



USC

Improving Smoking Cessation Interventions among People Living with HIV (PWH): An Initiative of the US National Cancer Institute

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Background

- While advances in HIV treatment have contributed to longer lifespans, many people with HIV (PWH) in LMICs are now facing a rise in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cancer and heart disease.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among PWH on antiretroviral therapy. It is estimated that life expectancy among HIV-positive smokers is reduced by at least 16 years compared with HIV-positive nonsmokers, and that 94% of lung cancer diagnoses among PWH could potentially be prevented by eliminating cigarette smoking in this population.
- Evidence to guide the care of HIV-positive smokers is lacking. Few randomized clinical trials had rigorously and systematically tested evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions among PWH, and few studies have addressed patient-level, provider-level, and systems-or contextual-level barriers to successful smoking cessation among PWH.



Funding Opportunities

- To reach the long-term goal of reducing cigarette smoking rates among PWH, NCI funds research to assess existing evidence-based smoking cessation interventions and/or to develop and test adaptations of evidence-based smoking cessation interventions, focusing on the unique barriers to cessation in this population.
- In 2019, NCI began by awarding six US-focused grants under the RFAs Improving Smoking Cessation Interventions among People Living with HIV. A second issuance of the RFAs was released in 2021 and an additional four grants were awarded. Globally, NCI has awarded grants through two PARs (R01/R21) focused on Tobacco Use and HIV in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
- In 2020, NCI published an RFA on Tobacco Use and HIV in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. The goal of the RFA is to bring together transdisciplinary teams of investigators to adapt interventions developed and tested in other challenging settings or low-resource populations and to test their robustness among PWH in LMICs. The RFA uses a U01 cooperative agreement mechanism to facilitate coordination and collaboration across funded projects.



Funded U01 Projects in Africa

- Integrating Tobacco Use Cessation into Family AIDS Care and Education Services (FACES) in Kisumu, Kenya (PI: Stella Bialous, University of California, San Francisco / Francesca Odhiambo, Kenya Medical Research Institute)
- Testing the Combination of Behavioral Activation and Problem Solving as a Novel Behavioral Smoking Cessation Intervention for Smokers with HIV in Botswana (Robert Gross/Robert Schnoll, University of Pennsylvania / Billy Tsimba, University of Botswana)
- Optimizing smoking cessation interventions for PLWH in Nairobi, Kenya (Seth Himelhoch, University of Chicago, Jonathan Shuter, University of Kentucky / S.A Ojoo, Kenya Medical Research Institute)
- Evaluating smoking cessation interventions for PWH in South Africa: Efficacy, implementation, and cost-effectiveness (Jonathan Golub, Johns Hopkins University / Neil Martinson, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, Soweto)
- Quit4Life+: Adapting and Evaluating a Phone-Based Tobacco Use Cessation Program for People Living with HIV in Uganda and Zambia (Heather Wipfli, University of Southern California/ Jim Arinaitwe, Makerere University, Fastone Goma, University of Zambia)



Shared U01 Resources

- Share and discuss implementation challenges
- Share tools and procurement experiences
- Shared adapted materials and message repositories
- Share results and lessons learned
- Facilitated through web portal and grantee meetings



Associated Opportunities

- Supplements on HIV and Cancer Intersecting Stigmas, Dissemination and Implementation Science on HIV and Cancer Control in Low-Resource Environments, Obesity for Cancer Prevention and Control
- Additional Funding Opportunities:
 - RFA-CA-23-033: Implementation Science for Cancer Control in People Living with HIV in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (U01 Clinical Trial Optional) (expired)
 - Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Dissemination and Implementation Science for Cancer Prevention and Control in Low Resource Environments (Due Oct 5)
 - RFA-CA-25-011: The Confluence of Cancer Stigma and HIV Stigma in HIV-positive Individuals Diagnosed with Cancer (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)





Thank you!

For More Information:

<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/tobacco-hiv>

