

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2026



**CONGRATULATING DR. KELLY DOOLEY:
ADVANCING HIV AND TB CARE THROUGH
RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP**



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CONGRATULATING DR. KELLY DOOLEY: ADVANCING HIV AND TB CARE THROUGH RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP

After four years of leadership at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Dr. Kelly Dooley, Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, is leaving Vanderbilt to become Chair of the Department of Medicine at Brown University.

Dr. Dooley is an internationally recognized physician-scientist whose career has focused on improving treatment for tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, particularly for people living with both conditions. She is also a dedicated clinician, mentor, and advocate for ensuring that advances in medical research reach the people and communities that need them. Her departure marks an important transition for Vanderbilt, but also provides an opportunity to recognize the impact her research has had on the lives of people with HIV in the United States and around the world.

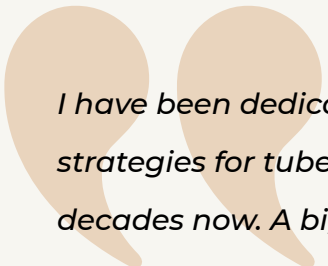
TB remains one of the world's leading infectious disease threats and is especially dangerous for people with HIV. Treating both infections at the same time can be challenging because medications used for TB can change how HIV medications are processed by the body. This can cause HIV drug levels to become too low to work effectively or, in some cases, increase the risk of side effects. Much of Dr. Dooley's research has focused on solving these practical problems. Through carefully designed clinical studies, she and her collaborators have determined how important HIV and TB medications can be used safely together. Her work has helped transform complicated questions about drug interactions into clear

treatment recommendations that clinicians can use when caring for people with HIV and TB.

Among Dr. Dooley's most influential contributions was her leadership of the INSPIRING trial, which studied how the widely used HIV medication dolutegravir could be given with rifampicin, a cornerstone of TB treatment. The study showed that dolutegravir could be used effectively during rifampicin-based TB therapy when its dose was appropriately adjusted. These findings helped shape recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and influenced global HIV treatment programs supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). More recently, the INSIGHT trial addressed a similar challenge involving the commonly prescribed combination of bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide. The study demonstrated a way to use this highly effective HIV treatment alongside rifampicin-based TB therapy, potentially expanding treatment options for people with both infections.

Dr. Dooley has also played an important role in making TB prevention simpler for people with HIV. She led the DOLPHIN trial, which studied a shorter TB prevention regimen known as "3HP"—just three months of once-weekly rifapentine and isoniazid—in people receiving dolutegravir-based HIV treatment. The findings helped support WHO recommendations for broader use of this shorter and more convenient approach. Importantly, this work did not end with the original trial. Dr. Dooley mentored investigators who extended the research to children and pregnant women through the DOLPHIN-KIDS and DOLPHIN-MOMS studies, helping address populations that have historically been underrepresented in clinical research.

Dr. Dooley's accomplishments extend well beyond individual studies. She has authored more than 200 scientific publications, led numerous federally funded research projects, held leadership roles in international HIV and TB research networks, and advised the WHO. She was inducted into the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 2019 and serves on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. During her time at Vanderbilt, she has combined this international scientific leadership with clinical care, mentorship, and leadership of the Division of Infectious Diseases. As Dr. Dooley moves to Brown University, the HIV community can celebrate a career that demonstrates what patient-centered research can accomplish: identifying barriers to effective treatment, finding practical solutions, and turning scientific discoveries into better and more accessible care for people with HIV.



I have been dedicated to developing better preventative and therapeutic strategies for tuberculosis, the #1 cause of death among people with HIV, for decades now. A big part of that work has been ensuring that new treatments for HIV or TB can be used together, so that people with HIV can benefit from novel TB therapeutics and vice versa. Being at Vanderbilt has been a treat. I am grateful for the welcome and partnership of Dr. Tim Sterling, my first research mentor when I was a resident at Johns Hopkins and a cherished, able leader of Vanderbilt's Center for TB Research. I remain in awe of the Tennessee CFAR's strong leadership, commitment to the underserved, scientific accomplishments, and broad range of talent across the four institutions that comprise it. Thank you for having included me in the Tennessee CFAR family. I will miss y'all.

- Kelly E. Dooley, MD, PhD, MPH

TENNESSEE CFAR **EVENTS**

Tennessee CFAR | Implementation Science Core Seminar Series

Fidelity vs. Flexibility: Navigating Adaptation of Evidence-Based Interventions in Implementation Science

Wednesday, Sept 16th, 2026 | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm CST



Marie-Claude Lavoie, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health
University of Maryland, School of Medicine

[Register](#)



tn-cfar.org

TENNESSEE CFAR **EVENTS**

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

Lesson Learned from Engaging Faith Leaders in Clinical Trials Design and Implementation

Thursday, Sept 17th, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST

SPEAKER:



ONYEMA OGBUAGU MD FACP FIDSA



Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 249 764 264 720
Passcode: Sr2Bp9TH



Sponsored in part by:



EXTERNAL **EVENTS**

SAVE THE DATE

SEPT 26

TWENTY TWENTY-SIX



The 34th Nashville AIDS Walk & 5K Run

Neuhoff District · 8:30am

nashvilleaidswalk.com

EXTERNAL EVENTS



PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS: ADVANCING HIV PREVENTION AND CARE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
5069 SANDERLIN AVE
MEMPHIS, TN 38117**

8:00AM-3:30PM



EVENT TOPICS

- PrEP & DoxyPEP Guidelines ✓
- Motivational Interviewing ✓
- Retention & Linkage to Care ✓

In-Person Training Event

5.5 CE Credits Available via SEAETC

For More Information Contact:
qunisha.sanders@vumc.org
sherry.stephensgibson@vumc.org
elizabeth.propst@stjude.org

REGISTER HERE:



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.

