

# Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research



**PUTTING OURSELVES TO THE TEST**  
Achieving Equity to End HIV

## December 1, 2022

Check out the agenda below to see a few World AIDS Day events going on today in the Providence and Boston areas!

- **World AIDS Day 2022: Progress and Promise in HIV Research from 1pm-2:30pm EST**
  - Join federal leaders, distinguished guests, and the broader HIV research community for a live, virtual discussion on "Progress and Promise in HIV Research" as the NIH marks World AIDS Day 2022
- **Rhode Island HIV & STI Prevention Coalition from 1:30pm-3:30pm EST**
  - Providence Public Library Auditorium - 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI
- **AIDS CARE Ocean State - World AIDS Day Community Block Party- Know Your Status from 12pm-4pm EST**
  - ACOS BroadMed Building- 557 Broad Street, Providence, RI
- **AIDS Project Rhode Island - Red Scarves Across the River from 11am-1pm EST**
  - Each year APRI installs all sponsored and donated red scarves across the PVD Pedestrian Bridge on December 1st to provide a visual reminder of those lost in Rhode Island to the HIV/AIDS epidemic since 1983.
- **Fenway Health- 5B Movie Screening in Honor of World AIDS Day from 6pm-8:30pm EST**

- 1340 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02215
- [Click Here to Register](#)

## Additional Resources for World AIDS Day

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

[The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief \(PEPFAR\)](#)

[United Nations \(UN\)](#)

[International AIDS Society \(IAS\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS \(UNAIDS\)](#)

## World AIDS Day 2022- "PUTTING OURSELVES TO THE TEST: ACHIEVING EQUITY TO END HIV"



**Paul Goulet**

Chair, Prov/Bos CFAR Community Engaged Research Council (C-CERC)

World AIDS Day 2022 theme is "Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV ". World AIDS Day is also about both reflection and action, of mourning and celebration. It should be a day when communities come together to consider all that we have accomplished and the remaining challenges that need to be overcome in the fight against HIV.

AIDS is not over, but it can be if we tailor the response to individual needs at particular times in life. Whatever our individual situation may be, we all need access to the tools to protect us from HIV and to ensure equitable access to antiretroviral medicines access to equitable health care no matter anyone's life circumstances.

Risks and challenges change as people go through life, highlighting the need to adapt HIV prevention and treatment strategies from birth to old age. The success we have achieved so far gives us hope for the future, but as we look ahead, we must remember not to be complacent. We cannot stop now.

Even in 2022 its still up to us to be the change...

This is the time to continue to move forward together to ensure that all children start their lives free from HIV, that young people and adults grow up and stay free from HIV and that treatment becomes more accessible for everyone, no matter what socio- economic class they come from, the color of their skin, their sexual identity, or who they love.

But our fight is not just about the virus. For millions of people living with HIV, ignorance, inequality, health care access and discrimination still limits opportunities, even in 2022, preventing them from living full, healthy, and happy lives. For far too many HIV means you are more likely to

live in poverty, more likely to have poor mental health, or have little or no access to health care. We have achieved much in the past 35 years. Today 21 million people are receiving antiretroviral therapy that is enabling them to live full and productive lives. Every day, fewer people are becoming infected with HIV and fewer people are dying. But these successes are masking the many disparities and challenges that persist.

Why, after three decades of recognizing the critical role of communities in driving the HIV response are we still seeing those populations most at risk being left behind, marginalized, and discriminated against?

Why is it that still in the year 2022 many communities find themselves particularly vulnerable to HIV infection?

An effective HIV response embraces equitable integrated people-centered care, in which the full health needs of individuals and communities are addressed, not just those related to HIV.

Providing the right health services to those who need them isn't enough. If we are to achieve equity, to reach universal health coverage and to ensure the right to health for all, we need to work beyond the health system. The broader policy and social environment continue to play a critical role in shaping HIV epidemics and facilitating or hindering effective responses.

A very good friend and former co-worker, Dwayne Steward was recently highlighted in the magazine CIO Views as one of the 10 most influential HR Executives of the Year 2022 says it best "We must govern from the margins if we are going to be successful at equity. When you create a policy or program that is accessible to the most marginalized among us, you create a policy or program that is accessible to all of us."

Achieving the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, and economic or social condition. Health equity means everyone has a fair opportunity to be as healthy as possible regardless of their socially determined circumstances. To achieve this, we all need to face and work through institutional and discriminatory barriers within and outside of the healthcare system. These include racism, sexism, poverty, and unequal distribution of resources.

On this World AIDS Day, December 1, 2022 equity is the only acceptable goal that we must strive for in order for everyone to have access to the highest standards of health without exception.

