



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

August 2026

INTRODUCING TODAY'S HOPE





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 3 - Introducing Today's Hope

Page 5 - Tennessee CFAR Events

Page 8 - Other Events

Page 9 - Recent CFAR Studies

Page 12 - June HIV Awareness Days

Page 13 - Opportunities To Enroll Into Research Studies





Today's Hope, formerly known as **Street Works**, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been serving the Nashville community since 1997. We provide free, confidential HIV testing, harmful habit prevention, and supportive case management. Today's Hope deeply enriches the Nashville community by providing vital support to those facing various challenges. As a bright beacon of hope, it fosters dignity and resilience through primary prevention strategies, encouraging everyone to come together with strength and compassion.

The **SPF Rx Program** in Nashville, Tennessee, is funded by the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** as part of a national effort to address prescription drug misuse, particularly opioids. Launched by SAMHSA in 2016, the SPF Rx initiative supports states, tribes, and communities in preventing prescription drug misuse through the **Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)**.

Our **Medical Case Management Program** provides ongoing, personalized support for individuals living with HIV, addressing both medical and housing needs.

We're here to help you:

- Stay on track with your medical care and medication regimens.
- Receive one-on-one case management tailored to your individual goals.
- Access psychosocial and peer support services to promote holistic wellness.

This comprehensive approach ensures you are supported medically, emotionally, and socially every step of the way.

Supported by the **Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council**, the **Opioid Prevention Program (OPP)** responds to the opioid crisis with urgency, education, and heart.

Through OPP, Today's Hope works to raise awareness about opioid risks and misuse by providing evidence-based education to individuals and families. Our goal is to empower Nashville's most vulnerable communities to make informed choices and build healthier futures with confidence and support.

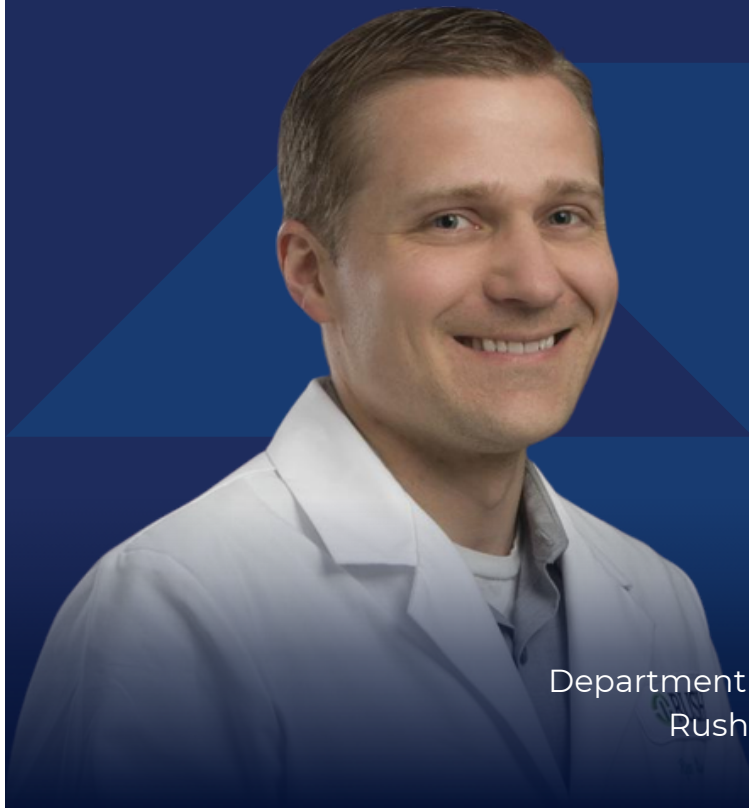


TENNESSEE CFAR **EVENTS**

CFAR-Wide Seminar Series presented by Tennessee CFAR

Bone and Joint Health in People Aging with HIV

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM CST



[Scan to Register](#)

