



News and Updates: Summer 2019

This year has seen great progress for the New Horizons: Advancing Pediatric HIV Care Collaborative (New Horizons), an initiative that addresses the need for second- and third-line antiretroviral drugs in Sub-Saharan African countries with the highest HIV/AIDS burden. Through partnerships with national governments and knowledgeable local organizations, New Horizons is in its fifth year of reaching children and adolescents living with HIV—particularly those in need of late-line therapy—in some of the highest burden countries in the world. Since treatment needs often extend beyond medicine, New Horizons also trains healthcare providers and equips health systems to support quality of care improvements. This past year has been a productive one, and we are pleased to share new developments and achievements with our partners and supporters.

Program Highlights

Cameroon New Horizons Onboarding Workshop

On March 28, 2019, New Horizons hosted an implementation workshop for its newest country member, Cameroon. The workshop took place at Mont Febe Hotel in Yaoundé. A range of HIV stakeholders attended, including Ministry of Health officials, health care providers (HCPs), and representatives from Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and Johnson & Johnson. The workshop allowed for open dialogue and helped lay the foundation for future collaboration and shared impact.



*Workshop Attendees/HCPs working in the HIV space
Source: Johnson & Johnson*

The onboarding workshop was followed by an HIV resistance training on May 28, 2019, which took place in Yaounde, Cameroon. This training was attended by 20 participants. According to UNAIDS, an estimated 40,000 Cameroon children aged 0-14 were living with HIV in 2017. Only 25% of these children were receiving treatment in the same year.

Treatment Failure Stakeholder Meeting

On May 3, 2019, EGPAF convened key stakeholders for a discussion on HIV treatment failure among pediatric and adolescent populations. Represented among the 30 attendees were representatives from EGPAF, Johnson & Johnson, the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. EGPAF Country Directors shared their perspectives on treatment failure within the programs they manage while others discussed the U.S. government's priorities for addressing treatment failure and preliminary data from a multi-country cohort study examining the impact of treatment failure in key countries.

Release of Disclosure of HIV Status Toolkit for Pediatric and Adolescent Populations & Webinar

In January 2019, EGPAF released the *New Horizons Disclosure of HIV Status Toolkit for Pediatric and Adolescent Populations*. The toolkit provides guidance on disclosure of HIV status in pediatric and adolescent HIV care, and contains tools to build health care worker, caregiver, and patient capacity. It is targeted for use among health care workers. The toolkit includes direction on preparing for disclosure, relevant algorithms, a readiness assessment checklist, and role-playing scenarios. The toolkit is available [here](#) for download in English and French.

On June 19, 2019, EGPAF and UNICEF hosted a webinar focused on the toolkit. Speakers discussed the importance of meaningfully engaging adolescents in the toolkit development process. The discussion also addressed the barriers and enablers of HIV disclosure during child and adolescent care. The recording and presentation are available [here](#) for download in English.

Release of Management of Treatment Failure Resource Package

In April 2019, EGPAF released the *New Horizons Management of Treatment Failure for Pediatric and Adolescent Patients Resource Package*. The package supports HCPs in identifying and addressing potential HIV treatment failure among children and adolescents. It provides guidance on determining treatment approaches for pediatric and adolescent patients with high viral load and contains tools to help children and adolescents achieve viral load suppression or switch to a new regimen. The resource is meant for HCPs, lay counselors, and multidisciplinary teams working with children and adolescents living with HIV.

The contents of the resource package include: (1) a management of treatment failure algorithm, (2) a HIV treatment failure clinical review form, and (3) an adherence counseling assessment and interventions checklist. The package is available [here](#) for download in English and French.

Building Evidence and Capacity: Trainings and Shared Learnings

Event Spotlight: 13th INTEREST Conference in Accra, Ghana | May 14-17, 2019

HIV Resistance Training (Preconference Workshop)

On May 13, 2019, Johnson & Johnson and New Horizons hosted an HIV resistance training as a pre-conference workshop before the start of the 13th INTEREST Conference in Accra, Ghana. As part of the training, Dr. Leon Levin, Head of the Pediatric and Adolescent Program at Right to Care, highlighted specific issues related to HIV viral resistance in children and adolescents. Topics included management of treatment failure in pediatric care, switching, and adherence. The training was well-attended and saw the active involvement of approximately 80 participants committed to providing and supporting quality HIV care.



*Ghana HIV Resistance Training
Source: Johnson & Johnson*

13th INTEREST Conference Activities

New Horizons was a key topic of discussion at a Johnson & Johnson-hosted Symposium on Optimizing Life-Long Management of HIV at the 13th INTEREST Conference in May 2019. At the Symposium, which also featured discussions on the role of protease inhibitors in HIV treatment in Africa, Dr. Fafa Addo Boateng, Medical Affairs Manager for Africa, Johnson & Johnson, highlighted the work and accomplishments of New Horizons over the past five years. Following the presentation, Dr. Lloyd Mulenga, National Coordinator of the HIV Treatment and Care Program for the Ministry of Health in Zambia led a discussion of key issues in the country-level implementation of New Horizons. During the discussion, participants raised questions about how countries participating in the New Horizons donation program obtained ritonavir to use as a booster with donated darunavir. Approximately 430 participants attended and provided positive feedback about the quality of content and usefulness of information presented at the Symposium. New Horizons was also featured as part of Johnson & Johnson's INTEREST conference booth.



*INTEREST Conference 2019; Johnson & Johnson booth
Source: Johnson & Johnson*



*INTEREST Conference 2019; Symposium
Source: Johnson & Johnson*

Multi-Country Cohort Study

As of 2019, EGPAF has initiated a prospective, multi-country cohort study of children, adolescents, and young people receiving darunavir- and/or etravirine-based regimens in Cameroon, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The study will evaluate the health outcomes of treatment-experienced children, adolescents, and young people living with HIV.

Since its inception in 2013, New Horizons has been engaged in the Collaborative Initiative for Pediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER) and its Global Cohort Collaboration. This group convenes the largest collective of pediatric and adolescent HIV observational cohort networks to answer key questions regarding global public health. Opportunities for young investigators are provided as part of Global Cohort Collaborations to help build data analysis capacity in low- and middle- income countries. EGPAF presented the protocol for the multi-country cohort study at a recent CIPHER meeting in Baveno, Italy.

Looking Forward

New Horizons is Accepting Interest Applications

EGPAF supports the New Horizons expression of interest (EOI) application process and convenes an expert review committee to ascertain the readiness of countries willing to participate in this donation program and assess capacity-building needs. EOI applications may be submitted by Ministries of Health or designees from countries in sub-Saharan Africa and countries considered to be least developed by the United Nations. New Horizons will be accepting applications on a quarterly basis through the end of 2019, with August 22 and November 22 remaining as the last opportunities to apply to join the collaborative. Additional information and application materials can be found on [EGPAF's website](#).



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