Satellite Session: Health Disparities, Hurdles and Hope: Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

Despite remarkable scientific advances, including the advent of rapid testing and potent once-daily anti-retroviral therapies, the annual number of new HIV infections in the U.S. has remained stable for more than 20 years. This satellite session sponsored by the HPTN explored the current landscape of the U.S. HIV epidemic, challenges in reaching and engaging at risk populations and exciting new evidence supporting new prevention interventions and research efforts that seek a better understanding of the epidemic and identifying new effective prevention interventions.

The satellite session was co-chaired by Drs. Wafaa El-Sadr and Kenneth Mayer. Presenters included:

Grant Colfax, MD, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy
Chris Collins, Vice president and Director of Public Policy at amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research
Dázon Dixon Diallo, MPH, Founder and President of Sister Love
Sally Hodder, MD, Director of HIV Programs and Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine at the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Melissa Turner, MSW, LICSW, U.S. domestic HPTN Community Working Group Co-Chair and Social Worker Coordinator for National Programs in HIV Clinical Research at the Washington Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Research Service/Infectious Disease Section
Sten Vermund, MD, PhD, Director for the Vanderbilt University Institute for Global Health.
Darrell Wheeler, MPH, PhD, Dean at the Loyola University Chicago’s School of Social Work.
Richard Wolitski, PhD, Senior Advisor for Strategic Indicators for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.
Sheryl Zwerski, MSN, Medical Officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of NIH.

Topics discussed:

Why the Domestic HIV Agenda Matters
HIV and US Women: Understanding the Challenges
Black MSM in the U.S.: Addressing the Social and Cultural Contexts
Looking Ahead: A Commitment to Fighting the Epidemic Panel Session