



The Pitt Men's Study

News and Notes

Winter 2016

SPBP to Cover Costs of Hep C Meds for Uninsured PA Residents with Hep C and HIV

The Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP) is implementing a pilot program offering no-cost coverage of hepatitis C antiviral medications for individuals with a dual diagnosis of HIV and hepatitis C.

The \$13 million, six-month program will be made available to hundreds of low-income Pennsylvanians with both hepatitis C and HIV and is funded through additional pharmaceutical liability recoveries made by the Department of Aging's Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly program (PACE), which offers low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older.

The SPBP is Pennsylvania's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which is funded by a federal grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part B Program. The SPBP plays a vital role in providing access to medications for people living with HIV, including those with hepatitis C co-infection. The program serves low to moderate income individuals who are underinsured or uninsured and have a diagnosis of HIV. Individuals

eligible for or enrolled in other prescription plans must utilize those benefits prior to SPBP.

For a full list of the medications, the approval criteria, request form and additional details, please go to the SPBP website at: www.health.pa.gov/spbp. For more information about the PACE program, call 1-800-225-7223.



Study Finds PrEP Effective

A new study has found zero new HIV infections among a group of people on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Researchers at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco tracked the health of over 600 people as they used Truvada daily for 32 months to prevent the virus in a real-world setting.

The average age of the study participants was 37, and 99 percent were men who have sex with men. Members of this group also reported a higher likelihood of having multiple sex partners than those not using PrEP. Again, no one in the study contracted HIV. Lead author Dr. Jonathan Volk emphasized that this is the first time such a study has been done in a clinical practice setting at this size. The findings were published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

The medical staff at the Pitt Men's Study emphasize that PrEP is not a substitute for condoms. It should be used in addition to condoms, to further reduce your risk. It is also important to note that PrEP doesn't protect against other STDs like syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea.

To learn more about PrEP, check out the CDC's Website. If you have questions about PrEP, you can speak to your doctor. You can also call the PrEP clinic at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center: (412) 647-0996.

The Pitt Men's Study

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Pitt Men's Study Co-Investigator to be Honored with Kerry Stoner Award



Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force announced that it will present the University of Pittsburgh's Dr. Anthony Silvestre with the Kerry Stoner Award at its 30th Annual Benefit at WQED's Studios on Fifth on Thursday, April 14, 2016. The Kerry Stoner Award is presented annually to honor a person who has, through a longtime dedication to Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force's mission, shown commitment to Kerry Stoner's legacy and vision. Stoner, a tireless HIV/AIDS activist who died of complications from AIDS in 1993, was a founder and the first executive director of PATF.

Dr. Anthony Silvestre has been a staple in the HIV community, with involvement in LGBT health and HIV prevention service and research since 1984. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh, and teaches courses in human diversity and public health. He is the director of the Center for Mindful Meditation.

Silvestre has been an integral member of the Pitt Men's Study since the late 80's, and was involved in the creation of the study's first community advisory board that would then lead to the creation of Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force in 1985. To date, Silvestre has recruited an impressive 4,000 individuals from the gay and bisexual communities in Pittsburgh to engage in investigative research at the local Pitt Men's Study site. He is also actively engaged in the HIV Prevention and Care Project, along with the Center for LGBT Wellness. Through prevention planning and implementation, he has dedicated much of his professional career to being a facilitator of change within socially marginalized communities, particularly those of racial/ethnic and sexual minorities. His involvement in the LGBT community extends nationally, advocating for services devoted to HIV, mental health, and youth.

This year's event at WQED's Studios on Fifth begins at 7:30 p.m. and features hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music, and the Kerry Stoner award presentation. Both VIP and general admission tickets will be available for purchase at www.patf.org or by calling 412-345-0593.

So Long, Nat!

By the time you read this newsletter, research assistant Nathaniel Soltesz will no longer be working at the Pitt Men's Study. Nat, who has worked here for nine years, will be moving to the country to take some time off and focus on his side gig as a freelance writer. His most recent book of fiction, *College Dive Bar, 1 AM*, was published in July from Go Deeper Press. Nat's first book, *Backwoods*, was a 2011 Lambda Literary Award finalist.

He is grateful for the opportunity to have worked with all of you, the dedicated Pitt Men's Study volunteers. "It has meant a lot to me to be a part of this study," Nat said. "I'm grateful that for the past nine years I've had a job I could take pride in."

Syphilis Still On the Rise in PA



Pennsylvania is still experiencing an alarming increase in syphilis cases, primarily among men who have sex with men (MSM). Over the last 5 years, Pennsylvania's MSM community has experienced an 85% increase in syphilis infections. MSM represented approximately 65% of all new syphilis cases reported in the state.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. If it goes untreated, it can lead to serious health problems including paralysis, blindness, and dementia. In the late stages, the disease can damage internal organs and can result in death. In its early stages, syphilis is 100% curable with simple antibiotics. You can get syphilis and not have any symptoms, so the only way to know you're infected is to get a simple blood test.

