

Call for Self-Nominations: IMPAACT Network Co-Chair

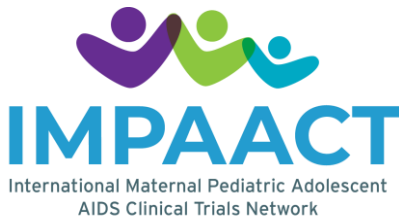
Background: In early 2026, NIAID and its collaborating institutes are expected to issue a Request for Applications (RFA) to include much or all of the IMPAACT Network's current scientific portfolio, with potential expansion to other research areas. The next funding cycle is expected to begin on or about 1 December 2027 and continue for seven years thereafter. The current Network Chair's and Vice Chairs' terms of service will continue through the end of the current funding period (anticipated 30 November 2027).

For the next funding cycle, the IMPAACT Scientific Leadership Group (SLG) voted to modify the leadership structure to include two network Co-Chairs (instead of a single Chair), with Dr. Sharon Nachman (the current Chair) to serve in one of these positions alongside another individual to be selected by the SLG following a broad solicitation for applicants. The Co-Chairs will be named as multiple principal investigators (MPIs) in the IMPAACT Leadership and Operations Center (LOC) grant application. Dr. Nachman will initially serve as the contact PI for the LOC grant (among the MPIs); however, her term of service as Co-Chair/MPI is expected to be time-limited (two years into the next grant cycle), with subsequent transition to an advisory role within the network.

Therefore, the IMPAACT Network is now soliciting self-nominations for a Network Co-Chair/LOC MPI for the next funding cycle. To ensure a smooth transition and adequate time to gain network leadership experience, the Co-Chair-elect will join the SLG and the IMPAACT Management Oversight Group (MOG) in early 2025, well before issuance of the anticipated RFA. The Co-Chair-elect will lead preparation of the response to the RFA with Dr. Nachman and the network Vice Chairs-elect (applicants to be broadly solicited separately in early 2025) with input from other network scientific leaders (SLG members and Scientific Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs).

Requirements and Selection Process: Interested and qualified investigators are asked to submit a cover letter summarizing their interest in and vision for the network and its scientific agenda for 2027 and beyond, and a NIH Biographical Sketch with a maximum of 25 selected publications to the IMPAACT Operations Center (IMPAACTops@fhi360.org) **by 14 November 2024 at 5:00 PM ET**. The cover letter should also detail the applicant's experience in preparing grant applications and managing large, complex grants. Applicants need not be associated with a clinical research site to be eligible; however, site leadership experience would be considered a strength. No letters of support or other documentation should be submitted.

The Network Co-Chair will be an investigator with experience reflective of the network's scientific agenda and operational scope. They will lead development of the response to the forthcoming RFA (with the other Network Co-Chair (Dr. Nachman) and the Vice Chairs-elect). Initially, the Co-Chair-elect will serve as a member of the IMPAACT SLG and the MOG, transitioning to Co-Chair of these groups as of the beginning of the next grant cycle (anticipated 1 December 2027). Responsibilities include managing the IMPAACT Leadership and Operations Center (LOC) grant; overseeing and managing the network's finances and funding plans; directing the network and executing its plans as determined by the SLG and NIH partners; ensuring that the network's scientific agenda is robust and consistent with its mission; providing visionary leadership and strategic direction; fostering collaboration with other research networks, partner organizations and companies; chairing and participating in network oversight and review committees/groups; ensuring robust community engagement; overseeing network performance, and serving as the network's executive representative. Other responsibilities include but are not limited to maintenance of network policies and procedures, regulatory compliance, review of publications, and ensuring mentorship opportunities for early career investigators.



The IMPAACT SLG will review the applicants' submissions and may schedule interviews in Q4 of 2024. The SLG voting members, exclusive of NIH representatives, will elect the new Co-Chair, with the outcome expected to be announced in late 2024. Any current SLG member who self-nominates will be recused from the review and election process.

Requirements:

Education: MD or PhD

Experience:

- Over 15 years of HIV-related research, with significant focus on pediatric populations, adolescents and/or pregnant/postpartum people and on clinical trials design, implementation, oversight, and publication
- Successful track record in preparing grant applications and securing NIH grant funding or major grant funding from other entities
- Track record of engaging in and maintaining successful collaboration agreements, sponsor relationships and partnerships with the community and other research entities (pharmaceutical companies, etc.).
- Leadership of large, complex, multifaceted, multi-organizational projects
- Experience in international settings most affected by HIV

Additional Considerations:

- A minimum level of effort (LoE) of 50% will be required of the Network Co-Chair beginning at the start of the new funding cycle (anticipated 1 December 2027). Beginning in early 2025, the Co-Chair-elect will join the IMPAACT SLG and MOG as a non-voting member and participate in other leadership activities to ensure a smooth transition and sufficient time to gain experience in the network leadership role before the next network RFA is issued; these contributions will be supported at ~15% LoE through the end of the current grant period (anticipated 30 November 2027).
- The IMPAACT Leadership and Operations Center (LOC) grant is currently at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), with Dr. Nachman as PI. The application for the next funding cycle is expected to be submitted from JHU as a Type 2 renewal application with the Network Co-Chairs as Multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs). With approval from NIAID and JHU, the LOC grant could potentially be moved to another institution (e.g., the other Co-Chair's institution, if different) sometime after the award. Dr. Nachman currently maintains a faculty appointment at JHU (home institution: Stony Brook Medicine) and the other Network Co-Chair/LOC MPI would be expected to similarly be granted such an appointment if not already on the JHU faculty.
- A comprehensive leadership-sharing plan will be developed with significant input from the Co-Chair-elect and Vice-Chairs-elect and other members of the SLG. This plan will provide additional details regarding the relative roles and responsibilities and transition goals for the initial two years of the MPI LOC grant and the timing of Dr. Nachman's transition to an advisor. Unless otherwise determined by the SLG in consultation with NIAID, the other Co-Chair is expected to become the sole Network Chair/LOC PI after Dr. Nachman transitions to an advisory role.