

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, May 17, 2010
6 PM – 8 PM

Where: Durham Public Library
300 North Roxboro Street
Durham, NC 27701

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

Did you know that **Tuesday, May 18, 2010** is National HIV Vaccine Awareness Day? It is a day dedicated to educating communities about the importance of research to find a safe vaccine that prevents HIV. You can read more about this national initiative [here](#).

The LinCS 2 Durham Web site 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



Kia Lilly Caldwell at the LinCS open house (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)

As a LinCS 2 Durham investigator, Kia Lilly Caldwell helps to conduct the ethnography component of the project, which involves studying people in groups and the broader Durham community. She also helps to lead the ethnographic field team. Kia just received tenure in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is also adjunct assistant professor of anthropology. Kia received her doctoral degree in social anthropology and her master's degree in Latin American studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She received an A.B. in Romance languages from Princeton University. She is currently conducting research on HIV prevention for Black women in Brazil and the southeastern United States.

Kia's interest in and commitment to HIV/AIDS research began in 2004, when she attended a conference on HIV/AIDS and Black women and girls. In addition to her work at UNC and with LinCS, Kia participates in the American Psychological Association's Cyber Mentors Program for Developing HIV Research in Communities of Color. Kia notes that one of the unique features of LinCS 2 Durham is the opportunity it creates to research "approaches and solutions that are relevant and responsive to the Black community's concerns, needs, and interests."

Focus Group Updates

Project research assistants met with small groups of Durham residents to discuss sexual behavior in the Black community, and where and how people meet to spend time together. To date, LinCS 2 Durham has held six focus groups. The goal is to learn how to reach Black young adults in Durham, increase participation in LinCS 2 Durham non-research activities, and find out what sorts of activities and events are most likely

to elicit and sustain interest.

LinCS Member Participates in National Conference

Randy Rogers, coordinator of the LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council, traveled to Baltimore recently to participate in the HIV Research Catalyst Forum. This forum focused on community advocacy in HIV prevention research. Over the span of four days, HIV advocates had the chance to share knowledge and skills, build their capacity for effective advocacy, and share ideas to take on challenges.

Randy shared the following account of the forum to LinCS 2 Durham project members on the LinCS [Facebook](#) page:

This meeting of minds and hearts was a grand opportunity for HIV/AIDS activists, new and seasoned, from around the country to interface with the HIV research and policy making entities. The eloquent passion I observed in so many people who are responding to HIV gave me new energy to stay focused, hopeful, and committed to the tasks at hand. I must say the good and positive work we are exploring with the LinCS 2 Durham study aligns nicely with one of the national strategic agenda items, which is getting more Black young adults involved in clinical trials research.



Randy Rogers with Kaijson Noilmar at the HIV Catalyst Research Forum in Baltimore, Maryland

HIV and Black America in the News

Free clinic named after Magic Johnson

Earvin “Magic” Johnson was present at the opening of a clinic in Miami

Beach. The clinic, named in his honor, will provide free HIV services, including testing and free medication. You can read more about the clinic [here](#).

North Carolina AIDS Drug Assistance Program caps enrollment

The North Carolina AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) has capped enrollment, citing budgetary concerns. ADAP covered the cost of AIDS medications for people with low income. This means that people who need to receive medication assistance will now be added to a waiting list. You can read about the decision to cap ADAP [here](#). John Bartlett, spouse of Collaborative Council member Trish Bartlett, contributed an [opinion piece](#) to the News and Observer on the need to restore ADAP.

National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS opens southern office

The [Southern Voice](#) reports that the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLC) has opened a new office in Atlanta. The goal of the NBLC is to organize and energize local leaders around the issue of HIV and 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!

You can send [Natalie](#) an email, or you can email [Randy Rogers](#), Public Health Education Specialist, Durham County Health Department and coordinator of the LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council.

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, so please [email us](#).