

Welcome to our first ANCHOR Study Newsletter!



We at the national team want to use this newsletter as a way to keep our participants, referring providers, and the general public informed about the latest ANCHOR updates.

Our first issue is devoted to COVID-19, and how that affects all of us involved in the ANCHOR study.

In the future, you can find study news, notes from our Community Advisory Board (CAB) members, a close up of one of our local sites or site coordinators, and the latest news about HPV, HIV, or anal cancer.

Jason Johnson Peretz

National Recruitment and Retention Coordinator

ANCHOR News: COVID-19

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the ANCHOR study team has advised local site staff to contact ANCHOR participants who are scheduled to be seen in the next 4 weeks about whether they should come in for their appointment.

If you do not hear from your site's study staff, please reach out to them. If you are waiting to be screened for the ANCHOR study, please be patient – we WILL see you as soon as we possibly can, once it is safe to do so. In the meantime, please contact your local ANCHOR site if you have any questions or concerns.

New Webpages

J Johnson Peretz

In May, we will begin the launch of three new sections to our website. These three sections are devoted to the CAB, to current participants, and to providers.

The CAB section provides details about what the Community Advisory Board does, who your local CAB member is, and how to get in touch with them.

The section for participants is designed to answer frequently asked questions, give you an opportunity to share feedback with the national team, and provide you with more resources on cancer, HPV, and HIV.

The provider-focused section presents data on anal cancer incidence, the rationale for the ANCHOR



study, lists the funders and review boards to which our study is accountable, and lets providers know what they need to do to refer their patients to ANCHOR.

CAB News

Michael Dorosh, CAB Chair

These are very difficult and trying times, especially in the healthcare arena. We share everyone's dismay at the delay COVID-19 will cause in the ANCHOR study, and the associated issues involved.

CAB members will continue to support the study the same way we always have, by personal or group conversations that happen when folks get together (via Zoom and Skype these days), by linking sites to local resources, and by spreading the word about resources sites send us from around the country during this challenging time. We'd like to share an example from Los Angeles:
<https://tinyurl.com/lacovid19gd>

Created by people committed to our community's health, the document is divided into four general categories (children and youth, adults, elderly, and the undocumented community), with resources for food, housing, health, transportation, and education. Your local area may have something similar. If not, we encourage community members to come together to put one together for your locale.

The ANCHOR Study CAB is grateful for all that everyone associated with ANCHOR is now having to do, dealing with the pandemic, and the subsequent ANCHOR Study repercussions.

Health Tips & Resources

Mariel Selbovitz, UCLA site

Fact sheets on COVID-19 are available in over 30 different languages, including Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Try the COVID-19 Health Literacy Project website:
www.covid19healthliteracyproject.com

Fact sheets in English:

<https://covid19healthliteracyproject.com/#english>

Two sites which answer **questions about HIV and COVID-19 are here:**

- What to Know about HIV and COVID:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/hiv.html
- Interim Guidance for COVID-19 and Persons with HIV:
<https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines/html/8/covid-19-and-persons-with-hiv--interim-guidance-/0>

Finally, the Positive Women's Network-USA released info and encouragement for the community, called "We Got This":

<https://www.pwn-usa.org/wegotthis-to-our-pwn-family-regarding-the-coronavirus-epidemic/>

If you would like to share additional resources via these newsletters, please let us know.