## ADMINISTRATIVE CORE HIGHLIGHT



**Dr. Susan Cu-Uvin**  
Director, Prov/Bos CFAR, Professor  
of Ob-Gyn and Medicine, Director,  
Brown Global Health Initiative,  
Brown University



**Dr. Curt Beckwith**  
Associate Director,  
Prov/Bos CFAR,  
Professor of Medicine, Brown  
University



**Dr. Andrew Henderson**  
Associate Director, Prov/Bos CFAR,  
Professor of Medicine and  
Microbiology, Boston University

The Administrative Core A is the glue of the Providence/Boston CFAR and instrumental in creating and maintaining an integrated HIV/AIDS research program across our institutions. The Core is central to fostering scientific communication, community outreach, training, education, and mentoring by providing the infrastructure and operational services to stimulate multidisciplinary research, integrate activities across campuses, and develop a cadre of CFAR-affiliated investigators.

The core continues to promote vigorous growth in our clinical, behavioral, translational and basic HIV research activities in areas that span key NIH research priorities of HIV prevention, treatment, comorbidities, and HIV persistence, particularly focused on marginalized populations including men who have sex with men, people who use substances, justice-involved persons, women, gender minorities, and at-risk youth, domestically and globally.

The Administrative Core coordinates oversight of the Cores, Scientific Working Groups, the C-CERC, and the DEIB program to ensure that objectives and services are consistent with the NIH HIV priorities and Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. In addition, the Core ensures collaboration and communication across our CFAR, partner institutions, other CFARs, and across communities. The Administrative Core's efforts are bolstered by the Internal Advisory Committee (IAC), who provides coordination of institutional resources and infrastructure for Prov/Bos CFAR activities and advises on institutional research goals, as well as the External Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) who reviews our mission, services, utilization, and progress towards our goals. Annually, the Administrative Core is joined by the Executive Committee to evaluate and update the Providence/Boston CFAR's Strategic Plan for short- and long-term goals and objectives based on past progress, emergent areas of research and new faculty expertise across our institutions, and shifts in the epidemic. This annual meeting will take place in January 2023 as the Providence/Boston CFAR looks toward the future, embracing the theme of World AIDS Day 2022 - Achieving Equity to End HIV - by emphasizing accountability and action within our CFAR, our institutions, our communities, and across our global fight.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### December 7, 2022 at 2pm EST

- **Reference Management using EndNote: an Introduction for Research** instructed by Dr. Fizza Gillani and Adil Haider
- Demonstration will include:
  - Collecting Citations
  - Managing your library
  - Preparing your papers
- Presentation will follow with Q&A and a review of a complete library prepared for HIV research



**Join the CFAR Zoom Meeting:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/171467293>  
Mtg. ID: 171 467 293 Password: ProvBos

### December 13, 2022 at 11am EST

- **International URBAN ARCH Center Visiting Scholar Research-in-Progress Webinar**
- Dr. Robert Cook (University of Florida) will discuss his team's [NIAAA-funded P01 HIV/Alcohol](#)



[center](#), '**Interventions to Improve Alcohol-Related Comorbidities Along the Gut-Brain Axis in Persons with HIV Infection**' which extends the current line of research that forms the core of the [Southern HIV & Alcohol Research Consortium \(SHARC\)](#).



Alcohol Research Collaboration on HIV/AIDS

[Register Here](#)

### December 14, 2022 at 12pm EST

- **International URBAN ARCH Training and Mentoring Program**
- Dr. Michael Stein and Dr. Theresa Kim host workshop on '**Opportunities and Resources for HIV and Substance Use Research Using the Boston ARCH Dataset**'



Alcohol Research Collaboration on HIV/AIDS

[Register Here](#)

### February 3, 2023 by 5pm EST

- **Letters of Intent for Spring 2023 Developmental Awards Due**
- *Full applications due April 7, 2023 by 5pm EST*



[Click Here for More Information](#)

The **Boston University Clinical HIV/AIDS Research Training Program (BU-CHART)** is looking for a recently graduated, PhD post-doc interested in HIV research for T32 appointments starting in July 2023.

- BU-CHART at Boston Medical Center is a two-year mentored postdoctoral research training program designed for physicians and other health



[Click Here for More](#)

scientists to enable them to conduct high -quality, ethical HIV/AIDS research focused on disadvantaged populations.

- Only U.S. citizens or permanent residents may apply.

## Information

The **Miriam Hospital NIDA funded HIV and Other Infectious Consequences of Substance Abuse T32** is currently accepting applications at this time for appointments.