As a result of the increase in syphilis cases, the Pennsylvania Department of Health recommends that all sexually active MSM get a routine syphilis test every 6 months. Several locations around the state have free syphilis testing, click on this link to find testing near you: hivtest.cdc.gov. To find out more about Syphilis, go to www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stdfact-syphilis.htm

*This and the PrEP article on page 1 were originally distributed via our **Health Alert** email list. Individuals interested in subscribing to the service can send an email to PMS@stophiv.pitt.edu with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Members can unsubscribe at any time, and email addresses are kept private and confidential.*

Pittsburgh LGBTQ Resources

Presented by the Pitt Men's Study, from our LGBTQ Pittsburgh resources page. Visit <https://lgbtqpgh.com/> for this list and more.

Bars, Clubs and Restaurants

- **5801 Video Lounge & Cafe**, Shadyside – 5801 Ellsworth Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 661-5600
- **941 Saloon**, Downtown – 941 Liberty Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 281-5222
- **Blue Moon**, Lawrenceville – 5115 Butler St, Pgh PA, (412) 781-1119
- **Brewer's Hotel/Bar**, Strip District – 3315 Liberty Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 681-7991
- **Capri Bar**, Shadyside – 6001 Penn Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 363-1250
- **Cattivo**, Lawrenceville – 146 44th St, Pgh PA, (412) 687-2157
- **Cruze Bar**, Strip District – 1600 Smallman St, Pgh PA, (412) 471-1400
- **Donny's Place & Leather Central**, Strip District – 1226 Herron Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 682-6839
- **Hot Mass/Honcho**, Strip District, 1139 Penn Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 471-6790
- **Images Bar**, Downtown – 965 Liberty Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 391-9990
- **Longbada Lounge**, 106 W Pittsburgh St, Greensburg, PA, (724) 837-6614
- **P-Town**, Oakland – 4740 Baum Boulevard, Pgh PA, (412) 621-0111
- **Real Luck Cafe** (aka Lucky's Tavern), Strip District – 1519 Penn Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 566-8988
- **SPIN**, Shadyside – 5744 Ellsworth Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 362-7746
- **The Link**, 91 Wendel Rd, Herminie PA, (724) 446-7717
- **There Ultra Lounge**, Downtown – 931 Liberty Ave, Pgh PA, (412) 642-4435
- **Tilden**, Downtown – 941 Liberty Ave, Pgh PA, (814) 920-8731
- **Under The Rainbow Lounge**, 850 Ohio River Boulevard, Pgh PA, (412) 761-1258
- **Vice Versa**, 335 High St, Morgantown WV, (304) 292-2010

Baths

- **Club Pittsburgh**, 1139 Penn Ave, Pgh PA 15222, (412) 471-6790

Education Resources and Student Groups

- **The Center for LGBT Health Research at the University of Pittsburgh**, Graduate School of Public Health, www.lgbthlres.pitt.edu, (412) 383-3000
- **The Certificate in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Health and Wellness at the University of Pittsburgh**, Graduate School of Public Health, www.lgbthlres.pitt.edu/?page_id=31, (412) 383-3000
- **The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition**, payoutcongress.org/, (717) 743-1035
- **Rainbow Alliance at the University of Pittsburgh**, pittrainbow.tumblr.com, (412) 648-2105
- **Slippery Rock University Pride Center**, www.sru.edu/life-at-sru/safety/the-pride-center, (724) 738.4378

Political/Legal Organizations

Political

- **Equality Pennsylvania Educational Fund**, <http://equalitypa.org/category/blog/>, (717) 319-5210
- **The Steel City Stonewall Democrats**, <http://www.steel-city.org/>

Legal

- **GayLawNet**, www.gaylawnet.com/
- **Lambda Legal**, www.lambdalegal.org/, (212) 809-8585
- **The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**, www.aclupa.org/chapters/greaterpittsburgh, (215) 592-1513

Religious Groups

- **Bet Tikvah**, P.O. Box 10140, Pgh PA 15232, (412) 256-8317
- **Dignity Pittsburgh**, P.O. Box 362, Pgh PA 15230, (412) 362-4334
- **The First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh**, 605 Morewood Avenue, Pgh PA 15213, (412) 621-8008
- **St. Andrew Lutheran Congregation**, 304 Morewood Ave, Pgh PA 15213, (412) 682-3342

Social and Advocacy

Arts, Media and Advocacy

- **Dreams of Hope**, P.O. Box 4912 Pgh PA 15206, www.dreamsofhope.org/, (412) 361-2065
- **Gay Life Television**, www.gaylifetelevision.com/
- **OUTONLINE.com**
- **The Pittsburgh Lesbian and Gay Film Society**, P.O. Box 81237, Pgh PA 15217, <http://plgfs.org/>, (412) 422-6776
- **The Renaissance City Choir of Pittsburgh**, 116 S. Highland Ave, Pgh PA 15206, <http://rccpittsburgh.com/>, (412) 345-1722

