CTN+ Fall Meeting: Prevention and Testing Think Tank Breakout Session

September 18, 2025

CIHR Pan-Canadian Network for HIV and STBBI Clinical Trials Research

Réseau pancanadien pour des essais cliniques sur le VIH et autres ITSS

Think Tank Mandate

The overall mandate of the CTN+ Think Tanks

- Identify strategic scientific priorities of the network and support trial development to address them;
- Collaborate with other networks, within and outside Canada, on shared areas of interest; and
- Prioritize and develop network-wide studies that address key knowledge gaps and unmet needs (Flagship Trials).

Areas of Focus

Prevention and Testing: Developing and evaluating new interventions and novel implementation strategies to test for, and prevent, STBBIs, including HIV.

Treatment and Management: Optimizing treatment and management strategies for people living, and aging, with HIV and STBBIs

Cure and Immunotherapies: Developing and testing targeted immunotherapies and therapeutic vaccines, which directly or indirectly decrease the size of viral reservoirs to find cures for HIV and HBV.

Methods: Ensuring clinical trials are well-designed, address priority research questions, are inclusive of diverse participants and have adequate statistical power to produce actionable evidence benefiting local and global health.

Question for Discussion

- What are the top 2 priorities for Flagship Trials in your Think Tank area of focus in the next 18 months?

Top Priorities for CTN+ Flagship Trials?

Doxy for STI Prophylaxis in Cisgender Women

- Led by DISCO team
- Addresses a global gap in knowledge
- Pilot trial evaluating doxycycline strategies (PEP/PrEP) for cisgender women
- Sets stage for a future, large-scale trial; dovetail/synchronized with other global research groups studying this.

Bio-Behavioural Trials

- Although there have been recent advances in biomedical prevention interventions for HIV/STBBIs, has the focus been lost on concomitant and complementary behavioural interventions to optimize uptake and coverage?
- E.g., Education interventions or motivation enhancement counselling; Screening for PTSD, anxiety and depression at testing sites; Offering virtual treatment for PTSD, anxiety and depression

Summary

Top 2 Flagship Ideas

	Flagship Trial Idea	Infection (HIV,HBV, HCV, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea)	Priority Population	Potential Collaborators -Community -Methods -Scientists	Key Regional Teams	Key Question(s) -local, domestic, international relevance
1	Doxy PEP in Women	Bacterial STIs – syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea	Cisgender women	• Women-serving CBOs • Clinics	BC, Ontario, Quebec	1. Rural population 2. Trans inclusivity 3. Collaboration with ACB-serving clinics and CBOs
2	Behavioural Study 1. Reducing vaccine hesitancy 2. Screening for mental health based risk factors (e.g., PTSD) 3. Virtual treatment for mental health conditions 4. Motivational interviewing to promote STBBI prevention	Varies by study	Any	• Mental health clinics and providers • CBOs with a broad health mandate (e.g., Health Initiative for Men (HIM), Women's Health In Women's Hands)	Any	1. Reaching mental health partners 2. Feasibility of the intervention, especially after study completion

Thank you

Questions? Email prevention@thectn.ca

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