Network Overview
IMPAACT is a global collaboration of researchers, community representatives, and other partners that aims to significantly decrease HIV and HIV-associated infections and to decrease mortality and morbidity due to HIV and HIV-associated infections and co-morbidities among infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant and postpartum women.
History

• Formed in 2006 (*preceded by PACTG*)
• Successfully renewed in 2013
• Funded by US National Institutes of Health
  – Division of AIDS (DAIDS), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
  – National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD)
  – National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
Organization

• Network is comprised of
  – Scientific and management leadership groups
  – Clinical research sites where studies are conducted
  – Central resources that support study operations, data collection and analysis, and laboratory testing for network studies
Clinical Research Sites

53 sites in 14 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas
21 Sites in the United States
30 Sites in Africa, Asia, and South America
Site Responsibilities

• Conduct studies that comply with local and U.S. regulations
• Ensure all required staff members are certified in research ethics/Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training
• Adhere to IMPAACT protocols, manuals, policies and procedures
• Recruit and enroll eligible participants; obtain informed consent
• Ensure safety and well being of all research participants
• Maintain confidentiality of all participants and participant records
• Collect and manage all participant data
• Collect, process, and ship clinical specimens; perform laboratory assays as specified in protocols
• Establish and support a CAB to advise researchers on IMPAACT studies and to represent the interests and perspectives of the community
• Participate in science generation/study development
Determining IMPAACT Site Capacity

Comprehensive site “profile” developed to establish a central database of IMPAACT site capacity

- Distributed to DAIDS-funded sites for initial data collection last August, then updated annually
- Will aid in network-wide planning, rapidly identifying sites with specific capabilities for specific studies, and avoiding duplication of data collection for site selection
Determining IMPAACT Site Capacity

- Drug regulatory and ethical review requirements
- Potential study populations (by age, HIV status, TB status)
- Recruitment and study conduct facilities (including inpatient, NICU, PK)
- Current standards of care for HIV care and treatment, PMTCT, infant feeding, infant immunization
IMPAACT Site Capacity

- Comprehensive site profile developed to establish a central database of site capacity
- Initial data collection completed, database development continuing, updates expected annually
- Now available to aid in network-wide planning, match site capability to study-specific needs, and avoid duplication of data collection for site selection
Site Selection for IMPAAACT Studies

- Objectives of process include:
  - Earlier involvement of site investigators, coordinators, and other key site staff in protocol development and preparation for study implementation
  - Improved ability to determine study feasibility and predict timing of key study milestones based on projections for each site
  - Increased site investment in successful study implementation
Site Selection for IMPAACT Protocols

• When site selection is necessary for specific studies, site capacity for and interest in participating are assessed in a transparent and standard manner, through a site survey and other means.

• The protocol team and network leadership review survey responses from potential sites and base selection on a number of factors including the following:

  ❖ Target population available  ❖ Experience of faculty and staff
  ❖ Other studies planned/ongoing at  ❖ Regulatory requirements
    the site and overall site capacity  ❖ ARV access and strong ties to HIV
  ❖ Site infrastructure (clinical,  care and treatment programs
    pharmacy, laboratory)  ❖ Community support and
  ❖ Track record in accrual, retention,  engagement
    and site management  ❖ Needs of the network
Site Selection for IMPAACT Studies

Two-step process initiated by Protocol Team early in protocol development phase

**Step 1:** Short application to determine site interest and rule out sites that cannot meet minimum study-specific requirements

**Step 2:** Sites that meet minimum requirements submit a Site Implementation Plan, including sufficient operational detail to optimize selection

Results in site selection and participant accrual plan for review and approval by the Management Oversight Group
Leadership

Scientific Leadership Group
- Network Chair*
- Network Vice Chair*
- SDMC and LC Principal Investigators*
- Operations Center Director*
- Community Advisory Board Representative
- At-large Investigators (4)
- NIH Representatives*

Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC)

Laboratory Center (LC)

Operations Center

Scientific Committees

IMPAACT Community Advisory Board (ICAB)

Oversight Committees
- Multidisciplinary Protocol Review Group
- Study Monitoring Committee(s)

*Management Oversight Group

External Scientific Advisory Group (ESAG)
Leadership

**Scientific Leadership Group**
- Network Chair*
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Leadership

The Network is under the leadership of the Network Chair, Sharon Nachman of the State University of New York – Stony Brook and the Network Vice Chair, James McIntyre of the Anova Health Institute and University of Cape Town.