- This T32 provides support for scholars interested in the infectious consequences of substance use disorders. Topics often include HIV/Hepatitis C /Monkeypox/TB/ and bacterial infections associated with IDU or other substance use disorders, including alcohol.
- Active research can include infections that are relevant both in the US and globally.
- Please contact [TFlanigan@Lifespan.org](mailto:TFlanigan@Lifespan.org) or [josiah\\_rich@brown.edu](mailto:josiah_rich@brown.edu) for more information.



**Email the Program Directors for More Information**



## SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

### New Providence/Boston CFAR Administrative Director



**Lauri Bazerman, MS**  
Administrative Director,  
Prov/Bos CFAR, Brown  
University

***Please join us in welcoming Lauri Bazerman as the new Providence/Boston CFAR Administrative Director.***

In the 20 years since joining The Miriam Hospital's Division of Infectious Diseases, Lauri has worn a wide range of hats and been involved with project management for numerous research projects, training programs, and Center grants related to HIV, substance use, and associated comorbidities – including serving as the Core Manager for the Providence/Boston CFAR BioBehavioral Sciences Core.

Lauri completed her undergraduate degree in Human Behavior and Social Policy at Northwestern University and a Master of Science in Health and Social Behavior at the Harvard School of Public Health. She began her career working as a Research Assistant with the New York City Department of Health Bureau of Tuberculosis Elimination followed by the completion of a Program Evaluation Fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

Lauri will fully transition into this position in the new year and looks forward to supporting the mission, vision, and success of the Providence/Boston CFAR as we work together to end the HIV epidemic.



**Kaylyn Bruciati, MHA**  
Research Project Manager,  
Prov/Bos CFAR, Boston  
Medical Center

I am currently a Research Project Manager for the Providence/Boston CFAR and Boston Medical Center, Section of Infectious Diseases. I have been working at Boston Medical Center for about 5 years and started working for Prov/Bos CFAR about one year into my time at BMC. During COVID I transitioned to be fully remote and now live full time in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

My work on the CFAR is mainly focused in communications, marketing and social media as I am the main lead for the CFAR Twitter, newsletter, and website.

In my free time I like to read and play soccer.



**Rhonda DiCesare**  
Program Coordinator, Prov/Bos  
CFAR, Lifespan

I have been working with the Providence/Boston CFAR as the Program Coordinator on the Providence campus for over 21 years. My primary responsibility has been supporting the CFAR Developmental Core with the pre and post award grant management of our Developmental and International grant programs.

I also serve as the liaison between the applicants and the Developmental Core Directors. One of the most enjoyable aspects of my position is having the opportunity to work with a diverse group of faculty members and seeing first hand how each of them are helping people living with HIV and working to end the HIV epidemic.

Fun Fact: I love the beach and traveling to the Caribbean Islands.

## FEATURED AWARDS

### FALL 2022 DEVELOPMENTAL AWARDEES



**Dr. Florian Douam,**  
Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Boston  
University

*"A humanized mouse model to  
investigate the impact of HIV persistence  
and antiretroviral treatment on vaccine-  
induced immune responses"*



**Dr. Monica Onyango,**  
Clinical Associate Professor of Global Health,  
Brown University

*"PROJECT ENGAGE: Engaging School  
Stakeholders and Communities to reduce  
HIV Stigma and improved Antiretroviral  
Therapy Adherence Among Adolescents  
in Western Kenya"*

## PROVIDENCE/BOSTON CFAR

The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is a joint research effort between Brown University/Lifespan and Boston University/Boston Medical Center.

The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS research is devoted to the pursuit of translational research to reduce the burden of HIV infection worldwide, with special focus on substance users, women, MSM, justice-involved persons, and at-risk youth. To achieve this goal, we are committed to fostering emerging HIV investigators both domestically and within resource-limited settings.

### ADMINISTRATIVE CORE TEAM

**Susan Cu-Uvin, MD**

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**Curt Beckwith, MD**

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**Lauri Bazerman, MS**

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**Kaylyn Bruciati, MHA**

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**Rhonda DiCesare**

Program Coordinator (PVD)

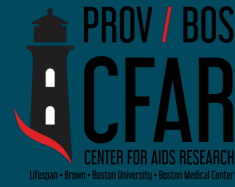
[rdicesare@lifespan.org](mailto:rdicesare@lifespan.org)

### REQUEST SERVICES

- [Developmental Core](#)
- [Clinical and Behavioral Sciences Core](#)
- [Biostatistics Core](#)



- [Basic Science Core](#)
- [Substance Use Research Core](#)
- [Community Engaged Research Council \(C-CERC\)](#)



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