

# Being a Mentored Investigator: Lessons learned

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# Purpose of the program: My view

1. Learn how to be a senior investigator
2. Improve research skills (e.g. protocol development, leading teams)
3. Improve knowledge of TB clinical trials
4. Networking/ mentorship

# My experience (2012-2022)

- ▶ 2012: Joined Mentored Investigator program (mentor: Amita Gupta)
  - ▶ Joined P1078 team
  - ▶ Discussed concept of 3HP study in pregnant women
- ▶ August 2012: Capsule 293 is born!

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## Three Months of Rifapentine and Isoniazid for Latent Tuberculosis Infection

Timothy R. Sterling, M.D., M. Elsa Villarino, M.D., M.P.H., Andrey S. Borisov, M.D., M.P.H., Nong Shang, Ph.D.,  
Fred Gordin, M.D., Erin Bliven-Sizemore, M.P.H., Judith Hackman, R.N., Carol Dukes Hamilton, M.D.,  
Dick Menzies, M.D., Amy Kerrigan, R.N., M.S.N., Stephen E. Weis, D.O., Marc Weiner, M.D., Diane Wing, R.N.,  
Marcus B. Conde, M.D., Lorna Bozeman, M.S., C. Robert Horsburgh, Jr., M.D., Richard E. Chaisson, M.D.,  
for the TB Trials Consortium PREVENT TB Study Team\*

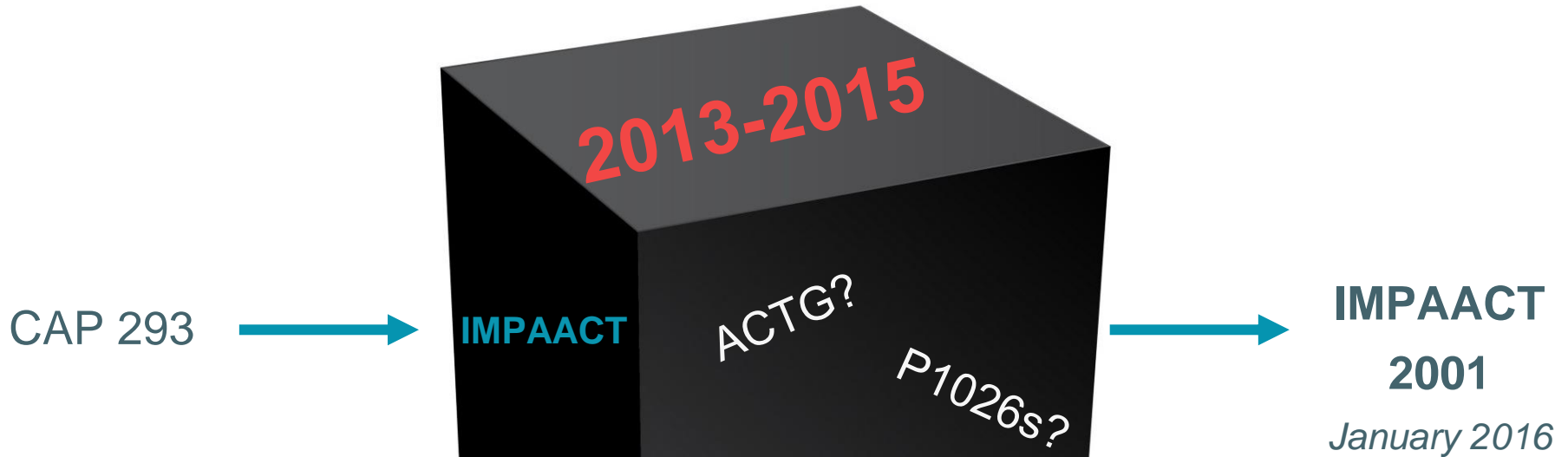
*~4000 people enrolled:  
No pregnant women*

- ▶ 3HP non-inferior to 9H for TB prevention
- ▶ Higher rates of discontinuation with 3HP vs 9H

# My experience (2012-2022)

- ▶ 2012: Joined Mentored Investigator program (mentor: A. Gupta)
  - ▶ Joined P1078 team (SERC)
  - ▶ Discussed concept of 3HP study in pregnant women with Amita Gupta, Kelly Dooley, and Rada Savic
- ▶ August 2012: Capsule 293 is born!
  - ▶ Submitted to Scientific Committee by December 2012

# From 2013-2015...



# Expected Benefits

- ▶ Close interaction with senior investigators
- ▶ Efficient protocol development
- ▶ Diverse team of experts (stats, writing, etc)
- ▶ So much networking 😊



# Challenges

- ▶ Confusing approval process
  - ▶ Unclear timelines
  - ▶ Science vs. budget
- ▶ Unclear how to get involved in other protocols





# Unexpected benefits

- ▶ Learned how to write a protocol!
- ▶ Learned how to lead an international team
- ▶ Improved presentation skills
- ▶ Networking with peers led to new collaborations
- ▶ Name-recognition and confidence 😊



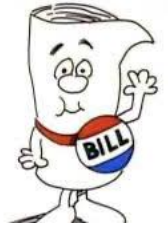
# Advice

## Mentees

- ▶ Participate in more than one trial
- ▶ Reach out to other investigators
- ▶ Meet with peer mentors to discuss new ideas

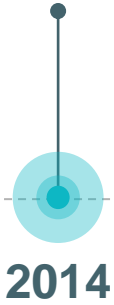
## Program

- ▶ Consider twinning “senior” with junior mentored investigators
  - ▶ From different regions?
- ▶ Develop a “How a concept becomes a protocol” document/ video
- ▶ Consider allowing junior members to attend higher level meetings once



# Other successes along the way...

Led NICHD R01  
(PRACHITi)  
with A. Gupta

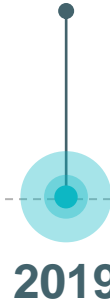


2017

NIAID K23  
Award



- NICHD R21
- CDRF Award with SA/India (PARTHISA)



2021

Unitaid/Aurum  
Study on  
3HP/1HP in  
pregnancy



NIAID R01!!  
(PRAGATHI)

2022





# THANKS!

Any questions?