Sharon Nachman  
Network Chair

James McIntyre  
Network Vice Chair
Scientific Committees

- Tuberculosis
- HIV Treatment
- HIV Cure
- HIV Prevention
- Complications
Cure Scientific Agenda

- Functional Cure: Evaluate early aggressive ART to reduce viral reservoir in neonates
- Reservoirs: Evaluate specific interventions in chronically infected-youth
  - Antiretroviral treatment
  - HIV vaccines
  - Immunomodulatory agents
- Future plans: Elucidate relationship between these reservoirs, treatments, and possibility of sterilizing cure
Tuberculosis Scientific Agenda

- In HIV-infected infants, children, and pregnant women, evaluate novel:
  - Drugs and regimens for TB treatment
    - DS and MDR TB
  - Approaches for prevention of TB
  - Tools for diagnosis of TB
HIV Treatment Scientific Agenda

In HIV-infected infants, children and adolescents:

• Safety, pharmacokinetics (PK), and drug-drug interactions
  • new ARVs and formulations
  • novel drug combinations

In HIV-infected pregnant women:

• Safety, PK, and Efficacy of ARVs
• Drug-drug interactions (e.g., ARVs, TB drugs and contraceptives)
HIV/ARV Complications & Comorbidities Scientific Agenda

• Evaluate novel vaccines in HIV-exposed infants
  – Safety and immunogenicity of RSV and other vaccine candidates (building on successful collaboration with NIAID Intramural)

• Prevent and treat cognitive impairment
  – Evaluate long-term neurocognitive outcomes, drug-drug interactions, and relationship to specific ARV therapies

• Role of inflammation
  – Disease progression, diagnostics, and treatments
HIV Prevention Scientific Agenda

• Prevent perinatal transmission and optimize infant and maternal health outcomes

• Reduce HIV infections in youth combining behavioral and biomedical interventions

• Primary Prevention: Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

• Secondary Prevention: Adherence to biomedical interventions, retention and care
Scientific Committees

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Oversight Committees

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*Management Oversight Group
Statistical and Data Management Center

- Located at Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research (CBAR) at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, and at Frontier Science Research and Technology Foundation (FSTRF) in Amherst, NY
- Provides statistical leadership and support through all phases of study design, implementation, and reporting of results
- Maintains databases for IMPAACT studies
- Provides training and technical assistance on data collection and data management for IMPAACT studies
Laboratory Center

• Located at University of California, Los Angeles
• Identifies and implements state-of-the-art laboratory testing in support of IMPAACT’s scientific agenda
• Assists in the development and quality assurance of local laboratory capacity at IMPAACT sites
• Provides technical assistance and support for all laboratory aspects of IMPAACT studies
Operational Components

Ops Center
John Hopkins University and FHI 360

SDMC
Harvard School of Public Health and FSTRF

LC
University of California, Los Angeles
Leadership and Operations Center

Network Chair: S Nachman
Network Vice Chair: J McIntyre
Ops Center Project Director: M Allen

- Financial Management & Subcontracting
- Network Management and Leadership Support
- Information Management and Data Tracking
- Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
- Protocol Costing and Forecasting
- Communications and Meetings
- Community Engagement Program Support
- Protocol Development, Training, and Study Operations
IMPAACT Finance and Contracts

- Located at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- Administers the IMPAACT grant
- Administers Master Member Agreements (MMA), Protocol Specific Task Orders (PSTO), and Significant Financial Interest (SFI) with each IMPAACT NIAID site and any study-specific sites
Operations Center

- Located at FHI 360, in Durham, North Carolina
- Supports the development, implementation and reporting of all IMPAACT scientific protocols
- Provides a central point of coordination, communications, and support to the IMPAACT Leadership Group and all network committees, protocol teams, and working groups
- Arranges and supports all network meetings and leadership travel
Clinical Trial Specialist
Roles and Responsibilities

• Provide administrative, technical, and financial (costing) support to study teams
• Coordinate development of new study protocols and site selection for new studies
• Coordinate development of study operations manuals and other study implementation tools and materials
• Coordinate and provide study-specific training and technical assistance for sites
• Monitor and report on study progress and quality of implementation
• Work with study teams and sites to address study implementation issues and challenges
Scientific Leadership Group
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Scientific Committees

IMPAACT Community Advisory Board (ICAB)

Oversight Committees
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*Management Oversight Group
Community Engagement

Operations Center Community Program Team

ICAB Representation on IMPAAACT Committees

IMPAAACT Community Advisory Board

Site Community Programs
Site Community Programs

- Community Advisory Boards (CABs) build and foster partnerships between researchers and local study communities impacted by HIV/AIDS. An active CAB with a committed membership is an integral part in the effort to combat AIDS. CABs can help strengthen local capacity to respond to critical research needs in the future.
IMPAAACT Community Advisory Board (CAB)

• Representatives from IMPAAACT site community programs participate in the IMPAAACT CAB

• Members of the IMPAAACT CAB leadership also participate in IMPAAACT scientific committees and help review and provide comments on new studies
Multidisciplinary Protocol Review Group (MPRG)

- The purpose of the MPRG review is to ensure IMPAACT protocols are scientifically rigorous, accurate, consistent, complete, and standardized to the extent possible.

