

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: April 12, 2010
6 PM – 8 PM

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

Details: Please join LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council members and staffers for our March meeting.

Do you know someone who might be interested in participating in LinCS 2 Durham focus group discussions? Please share the following information with them.

Discussions on HIV Prevention in Durham

Get reimburse for time and effort!

We need Black men and women 18-30 years old

Contact us if you're interested:

Ph. 919-530-6684

lincs2durham@ncsu.edu

Evenings in April 2010

Project staff will contact you 24 hours before the discussion to confirm your attendance.

Your participation, and anything you say, will remain strictly confidential.

The LinCS 2 Durham [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page are now live! If you have a Facebook account, please consider becoming a fan of the LinCS 2 Durham page.

Staff Profile



David Jolly, LinCS 2 Durham investigator (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)

David Jolly serves as an investigator for the LinCS 2 Durham project, aiding the ethnography component and leading the field team. What excites David the most about LinCS is the “partnership between scientists and members of Durham's Black communities, and the possibility of people coming together to figure out whether and how clinical trials for new prevention strategies should be conducted in Durham.” David is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Public Health Education at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). He currently serves as the faculty advisor to Project SAFE, NCCU’s HIV/STI peer education program. Before coming to NCCU, David spent more than 15 years working in public health, mostly in the field of HIV/AIDS. From 1987 to 1990, he was head of the North Carolina AIDS Control Branch, directing the state’s AIDS prevention and surveillance program and serving as the program’s primary contact with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). “I've seen a lot of progress over the years in efforts to address this disease--huge breakthroughs in treatment and in prevention of perinatal transmission and major shifts in people's attitudes towards people living with HIV,” David says. “We've still got a long ways to go, though--especially to prevent sexual transmission.”

Collaborative Council discusses decision making, stakeholders

The LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council met on March 15th, with Randy Rogers facilitating the meeting. The meeting got off to a brisk start, with Collaborative Council members discussing their interpretation of what LinCS 2 Durham is, describing it as a community-driven project with joint leadership. David Jolly explained how information gained from this project could impact future biological prevention technologies.

Kate MacQueen, the principal investigator, and Randy discussed informed consent. Randy then led council members through a process of corporate consent, reading the consent form aloud and giving those in attendance copies of the form to take home and sign in private. Collaborative Council members, as part of the research body, must provide written consent to be involved in the LinCS project.

Just as informed consent is a fundamental step in the research process, so is independent evaluation. An important part of the LinCS 2 Durham project will be an ongoing evaluation of how well the partnership between scientists and community members works. David Napp, a long-time Durham resident, serves as the LinCS 2 Durham evaluator. He will examine the Collaborative Council's effectiveness, factors affecting participation in the council, and progress towards the priorities and goals of the LinCS project. At the meeting, David said he would gather information for his evaluation by interviewing some council members during one six-month period and surveying all members during the following six-months, and so on in alternation. He will also attend some meetings and read the minutes of all meetings.

Creating a consensus statement will help the Collaborative Council to make decisions efficiently. Council members debated establishing a quorum (some minimum number of people in attendance) as a prerequisite for votes to be taken at a meeting. They also considered setting a minimum number of meetings that a council member would have to attend to be allowed to vote. They agreed to continue discussing ideas for decision making at future meetings.

The final topic of discussion at the council meeting was stakeholder groups. Stakeholders in the LinCS project are people who have reason to care about the impact of HIV in Durham. Randy and council members discussed categories of stakeholders that should be represented on the council. Each council member then identified his or her stakeholder group: advocacy and policy, grassroots, research enterprise, programmatic stakeholders, or as a member of the target population.

The next Council meeting will return to the consensus building process and informed consent process, and will also discuss recruitment options for the community survey.

HIV and Black America in the News

Profiles of two young people with HIV

Marvelyn Brown and Antron Reshaud are young, active adults who are HIV-positive. Brown, who was a high school athlete when she was diagnosed, said talking about HIV and how it can be contracted is essential to stop its spread. Both she and Reshaud are profiled in this [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) piece, and both are involved with the “i know” campaign, a social media initiative of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) aimed at getting young African-Americans talking about HIV. Brown is also the author of a [book](#) on her experience with HIV.

BET interviews a doctor and an advocate

Black Entertainment Television interviewed Kevin Fenton, the director of the CDC’s National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, and Hydeia Broadbent, an AIDS activist, about the “i know” campaign. Dr. Fenton states “without a doubt, young people are our greatest weapon in the fight against HIV/AIDS.” You can read the whole piece [here](#).

Door to door HIV testing successful in Durham

An article published in the journal *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* showed that rapid HIV testing done door-to-door is feasible and acceptable in the Latino community in Durham. Most participants (approximately 97 percent) supported rapid HIV testing. You can read the entire article [here](#).

Faces of HIV in South Florida

This [video](#) contains interviews with three HIV-positive people in South Florida, who share their personal experiences of the condition.

Faith community addressing HIV

Pastors from some Atlanta churches have joined together in support of the National Black Clergy for the Elimination of AIDS Act, a pending federal bill that addresses the toll that the epidemic has had on the black community. This [story](#) also includes a brief interview with an HIV-positive woman who is now an ordained minister.

Divas proactive in fight against HIV

Five young women in Washington, DC have started a group called Divas, Making People Healthier, to educate young Black women about HIV/AIDS. The group hosted a public information session for girls and women to empower them to make healthy choices. Information on this

program and other HIV prevention efforts is captured in this [article](#).

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!

Email: lincs2durham@fhi.org

Randy Rogers
Public Health Education Specialist
Email: rrogers@co.durham.nc.us
Tel: (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.

