



4 March 2024

Dear IMPAACT Colleagues,

The IMPAACT Scientific Leadership Group (SLG) in collaboration with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the IMPAACT Scientific Committees (SC) are soliciting members to expand and revise research priorities and align expertise within each of the key research areas of the Network. The current expectation is that several new members will be invited to join each committee; however, SC chairs in collaboration with the SLG will propose a slate of new members to complement current membership expertise. Note that the current solicitation includes requests for three of the four committees; a separate solicitation for the HIV Cure and Immunotherapy Scientific Committee will be issued at a later date.

IMPAACT Scientific Committees convene by conference call once a month to discuss priorities and plans for the future and may convene in-person once or twice per year, including during the annual network meeting. In addition to attending the conference calls, SC members are expected to periodically review study concept sheets that are proposed to the committee. SC members are not remunerated. They may or may not otherwise be members of the network, e.g., affiliated with a network site. Members are selected by the SC Chair and Vice Chair, with final confirmation by the Network leadership. Further details related to each of the committees and their priority areas are provided below and further details on the Network organization can be found in the [IMPAACT Network Manual of Procedures \(MOP\)](#), in particular, Section 2, Network Groups.

Committee	Expertise and/or Area of Interest Needed for the Committee
Brain and Mental Health (previously, Complications and Co-Morbidities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychopharmacologist • Obstetrician • Women’s Mental Health Expert • Implementation Scientist • Developmental Immunologist
Therapeutics (previously, HIV Treatment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obstetrics • Co-infections other than HIV (e.g., sexually transmitted infections) that can impact people living with HIV
Tuberculosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obstetrician with TB trials experience or a clinical trialist with maternal TB experience (not necessarily an obstetrician) • Pharmacometrician (not a clinical pharmacologist) at PhD level with TB experience
HIV Cure and Immunotherapy (previously, ART-Free Remission/HIV Cure)	[Separate solicitation planned at a later date]



If you would like to be considered for this solicitation, please send your CV or NIH biographical sketch, a personal statement of why you would like to serve on one of the SCs, and a brief description (1-2 pages) of your relevant expertise and experience. The application should be submitted by email to IMPAACTops@fhi360.org by Friday, 22 March 2024.

Please share this solicitation with colleagues outside of the network who may be interested in applying. We look forward to expanding the committees to more closely align with updated Network priorities and are grateful for your interest and willingness to participate.

Sincerely,

Sharon Nachman, MD
IMPAACT Network Chair

Pat Flynn, MD
IMPAACT Network Vice Chair

Philippa Musoke, MBChB, PhD
IMPAACT Network Vice Chair



Brain and Mental Health (previously, Complications and Co-Morbidities)

Chair and Vice Chair: Jackie Hoare and Megan McHenry

Updated Scientific Aim:

Determine optimal and feasible biological and behavioral methods for the prevention and management of neuropsychological and mental health complications of HIV and its treatment in infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant and postpartum people.

Includes the following research priorities:

- Investigate potential neuroprotective and neurotoxic effects of ART to preserve neurocognitive development and mental health in infants, children, and adolescents
- Refine and optimize evaluation and treatment of neurocognitive and mental health disorders, particularly executive dysfunction, depression, and PTSD
- Evaluate novel preventive and/or therapeutic approaches for high-priority diseases of importance related to brain and mental health within pediatric, adolescent, and pregnant/postpartum populations with or affected by HIV, working with other partners and NIH Institutes

[Learn more](#) about the current portfolio and prior research from the Complications & Co-Morbidities Scientific Committee.

Therapeutics (previously, HIV Treatment)

Chair and Vice Chair: Theodore Ruel and Moherndran Archary

Updated Scientific Aim:

Advance treatment during pregnancy and postpartum, aiming to optimize maternal and child health outcomes and accelerate the evaluation (pharmacokinetics (PK), safety, antiviral efficacy), licensure and optimal use of potent and durable ARVs and other therapeutics for pregnant people and infants, children, and adolescents with HIV and related diseases and conditions.

Includes the following research priorities:

- Characterize the PK properties and dosing of ARVs and other medications and relevant drug-drug interactions (DDIs) during pregnancy and lactation
- Evaluate novel prophylaxis regimens for infants born to people with HIV and other related diseases and conditions
- Identify and rapidly evaluate the PK, safety, and antiviral efficacy of the most promising ARVs and other medications for treatment, accelerating licensure for pediatric populations living with HIV and other related diseases and conditions
- Optimize the use of currently available ARVs in achieving virologic suppression among pediatric populations with ARV experience
- Evaluate ARVs and other medications that address the specific needs of adolescents with HIV

[Learn more](#) about the current portfolio and prior research from the Treatment Scientific Committee.



Tuberculosis

Chair and Vice Chair: Anneke Hesselning and Amita Gupta

Updated Scientific Aim:

Evaluate novel approaches for TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment in infants, children, adolescents and pregnant and postpartum women with and without HIV that will lead to optimal dosing and regimens, licensing and decreased morbidity and mortality.

Includes the following research priorities:

- Evaluate the efficacy, PK and safety of new and shorter drug regimens to prevent drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB in infants, children, and adolescents and during pregnancy and postpartum, among populations living with and without HIV
- Evaluate the efficacy, PK, safety and acceptability of new drug regimens, optimize existing drug dosing and evaluate novel drugs for the treatment of drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB in infants, children, and adolescents and during pregnancy and postpartum, among populations living with and without HIV
- Evaluate novel tools for the diagnosis of active TB, correlates of TB treatment in response and markers of disease progression in infants, children, and adolescents with and without HIV
- Evaluate novel TB vaccines for prevention of TB disease

[Learn more](#) about the current portfolio and prior research from the Tuberculosis Scientific Committee.