

Our Spring Newsletter

We at the national team publish this newsletter to keep our participants, referring providers, and the general public informed about the latest ANCHOR updates.

Our spring issue is devoted to our new CAB Chair, some new CAB members, and a note about our annual spring meeting.

Jason Johnson Peretz

National Recruitment and Retention Coordinator



ANCHOR Spring Meeting

During the lockdown period, Germans have created several new words which illustrate what life is like under COVID. My favorite is “overzoomed.” It means exactly what it sounds like: fatigue from having one too many video meetings. Thankfully, that word did not apply to our annual spring meeting, which, as you might have guessed, was held online.

Apart from the usual mix of studies of interest to the investigators, the local site coordinators were also able to get together in two smaller group sessions. Not only did they get to “see” one another, they also had a chance to discuss topics and share helpful approaches to local challenges with other similar sites.

One of the more encouraging messages from the meeting was that all our local clinics have figured out the COVID safety routine and are gearing up for a return to full recruiting. So you can start telling your friends about the study again, and use those persuasive skills I know all our participants have, to get those friends to come in for a screening!

Your Follow-Up Visits

Joel Palefsky, MD, ANCHOR Study Principal Investigator

It is incredibly important for everyone to make every effort to attend your remaining follow-up visits. We want to make the study data as robust as possible, and we can't do it without your help!

It is important that everyone who has enrolled in the study stay in touch with their sites, discuss with your local site staff what you can do to make your follow-up visits, and most essentially, show up for the appointment. Your local site staff will be happy to help.

You can also sign up for appointment reminders or update your contact information on our website, at <https://anchorstudy.org/participants/reminders>



New CAB Chair for 2021

J Johnson Peretz

Let's take a moment to thank Michael Dorosh, our outgoing CAB chair, for his service, and welcome our new CAB Chair, John McFeely, to the role!

Michael steered the CAB through a difficult year, fielding the challenges of the COVID pandemic while shepherding changes to the CAB charter and working to broaden representation on our National CAB.

John comes to us with plenty of experience. He is the new chair of the Miami-Dade HIV partnership, and has long been involved with increasing housing opportunities and establishing standards of care for medical services for people living with HIV. He is already planning how our future CAB meetings will alternate between educational presentations by guest speakers and reports on local site challenges and successes.

New CAB Members

John McFeely, CAB Chair

I'd like to welcome two new CAB members, Vernella and Kalani!

Kalani (UCLA) is actively involved with Planning Land Use Management and Homelessness committees via the Palms and Mar Vista Neighborhood Councils. She wants to leave the world a better place than she found it, starting at age 17 with a Legislative internship for the State of Hawai'i. She seeks more equity with a pragmatic, effective approach for Native Hawaiian, Women's, LGBT, Environmental, and Civil Rights groups.

Vernella (New Orleans) has served on the Tulane University CAB in New Orleans, volunteered with NO/AIDS Task force and was a board member on the New Orleans Regional HIV Planning Council. She also has several years of experience serving on the ACTG Advisory Board and the AIDS Treatment Advocacy Coalition Executive Board. She is a retired Information Manager with the Department of Agriculture.

If you are interested in joining the ANCHOR CAB, please let us know! I look forward to hearing from you, our fellow participants, in 2021. Your voice and participation are very important for making sure the ANCHOR CAB continues to represent the broad diversity of our study participants.

Learn more about the ANCHOR CAB at
<https://anchorstudy.org/cab/membership>

Health Tips & Vaccine News

Yves Gebhardt, NYC-Cornell CAB member

Finally, the **FDA has approved monthly shots to replace daily HIV meds** for some people. The two-shot combo of Cabenuva may eventually help people who have difficulty taking their pills daily and ultimately improve quality of life. Read more:
<https://apnews.com/article/california-69093fcf6739964d7d8f4f0296fb805d>

A recent study in Brazil has found that 61% of transwomen in a respondent-driven survey had a diagnosis of anal high-risk HPV. HIV tripled the likelihood of anal high-risk HPV infection. That study illustrates the important impact that ANCHOR will have for addressing our community's health!
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jia2.25691>

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