of the radio report [here](#).

When silence is not golden

A [blog post](#) about the strategy from the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) emphasizes the need for open discussion among all citizens about HIV. The writer shares one of his mother's favorite sayings: "Silence isn't always golden, especially when it costs lives."

Neglecting the fight at home

Gary Bell, a Black HIV activist, sent [this opinion piece](#) from Vienna, Austria, during the International AIDS Conference held there in July. Given the prevalence of HIV in the United States, he says, we must advocate fiercely for resources and funding to tackle HIV domestically. "Our own house is on fire," he writes, stating that HIV is as prevalent in some areas of the U.S. as it is in sub-Saharan Africa.

National HIV Testing Day in Durham

Every year, local organizations across the country engage with communities to promote early diagnosis and HIV-testing. [The Herald-Sun](#) provided coverage of events on June 25, when National HIV Testing Day was observed in Durham. LinCS staff attended events at Lincoln Community Health Center and McDougal Terrace, where they distributed project materials and discussed LinCS activities.

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 visit us at www.lincs2durham.org to request information about the LinCS 2 Durham project and find out how to participate. You may also contact Natalie Eley, the LinCS 2 Durham study coordinator by email at 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: rogers@co.durham.nc.us;
(919) 560-7675.

Contribute to the LinCS 2 Durham newsletter

If you have a story or event you would like us to include in this newsletter,
please e-mail us at lincs2durham@fhi.org.

PDF copies of this newsletter are available! Please
email lincs2durham@fhi.org if you would like a PDF copy.