- Membership includes
  - Network Vice Chair (who serves as MPRG Chair)
  - the Chair or Vice Chair of the relevant SC
  - standing representatives of the Operations Center, SDMC, LC, and ICAB
  - the IMPAACT Pharmacist
  - a study coordinator
  - designated NIH staff
  - 1-2 external reviewers with expertise in the specific content area of the protocol
Study Monitoring Committee(s) (SMC)

- Monitors participant safety, the progress and quality of IMPAACT study conduct and makes recommendations related to study continuation, including cohort progression and dose escalation/dose selection when applicable.
- Scope varies across studies, depending on protocol specifications and each individual study monitoring plan.
- Membership includes:
  - SMC Chair
  - IMPAACT Network Chair or Vice Chair
  - IMPAACT Scientific Committee (SC) Chair or Vice Chair
  - Representatives of the IMPAACT Operations Center, LC, and SDAC
  - DAIDS and NICHD Representatives
  - As needed, relevant content area reviewers (e.g., pharmacology, immunology, virology reviewer)

In addition to the above, other reviewers may be added as needed.
Scientific Committees

IMPAACT Community Advisory Board (ICAB)

Oversight Committees

Multidisciplinary Protocol Review Group
Study Monitoring Committee(s)

Scientific Leadership Group

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External Scientific Advisory Group (ESAG)

Statistical and Data Management Center (SDMC)
Laboratory Center (LC)
Operations Center

*Management Oversight Group
External Scientific Advisory Group (ESAG)

• Reviews the overall IMPAACT scientific agenda
• Provides critical feedback on the network’s current and planned scientific agenda, including identifying any gaps and providing recommendations for prioritization, future directions, and areas for expansion or contraction
IMPAACT Manual of Procedures (MOP)

Resources

Directory
Funding
Acknowledgements
Regulatory Resources
Training Opportunities
Manual of Procedure
HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC)
Email Alias Lists
Funding
Acknowledgements
Network Templates
Submit Study Proposal
Site Map

IMPAACT Manual of Procedures

This Manual of Procedures (MOP) describes the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network structure; operating policies; roles and responsibilities of entities and individuals within the IMPAACT Network; protocol development and approval processes; site selection; process; standardized study operations procedures; data and specimen collection and processing procedures; and quality management, monitoring and evaluation of trials conducted by IMPAACT. The IMPAACT MOP is to be used as a reference document for current IMPAACT policies and procedures. Clinical Trial Units are expected to maintain a hard copy of the current IMPAACT MOP at all clinical research sites.

The IMPAACT Network MOP does not replace the study-specific MOP that may be developed for specific IMPAACT studies. The study-specific MOP contains detailed guidance on study implementation. All study procedures within IMPAACT must be conducted in accordance with the study protocol, the study-specific MOP (if applicable), and this Network MOP. In the event that there are inconsistencies between these documents, the precedence that must be followed is:

- If this Network MOP is inconsistent with the study-specific MOP, the study-specific MOP must be followed.
- If the study-specific MOP is inconsistent with the study protocol, the protocol must be followed.

IMPAACT members are encouraged to contact the relevant individuals within the Network with procedural questions. For study-specific questions related to proper implementation, data collection, and laboratory concerns for a study protocol, contact the IMPAACT Operations Center Clinical Trials Specialist (CTS), the study-specific statistician and data manager, and the IMPAACT Laboratory Center (ILC) Quality Assurance/Quality Control Group.

http://impaaactnetwork.org/resources/policies-procedures.htm
IMPAACT MOP Sections, Now Available

9. Protocol Development and Modifications
10. Site Selection and Modifications
11. Study Specific Pre-Implementation, Site Activation, and Study Initiation
12. Study Implementation
13. Study Oversight and Safety Considerations
15. Ancillary Studies
18. Network Evaluation
19. Publications Policy and Procedures

http://impaactnetwork.org/resources/policies-procedures.htm
Questions?

IMPAACT.OperationsCenter@fstrf.org