Ryan Ross, PhD

Associate Professor

Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

Rush University Medical Center



tn-cfar.org

TENNESSEE CFAR **EVENTS**

Tennessee CFAR | Implementation Science Core Seminar Series

Building Climate Resilient HIV Care Systems: Perceptions from Eight Southern Priority Jurisdictions

Wednesday, Aug 19th, 2026 | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm CST



[Scan to Join](#)



L. Lauren Brown, PhD, LCSW

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Infectious Diseases & Department of Health Policy

Vanderbilt University Medical Center



tn-cfar.org

TENNESSEE CFAR **EVENTS**

Inter-CFAR Faith & Spirituality Research Collaborative
Monthly Working Group Meeting

Addressing a Gap in Community-engaged Research: Reporting Results of Congregations' Implementation Capacity Assessment to Research Participants

Thursday, Aug 20th, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST

SPEAKER:



LEAH R ALEXANDER, PHD MPH

SPEAKER:



JEMAL GISHE, PHD



[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 249 764 264 720
Passcode: Sr2Bp9TH



Sponsored in part by:



EXTERNAL EVENTS



24TH



FREE UNITY MARKET & DAY PARTY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026 / THE FORUM: 705 RIVERGATE PARKWAY, 37072



Join us for our 24th annual in-door gathering!

**Small Businesses, Crafters, Retail, Cultural Merchandise,
Specialty Products, Body & Beauty, Fashion & More!**

VENDOR FEES:

\$50 Non-Profit/Individual - Information/Distribution only

\$75 For Profit Business - Information Only (non-food)

\$100 Sales Non-Profit (non-food)

\$125 Sales For Profit Business



nashvilleblackpride.org/vendors



RECENT FINDINGS & DISCOVERIES

Our CFAR researchers are all kinds of HIV experts like physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, epidemiologists, mathematicians, community members, and scientists. We study a range of HIV topics spanning all the way from how cells and the virus work to how communities can improve their support for people living with HIV.



IMPORTANT and THANK YOU!

Our work isn't possible without our volunteers: People living with HIV throughout Tennessee. THANK YOU to our research participants and community advisors. We appreciate you.

Mpox

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39377755/>

This study examined mpox in nearly 20,000 people living with HIV across the United States and found that those who were not taking HIV medications, had uncontrolled HIV, or had recent sexually transmitted infections were at greater risk of getting mpox and being hospitalized. The researchers also found that the mpox vaccine was highly effective at preventing infection and severe illness, including among people with weakened immune systems. However, some groups, particularly Black people living with HIV, were less likely to receive the vaccine. The authors conclude that increasing vaccine access and prioritizing people with uncontrolled HIV or low CD4 counts could help reduce serious mpox related illness and hospitalization.

Transition from adolescent to adult HIV care

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40608026/>

Young people living with HIV often face challenges when moving from pediatric healthcare to adult healthcare. This review looked at studies from around the world and found that many young people are not fully prepared for this transition, which can lead to gaps in medical care and difficulty controlling their HIV. Researchers reviewed nearly 100 studies and found that common barriers include limited support, stigma, and difficulty managing healthcare independently. Several programs showed promise in helping young people transition successfully, including life-skills training, youth-friendly clinics, and mobile health tools. The authors conclude that more research is needed to determine which approaches work best and to improve long-term outcomes for young people living with HIV.

Implementing social media strategies in HIV research

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40929715/>

This article describes how social media is being used to address the HIV epidemic and why strong collaboration with community partners is essential for these strategies to work well. The researchers reviewed factors that helped or hindered the use of social media in HIV research and organized their findings into five key considerations: social media platforms offer both opportunities and challenges, the choice of messengers and types of messages is critical, the broader sociopolitical environment influences implementation, strong academic-

community partnerships are necessary, and institutional systems need to align with research goals. Community-engaged social media helps in HIV research to strengthen prevention and support progress.