Early Detection of Impaired Muscle Function and Frailty in People with HIV

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40478905/>

This study looked at muscle health in men living with HIV who had been taking ART for a long time. Researchers wanted to find out whether tiny molecules in blood, called acylcarnitines, were linked to fat buildup in skeletal muscles. They looked at CT scans and blood samples from 160 men with HIV. The results showed that several acylcarnitines were associated with lower muscle density, suggesting that the muscles were not using fatty acids efficiently for energy. This means that measuring the amount of acylcarnitines in the blood might be a useful way to identify early muscle damage and metabolic problems in people

with HIV. This could help researchers develop future treatments to improve muscle health and reduce complications related to HIV.

Atrial fibrillation in Minority Groups Living with HIV

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41151252/>

This study looked at how often atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter, types of heart rhythm problems, developed in people with HIV who are racial and ethnic minorities. Researchers looked at health records from more than 11,000 people between 2015 and 2019. They found that older age, diabetes, heart failure, severe kidney disease, and certain HIV medications were linked to a higher risk of developing an abnormal heart rhythm. Even though atrial fibrillation wasn't common, the risk increased over time being diagnosed with HIV. The study also found that fewer than half of the people who qualified for blood-thinning medication to help prevent stroke actually received a prescription. These findings show the need for better screening and treatment to reduce heart disease and stroke risk in people with HIV.

Flu Vaccines in Older Adults

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41998201/>

This study looked at how the immune systems of older and younger adults respond to the flu shot. Researchers compared adults 65 and older to adults less than 45. They found that older adults produced similar levels of antibodies as younger adults after vaccination. However, older adults had fewer immune cells that help fight viruses and support a strong immune response. They also found changes in the activity of certain immune cells that may weaken the body's

ability to protect against the flu. These findings suggest that future influenza vaccines should be designed to improve both antibody and immune responses in older adults.

Body Fat Changes and Muscle Health Over Time in People with HIV

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40528404/>

This study explored how fat under the skin (also called “subcutaneous fat”) may affect muscle health in people living with HIV who were taking long-term HIV treatment. Researchers followed 40 participants for about three years and used CT scans and gene testing to track changes in their muscles and fat tissue. They found that as fat built up in the muscles, participants also had more belly fat and more fat in the liver. The researchers also found that certain genes in subcutaneous fat were linked to changes in muscle size and muscle quality over time. This suggests that treatments to improve immune function and fat metabolism may help slow muscle fat buildup and muscle loss in people living with HIV. Special shout out to our awesome research participants who donated fat and blood for the study!

SEPT HIV AWARENESS DAYS

National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV and Hepatitis Awareness Day



September 9th is National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness Day (NAIRHHA Day). Founded by advocates in Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., and New York, NAIRHHA Day has been observed annually on September 9th by communities, advocates,

healthcare professionals, government officials, and other stakeholders since 2014. The purpose of NAIRHHA Day is to bring national and local attention to the HIV and viral hepatitis needs of African immigrants living in the U.S. in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

SEPT HIV AWARENESS DAYS

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

#HIVandAging



Led by the AIDS InstituteExit Disclaimer, National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAD) is observed each year on September 18 to focus on the increasing number of people who, because of major advancements in HIV treatment, are living long, full lives with HIV. The awareness day also calls attention

to the unique health and social needs, as well as the challenges of HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care among people who are aging.

More than half of people living with diagnosed HIV in the United States and dependent areas are aged 50 and older. Some were diagnosed later in life, while others have lived with HIV for many years. Support services are available through health care providers, local community centers, or HIV service organizations. Use the HIV Services Locator to find services near you.

SEPT HIV AWARENESS DAYS

National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day #NGMHAAD



National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NGMHAAD), first observed in 2008, raises awareness of HIV's disproportionate impact on gay and bisexual men and encourages testing, prevention, treatment, and efforts to reduce HIV-related stigma.

In 2022, gay and bisexual men accounted for 67% of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. and dependent areas (CDC). Disparities are greatest among Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men, and young men aged 13–24 are more likely to be unaware of their status. Racism, discrimination, and stigma contribute to these inequities.

The NIH HIV research program supports studies to understand and reduce disparities based on sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and age, and to improve access to testing, prevention, treatment, and adherence support.

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. Alexys Ferguson, DDS
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Email: afkelly@mmc.edu

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.

EXPRESSIVE

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



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Thank you to everyone who collaborated 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**

