



31 October 2024

Dear IMPAACT Colleagues,

The IMPAACT Scientific Leadership Group (SLG) in collaboration with the Chair and Vice Chair of the IMPAACT HIV Cure and Immunotherapy Scientific Committee (SC) are soliciting members to expand and revise research priorities and align expertise within each of the key research areas of the Network. The current expectation is that several new members will be invited to join the committee; however, the SC Chairs in collaboration with the SLG will propose a slate of new members to complement current membership expertise. Note that the current solicitation is for the HIV Cure and Immunotherapy SC (other SCs expanded their membership earlier this year).

IMPAACT SCs convene by conference call once a month to discuss priorities and plans for the future and may convene in-person once or twice per year, including during the annual network meeting. In addition to attending the conference calls, SC members are expected to periodically review study concept sheets that are proposed to the committee. SC members are not remunerated. They may or may not otherwise be members of the network, e.g., affiliated with a network site. Members are selected by the SC Chair and Vice Chair, with final confirmation by the Network leadership. Further details on the Network organization can be found in the [IMPAACT Network Manual of Procedures \(MOP\)](#), in particular, Section 2, Network Groups.

The IMPAACT HIV Cure and Immunotherapy Scientific Committee is seeking additional members with expertise in HIV virology and immunology, HIV reservoirs, innovative immunotherapies, and non-HIV vaccines and immunotherapies for pathogens that are high priority for infants, children, and adolescents as well as pregnant and postpartum people who are impacted by or living with HIV.

HIV Cure and Immunotherapy (previously, HIV Cure)

Chair and Vice Chair: Debbie Persaud and Betsy McFarland

Updated Scientific Aim:

Evaluate the potential for ART-free HIV remission through therapeutic interventions aimed at prevention, clearance and post-treatment control of HIV reservoirs in infants, children and adolescents with HIV and leverage expertise for evaluation of vaccines for HIV and related/cooccurring conditions among infants, children, and adolescents, as well as among pregnant and postpartum people.

Includes the following research priorities:

- Evaluate whether very early therapy with more potent ART, in combination with bNAbs, limits HIV reservoir establishment in infants and leads to ART-free remission
- Evaluate immune-based therapies, including therapeutic HIV vaccines and bNAbs, in children and adolescents with HIV
- Examine combined initial therapy with ARVs plus immunotherapies, with and without LRAs, in adolescents and young adults to rapidly induce virologic control and potentiate elicitation of a “vaccinal effect” mediated through antigen-antibody immune complexes
- Examine the role of the CNS and T follicular helper CD4+ T cells as sanctuary sites following perinatal HIV infection and develop studies to explore elimination of HIV reservoirs within these anatomic locations



- Identify optimal virologic and immunological biomarkers to detect and quantify HIV reservoirs, and predictors of reservoir size and time to viremic rebound
- Evaluate vaccines in the pipeline against priority pathogens for IMPAACT populations

[Learn more](#) about the current portfolio and prior research from the HIV Cure and Immunotherapy Scientific Committee.

If you would like to be considered for this solicitation, please send your CV or NIH biographical sketch, a personal statement of why you would like to serve on the HIV Cure and Immunology SC, and a brief description (1-2 pages) of your relevant expertise and experience. The application should be submitted by email to IMPAACTops@fhi360.org by [three weeks from issuance: Monday, 18 November 2024.

Please share this solicitation with colleagues outside of the network who may be interested in applying. We look forward to expanding the committees to more closely align with updated Network priorities and are grateful for your interest and willingness to participate.

Sincerely,

Sharon Nachman, MD
IMPAACT Network Chair

Pat Flynn, MD
IMPAACT Network Vice Chair

Philippa Musoke, MBChB, PhD
IMPAACT Network Vice Chair