CMV and Inflammation and Aging

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41860720/>

Cytomegalovirus (CMV), a common virus, may contribute to long-term inflammation and faster aging in people living with HIV even when HIV is well controlled with antiretroviral therapy. CMV can keep the immune system constantly activated, leading to changes in immune function, inflammation, and disruptions in metabolism. These effects are linked to a higher risk of conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, frailty, and other age-related illnesses. Researchers noted early evidence that antiviral medications like Letemovir may reduce inflammation and improve health outcomes by controlling the CMV. Additionally, CMV vaccines are also being studied. Overall, CMV may be an important factor in aging and chronic disease in people living with HIV and could be a target for future therapies

AUGUST HIV AWARENESS DAYS

Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day #SHAAD



Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (SHAAD) is August 20. Founded by the Southern AIDS Coalition, SHAAD is a day that individuals, communities, and organizations can unite to call attention to the number of people living with HIV in the South. SHAAD is an opportunity to provide people in the South with HIV testing and linkage to HIV medical care if necessary, education on HIV prevention, and other HIV-related care resources.

Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day #SHAAD



National Faith HIV & AIDS Awareness DayExit Disclaimer (NFHAAD) is observed on the last Sunday of August. NFHAAD is a day to engage faith communities to work together for HIV/AIDS education, prevention, treatment, care, and support, and to reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination.

Faith communities are encouraged to learn about the status of HIV funding in their state, nationally, and internationally, and take action to sustain and increase HIV prevention, treatment, and care services for all who require them. Faith communities are fighting for freedom and fairness together each year until there is a cure!

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENROLL INTO RESEARCH STUDIES

Local CFAR investigators lead studies to improve the lives of people living with HIV, to protect people from acquiring HIV, and other important issues.

Studies are looking for:

- age 18-29 years, receiving HIV care in Tennessee
- peri or postmenopausal women with HIV and hot flashes
- people living with HIV who drink alcohol, to study treatment
- people living with or without HIV, to study gum disease
- Black or multiracial women who are sexually active
- people living with HIV who regularly drink alcohol
- people without HIV, to find a vaccine against HIV
- men without HIV, to study long-acting PrEP to prevent HIV

Studies typically provide compensation to participants.

If you know of studies that we missed, please let us know at: tn-cfar@vumc.org



YOUR STORY.

YOUR JOURNEY.

YOUR HEALTH.

ARE YOU

18-29 YEARS
OLD
AND LIVING WITH
HIV?

**DO YOU LIVE OR
RECEIVE CARE IN TN?**

**JOIN A
VIRTUAL STUDY**

TO HELP US UNDERSTAND
HOW MOVES, LIFE CHANGES,
AND THE PLACES YOU GO
SHAPE YOUR HIV CARE.

EARN UP TO \$480.

For more information:
Scan the QR code or call or text
(615) 920-3930



 **Massachusetts General Hospital**
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

 **VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY**

Are you experiencing **hot flashes** or **night sweats**?

You may be eligible to participate in a study!

We are testing an investigational menopausal hormone therapy for hot flashes, night sweats, and other symptoms

We are looking for study participants who are:

- Women living with HIV
- Aged 40–60
- Perimenopausal or postmenopausal
- Experiencing hot flashes or night sweats



The study lasts up to 5 months. Menopausal hormone therapy consists of a transdermal estradiol gel (to be rubbed on skin) and a progesterone pill.

Total Compensation for completing the study is up to \$775.

Interested? Reach us at: **Call (615) 294-3733**





GLIDER GLP-1 Study

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Seeking volunteers for a study testing the effects of a GLP-1 medication on alcohol intake.

