

News

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“I’m thrilled that Durham community members are influencing the course of the LinCS 2 Durham study. This is an exciting and participatory way to build and bridge community.” — *Randy Rogers, health education specialist, Durham County Health Department*

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: Aware for All: Clinical Research Education Day

Aware for All is a public event focusing on clinical research in the Triangle. This event is *not* sponsored by LinCS 2 Durham; it is sponsored by numerous organizations, including NCCU and UNC, as well as Duke University. There will be Q&A sessions, community members talking about their participation in clinical research, and free health screenings.

**When: September 12, 2009
10 AM – 2 PM**

**Where: North Carolina Central University
H.M. Michaux School of Education Building
712 Cecil Street,
Durham, NC 27707**

LinCS 2 Durham hosts public information sessions



Field team members and community participants enjoy food at the first LinCS 2 Durham information session, in July (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)

LinCS 2 Durham held its first public information session the evening of July 1 at the Durham Public Library. About 20 people—project team members and community leaders—participated. Project captain Kate MacQueen talked about how and why the LinCS 2 Durham project began and where it’s headed. A video titled *No Secrets* was shown to provide a national context for the project and spur spirited conversation about it. This documentary explores community distrust in government-sponsored medical research.

Randy Rogers (see below) explained why it’s vital for community members to engage in conversation about HIV—not only with one another but also with people doing research on ways to stop the virus’s spread. During the discussion that followed, attendees asked questions and shared their opinions about the LinCS 2 Durham project, as well as HIV research in the Black community in general. Casual, small-group conversations with LinCS staff continued afterwards. An information session on July 23 followed a slightly different agenda, with more emphasis placed on discussion of HIV following the *No Secrets* video presentation. Approximately 20 people (including project team members) participated in this session.

Following feedback from community members and the LinCS 2 Durham field team, field team members will now attend local events and meetings sponsored by other organizations and institutions. So far they have attended the “Campaign for Change” event held at the Hoover Road Housing Community and the “Russ Parr Back 2 School” event at the John Avery Boys and Girls Club. At both sites, field team members represented the LinCS 2 Durham project, provided information about the project, and recruited partnership members for the project’s

Community Advisory Board.

Check the [LinCS 2 Durham Web site](#) for information about future events.

Staff Profile



Randy Rogers speaks with LaHoma Smith Romocki at the LinCS 2 Durham open house in May (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)

Randy Rogers brings to the LinCS 2 Durham team 15 years of experience in such HIV/AIDS services as testing and counseling, program management, advocacy, and service coordination. Randy attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he received his BS in social work with a concentration in public health education. He earned his MS in adult education at North Carolina A&T University. He works at the Durham County Health Department as a health education specialist.

Randy says, "I'm thrilled that Durham community members are influencing the course of the LinCS 2 Durham study. This is an exciting and participatory way to build and bridge community."

HIV and Black America in the News

Magic Johnson discusses HIV

Magic Johnson talked about the changing face of HIV while addressing the National HIV Prevention Conference, held in Atlanta in late August. Johnson told conference participants that it's vital for churches to be

involved in HIV prevention efforts. “One constant in the black community,” he said, “is the church.” You can read more about what he had to say on the Web site, [Southern Voices](#).

HIV discussed on the Tavis Smiley Show

The Director of the Black AIDS Institute, Phill Wilson, was interviewed on the Tavis Smiley show. Wilson discussed the Black AIDS Institute’s “Test One Million” campaign, whose goal is to test one million Black Americans in a year. You can read a partial transcript of the show or listen to the audio [here](#).

Pastor and church support HIV-positive people

Pastor Rainey Cheeks of Inner Light Ministries, in Washington, DC, preaches a message of acceptance and safe sex, writes the [Washington Post](#). Cheeks, who is HIV-positive and open about it with his congregation of roughly 100, discusses safe sex with his parishioners and explains how they can protect themselves from HIV.

New data released on men who have sex with men in Chicago

The [Chicago Department of Public Health](#) recently released data showing that nearly one third of Black men in that city who have sex with men are infected with HIV.

Black America is “Greater Than AIDS”

Greater Than AIDS is a public information campaign designed to address the AIDS crisis facing Black Americans, and to remind individuals that they are [Greater Than AIDS](#).

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 and better.

E-mail us at lincs2durham@fhi.org.