Sports and Recreation

- **Pittsburgh Frontrunners**, Meets 7pm Tues & Thurs, 9am Sat, corner of Schenley Dr and Frew St Extension in Schenley Park, Contact Dave for more info: (412) 926-9866, www.pittsburgh-frontrunners.org
- **Pittsburgh Gay & Lesbian Hockey**, www.pittsburghgayhockey.net/
- **The Steel City Softball League**, P.O. Box 9118, Pgh PA 15224, <http://steelcitysoftball.org>
- **Stonewall Dodgeball**, <http://stonewalldodgeballpittsburgh.leagueapps.com/>
- **Stonewall Kickball**, <http://stonewallkickballpittsburgh.leagueapps.com/> or

General

- **Gay and Lesbian Medical Association**, www.glma.org/, (202) 600-8037
- **Pitt Men's Study Health Alerts**, pittmensstudy.com/health-alerts/
- **m4mhealthysex.org**
- **Pennsylvania Health Access Network**, <http://pahealthaccess.org/>, (877) 570-3642
- **Pennsylvania Health Law Project**, www.phlp.org/home-page/about/, 1-800-274-3258
- **Persad Center**, 5301 Butler Street, Suite 100, Pgh PA 15201, persadcenter.org/, 1-888-873-7723
- **Project Silk**, <http://projectsilk.org>
- **U.S. Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention LGBT Health**, www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/ 1-800-CDC-INFO
- **Pittsburgh LGBT Health Directory**, <https://galstudies.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/pittsburgh-lgbt-health-directory-updated.pdf>

Specifically HIV/AIDS

- **The National HIV and STD Testing Resource Website**, <https://gettested.cdc.gov/>
- **The Pittsburgh AIDS Center for Treatment**, www.dom.pitt.edu/id/pact.html, (412) 647-7228
- **Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force**, 5913 Penn Ave, Pgh PA 15206, www.patf.org/ (412) 345-7456
- **Pitt Treatment Evaluation Unit**, www.dept-med.pitt.edu/id/pact.html, (412) 647-8125
- **The Positive Health Clinic at Allegheny General Hospital**, 1307 Federal Street, Pgh PA 15212, www.ahn.org/specialties/hiv-aids-care, (412) 359-3360
- **The Shepherd Wellness Community**, 4800 Sciota Street, Pgh PA 15224, www.swconline.org/, (412) 683-4477
- **StopHIV.org**

Hotels and Guest Houses

- **Arbors Bed & Breakfast**, 745 Maginn St, Pgh PA 15214, (412) 231-4643
- **The Inn on the Mexican War Streets**, 604 W. North Ave, Pgh PA, 15212, (412) 231 6544
- **The Parador Bed and Breakfast of Pittsburgh**, 939 Western Ave, Pgh PA, 15233, (412) 231-4800

Advocacy and Social

- **Acceptance Journeys Pittsburgh**, project addressing LGBT-related stigma in Pgh, <http://acceptancejourneypgh.projectsilk.org>
- **ALPHA Pittsburgh - AIDS Leadership for Prevention and Health Awareness**, PO Box 90097, Pgh PA 15224, www.alphapgh.org/
- **The Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh**, 911 Galveston Ave, Pgh PA 15233, <http://deltafoundation.us/>, (412) 322-2800
- **Gay for Good**, g4ginfo@gayforgood.org, www.gayforgood.org/pittsburgh_pa
- **Gay and Lesbian & Straight Educators Network (GLSEN)**, 6101 Penn Ave, Pgh PA 15206, (412) 254-4573
- **Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh**, 210 Grant Street, Pgh PA 15219, www.glccpgh.org/, (412) 422-0114
- **PFLAG Pittsburgh**, PO Box 5406, Pgh PA 15206, <http://pflagpgh.weebly.com/>, (412) 833-4556
- **The Shepherd Wellness Community** - Wellness for people affected by HIV/AIDS, 4800 Sciota Street, Pgh PA 15224, www.swconline.org/, (412) 683-4477

Transgender Resources

- A list of organizations that provide medical and emotional support to transgender men and women can be found at transgenderresourcespgh.blogspot.com
- **TransPride Pittsburgh**, facebook.com/transpridepgh
- **The Name Change Project**, (646) 862-9396, namechange@transgenderlegal.org
- **Project Silk** - program for black and latino young men who have sex with men and young transgender individuals, jnetto@chscorp.org, <http://projectsilk.org/>
- **Garden of Peace Project**, 801 N. Negley Avenue, Pgh PA 15206, gardenofpeaceproject.org/, (412) 879-0477
- **Persad**, 5301 Butler Street, Suite 100, Pgh PA 15201, persadcenter.org/pages/transgender-services, (412) 441-9786, ext. 315
- **Initiative for Transgender Leadership**, contact Rayden Sorock (412) 573-9784 or transleadership@gmail.com.
- **Gender and Sexual Development Program, Children's Hospital of UPMC**, (412) 692-6653
- **Metro Family Community Center**, 1789 S. Braddock Ave Suite 410, Pgh, PA 15218, (412) 247-2310
- **Steven R. Wolfe, D.O.**, Forbes Family Medicine, Monroeville Medical Arts Building, 2550 Mosside Blvd Suite 500, Monroeville, (412) 457-1100