You may be eligible if you:

- ✓ Have HIV
- ✓ Drink alcohol
- ✓ Are 18 or older

Study Details:

- Take GLP-1 or placebo for 3 months
- Attend 3 in-person visits at VCCC
- Complete surveys
- Provide blood and stool samples
- Compensation up to \$375
- Participation lasts 6 months

**Scan the QR code to
see if you are eligible
for this study!**



GET IN TOUCH



One Hundred Oaks
719 Thompson Ln, Suite 37189
Nashville, TN 37204

Date of IRB Approval: 03/25/2026

✉ GLIDERStudy@vumc.org

🌐 redcap.link/GL1DER

☎ (615) 421-8235

Approved by Meharry IRB
Expires on 10/13/2026

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Volunteers needed for research project:

Effect of dental care treatment on gum disease with and without HIV

The purpose of the study is to determine the best way to
remove bad bacteria from the mouth and provide better
dental treatment

Who Is Eligible To Participate?

-Adults that are not pregnant, with or without gum disease

Participants will receive \$50 for each visit

(5 visits): total \$250

Interested?
Scan QR Code

Complete short survey,
and the research team will
contact you



If you have questions, please contact

India Menefield, BS
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Dr. Ethel Harris, DDS, MPH, FACD
Ph: 615-327-5782
Email: eharris@mmc.edu

Are you a Black woman living in Middle Tennessee?

Researchers at Vanderbilt University Medical Center are exploring HIV prevention among Black women in Middle Tennessee. Participation includes one brief survey and a one-time interview at a time chosen by you.

We would love to hear from you if:

- You are aged 18 years and over
- You are a woman
- You are Black, including multi-racial
- You are or have been sexually active with a man in the past year

Participants are compensated with up to \$50 in e-gift cards for their time and contribution to better understanding preventing HIV in our community.

If you are interested in participating, scan the QR code below for more information!



Date of IRB Approval: 10/14/2025





**META
HIV CVD**

IF YOU HAVE HIV, THIS STUDY MAY BE FOR YOU!

MICROBIOME, METABOLITES, AND ALCOHOL IN HIV TO REDUCE CVD



We're looking for adults ages 18 and older who drink alcohol regularly, are HIV+, and take antiretroviral therapy. We want to see whether taking a supplement called a probiotic can help with some of the gut-related health problems related to alcohol use and HIV.



Participants will be asked to:

- Come to 5 study visits at Vanderbilt over 1 year
- Complete study phone calls about once a month
- Have their blood drawn
- Provide stool samples

Total compensation for
completing the entire
study is \$675

Take our survey to see if you are eligible!

<https://redcap.link/metastudy>

HIV VACCINE STUDIES, TO DISCOVER A VACCINE THAT PROTECTS PEOPLE FROM ACQUIRING HIV



In the United States HIV disproportionately affects certain groups and populations; however, HIV can affect anyone. Worldwide there are currently over 40 million people living with HIV. That number is growing.

The Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine Program is looking for healthy adults (ages 18-55) from all walks of life who are not living with HIV to participate in an HIV prevention study.

You cannot get HIV from participating in the study.

Volunteers must be available locally for approximately 12 months. Volunteers will be compensated. You can help fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic

.

Call 615-936-7327 or email vic.sorrell@vumc.org for more information.

In order to develop HIV prevention methods that will work for everyone, we need help from everyone!

ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT OUR PROGRAM.

EXPiRESSIVE

OUR STUDY

- HIV prevention research
- One daily vs. one monthly pill for two years
- Monthly visits
- Compensation for each visit
- Your protection is always our priority

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



CONTACT

- **Principal Investigator :**
 - Dr. Vladimir Berthaud
- **Research Staff | 615-327-6353**

Clinical Research Team, 4th Floor, Old Hospital Building



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Thank you to **Jackson Anderson of *Todays Hope*, Jarissa E. Greenard, M.A. Ed, and Latrice C. Pichon, PhD, MPH, CHES** for collaborating with us on this issue of the Tennessee CFAR Community newsletter. Your contributions and insights have enriched our content and helped us highlight the incredible work being done across our community. We are grateful for your support and dedication to advancing research and education.

Contact Us!

Website tn-cfar.org

Email tn-cfar@vumc.org

Social Media   

**Donate to the
Tennessee CFAR**

