

View this email in your browser



## Director's Update

Maureen M. Goodenow, Ph.D.



### Why Is U=U a Game Changer?

The NIH recently had the pleasure of hosting **Bruce Richman**, founding executive director of the **Prevention Access Campaign**, to explain the **Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U)** campaign and what it means for addressing stigma faced by people with HIV (PWH). Diagnosed with HIV in 2003, Bruce learned in 2012 he could not transmit HIV to sexual partners because **antiretroviral therapy (ART)** had brought his **viral load to undetectable levels**. He committed to sharing this life-changing information in the hope that PWH and their partners will live healthy sexual and reproductive lives free of fear and stigma.

U=U has its foundation in the science behind Treatment as Prevention (TasP). The **HPTN 052** study found that there is effectively no sexual transmission of HIV when the virus is suppressed in PWH—hence treatment as prevention. This finding was hailed as the scientific breakthrough of the year in 2011. Further research, most notably the **Partners** and **Opposites Attract** studies, corroborated the results.

U=U is a game changer because it transforms the social, sexual, and reproductive lives of PWH. It enables PWH and their partners to be in a relationship without fear of transmitting HIV. PWH report no longer feeling “like a pariah” or “contaminated.” Furthermore, it changes the way health professionals, the public, employers, and policymakers see and make decisions related to PWH.

U=U is an essential component for ending the epidemic. When people learn that U=U, they are more likely to get tested and to start and stay on a treatment. Staying on ART brings health benefits to PWH, their partners, and the general public.

The global U=U campaign has spread to 650 organizations in 79 countries. The campaign has been translated into more than 25 languages, including K=K in Vietnam, N=N in Dutch, B=B in Turkish, and I=I in Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

OAR, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases hosted the NIH-wide event.

I look forward to learning more about the international U=U campaign when I attend the **International AIDS Society Conference** in Amsterdam next month.



“What could be better than love, sex, and babies without fear of transmission?”

*Bruce Richman, Founding Executive Director  
Prevention Access Campaign*

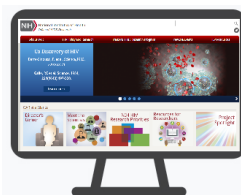
#### NIH Releases Strategic Plan for Data Science

Earlier this month the NIH released its first ever **Strategic Plan for Data Science** to capitalize on the opportunities presented by advances in data science. The plan describes NIH’s overarching goals, strategic objectives, and implementation tactics for promoting the modernization of the NIH-funded biomedical data science ecosystem. We are grateful for the input from the community and the public received from the **Request for Information**, which was incorporated into the final plan.

Over the course of the next year, NIH will begin implementing its strategy, with some

#### Coming soon!

OAR’s website gets a refresh! Details to come.



during the implementation phase. We know that we share a common interest with you in maximizing the value of data generated through NIH-funded efforts to accelerate the pace of biomedical discoveries and medical breakthroughs for better health outcomes.

**About OAR**

*The Office of AIDS Research oversees HIV/AIDS research across the National Institutes of Health (NIH). OAR works with scientific and community stakeholders to establish research priorities and develop the NIH strategic plan for HIV research. OAR also distributes research funds in line with the research priorities. OAR encourages collaboration and innovation in HIV research.*

**Questions? Contact us at:**  
[OARinfo@nih.gov](mailto:OARinfo@nih.gov)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



Twitter



Website