

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.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

You're Invited!

What: Collaborative Council meeting

When: Monday, June 21, 2010
6 PM – 8 PM

Where: Stanford Warren Library
1201 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27707

[Get directions here](#)

Details: Please join LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council (CC) members and staffers for our June meeting. The next CC meeting will be held July 19th at the main branch of the Durham Public Library.

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What: Juneteenth

When: Saturday, June 19, 2010
1 PM-5 PM

Where: CCB Plaza
201 N. Corcoran Street
Durham, NC 27701

[Get directions here](#)

Details: Visit the LinCS 2 Durham booth at this year's Juneteenth celebration in downtown Durham.

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Take the Test, Take Control

What: Free HIV Testing

When: Friday, June 25, 2010
11 AM – 3 PM

Where: Lincoln Community Health Center
1301 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27707
[Get directions here](#)

&

What: Free HIV Testing
When: Saturday, June 26
2 PM – 5 PM
Where: McDougal Terrace
1101 East Lawson Street
Durham, NC 27701
[Get directions here](#)

Details: The [National HIV Testing Day](#) is June 27. NHTD is an annual event to encourage people to take an HIV test, and is coordinated by the [National Association of People with AIDS](#). Two free events are being held locally in Durham. HIV testing and syphilis testing will take place at the Lincoln Community Health Center and at McDougald Terrace housing community. Regular HIV testing is an important part of HIV prevention.

Don't forget to become a fan of the LinCS 2 Durham [Facebook!](#)

You can also follow us on [Twitter](#).

[Staff Profile](#)



Kate MacQueen presenting at the LinCS open house (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)

Kate MacQueen is the LinCS 2 Durham principal investigator. (In the world of research, a principal investigator leads a project and makes sure it is conducted properly.) Kate is an anthropologist and works as a senior scientist with FHI in the Behavioral and Biomedical Research Division. She spent ten years working on HIV and related issues for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There she served as a science director and human subjects coordinator, making sure that research projects were conducted according to safety and ethical guidelines. She also co-chaired an institutional review board. (Such boards monitor research activities involving human beings for compliance with government regulations and ethical standards.) While at the CDC, Kate also directed research projects, including the first Project LinCS in Durham, San Francisco, and Philadelphia in the 1990s.

At FHI, Kate's work continues to focus on the social, behavioral, and ethical aspects of biomedical research. She has worked extensively in trials involving potential HIV vaccines, the prophylactic use of antiretrovirals (using medicines that treat HIV to prevent HIV), and microbicides (gels inserted vaginally or anally before intercourse to

prevent HIV).

“We learned a lot from the first Project LinCS,” says Kate, “and I feel strongly that we need to take what we learned and turn it into action. That’s been a goal of mine since I joined FHI here in Durham in 2001. It’s great to see LinCS 2 Durham ‘in action’ and I’m excited about the way the collaboration is growing.”

Collaborative Council Updates

The Collaborative Council continues to meet regularly to discuss aspects of the LinCS project and provide feedback.

Recently, field staff members made a presentation to the council on the ethnographic work they’re doing as part of LinCS. Ethnography is the study of human culture. LinCS field staff will be conducting a survey of Durham residents to assess how their beliefs, values, and experiences influence their attitudes towards research on HIV and AIDS.

Collaborative Council members have begun reviewing segments of the community survey that was developed by LinCS 2 Durham staff. This will be an ongoing task for the council.

HIV and Black America in the News

Durham County to conduct health assessment

Durham county public health officials will be conducting a health assessment from June 17 through June 20. Using Census data and geographical information systems (GIS), health officials will visit 210 households and ask questions to identify the major community and health problems in the city. To read more about this initiative, visit [Partnership for a Healthy Durham](#).

White House holds forum on Black men and HIV

The Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) held a meeting on HIV and Black men at the White House on June 2, 2010. Among the topics were the domestic HIV epidemic, social pressures on Black men, and local and national HIV education and awareness activities. Gregorio Millett, who worked on the first LinCS study in the 1990s, is a senior policy advisor for ONAP. He wrote a [blog post](#) about the event. [Essence](#) magazine also covered it.

New ways of fighting HIV in development

[Essence](#) magazine has an interesting article on HIV-fighting products that are currently in development. Microbicides are substances being tested to see if they prevent or reduce the sexual transmission of HIV when applied topically inside the vagina or rectum. Now scientists are also investigating novel ways for people to use microbicides that could

be convenient, and therefore effective. Some of the delivery systems being considered are a quick-dissolving tablet or film that would be inserted in the vagina immediately before intercourse, a pill to be taken by mouth daily, and a vaginal ring that could deliver HIV antiretrovirals for as long as a month.

Pastors crucial in encouraging HIV testing

The *Chicago Tribune* reported the story of a local Baptist pastor who was tested for HIV in front of his parishioners during a Sunday service. The minister, Rev. Stephen Thurston, hoped his gesture would dispel some of the stigma surrounding HIV, HIV testing, and even discussion of HIV. This lengthy [article](#) describes efforts by Rev. Thurston and other pastors to make HIV part of their churches' ministry.

Society's effects on health

The journal *Public Health Reports* has produced a special supplement that focuses on the social determinants of health in the prevention of HIV, syphilis, and other infectious diseases. You can read the supplement [here](#).

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. 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; (919) 560-7675

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/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.