

## **Ancillary Events / Événements connexes**

### **Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network (CHAP) Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Host: CHAP**

Participation: Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network (CHAP) members only. Industry sponsors are permitted to send up to 3 delegates to attend breakfast and lunch plenary sessions. The Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network (CHAP) annual general meeting (AGM) is a full-day meeting that provides an opportunity for specialized pharmacists in HIV and Viral Hepatitis from across the country to collaborate and to discuss clinical issues, research initiatives, regional activities, conference updates, and to plan and conduct ongoing CHAP business. Guest speakers for breakfast and lunch plenary sessions are also invited to bring an external educational aspect targeted to the learning needs of all CHAP members.

### **Understanding and Acting for the Sidelined 2%: A Shared Language and a National Call to Care**

**Host: Dr. Peter Centre**

The purpose of this closed meeting is to:

- engage executive leaders and influencers in understanding, refining, and activating a shift to improve care for the sidelined 2%: those with complex medical and social needs; and
- encourage thoughtful discussions about de-siloing funding associated with caring for the complex medical and social needs of the Sidelined 2%.

### **Winnipeg Walks: HIV, Pain, Care & Community**

**Host: University Of Toronto**

Join us downtown for an interactive scavenger hunt exploring ageing with HIV—exercise, chronic pain, and harm reduction—guided by community leaders and Peer Researchers. Rooted in our national Chronic Pain & HIV study and supported by CAHR, CIHR, WRHA, YMCA, HIV in Motion, and Nine Circles, this event invites students, community members, and conference attendees to move, connect, and celebrate together at the Inn at the Forks.

## **Canadian AIDS Society HIV Connect: Building Culturally Safe and Stigma Free Outreach**

### **Host: Canadian Aids Society**

Join the Canadian AIDS Society at CAHR 2026's Ancillary Event for the unveiling of our transformative HIV Connect peer support strategy learning modules. This engaging promotional workshop is designed for individuals living with HIV and those who employ or work alongside them, aiming to foster knowledgeable and inclusive environments.

Our educational modules delve into crucial themes to empower participants with valuable insights and strategies. Topics covered include Stigma Disclosure and Cultural Safety, equipping attendees to navigate sensitive conversations and embrace diverse backgrounds. Mental Health, Trauma, and Burnout modules offer guidance for managing emotional well-being and recognizing the signs of stress. We celebrate the importance of Valuing Lived Experience and Workplace Equity, providing tools for integrating personal histories into professional settings. Additionally, our Systems Navigation, Advocacy, and Policy Change module aims to enhance participants' abilities to drive impactful changes within organizations and communities.

This workshop promises to be a dynamic experience, rich with resources and opportunities for discussion. Whether you're seeking personal growth or professional development, our modules are tailored to meet your needs and help pave the way for a more supportive and equitable future for people living with HIV. Join us for this inspiring event!

## **Co-designing an evaluation for the Canadian Calls to Action to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV across research, policy, and practice**

### **Host: Simon Fraser University**

We invite women living with HIV, clinicians, researchers, service providers, funders, policymakers and everyone interested to convene at this event to co-create evaluation tools to measure the impacts of the Canadian Calls to Action to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women living with HIV in Canada ([hivhear.me.ca/canadian-calls-to-action/#canadian-calls-to-action-chapters](http://hivhear.me.ca/canadian-calls-to-action/#canadian-calls-to-action-chapters)). The session will include:

- Networking breakfast.
- Panel discussion: Implementation of the calls to action and challenges experienced.
- Small working groups: Review and refine drafted evaluation tools and discuss accountability, ownership, and support.

Nine years of consultation and activism, including ancillary events at previous CAHR conferences (2018, 2023, 2025), have shaped this national initiative to advance the SRHR of women living with HIV. This interactive ancillary session offers participants the opportunity to continue to drive the advancement of the SRHR of women living with HIV in Canada by helping shape an evaluation framework and build accountability into the project.

### **Our Stories, Our Knowledge: Centering GIPA in the Ontario and Manitoba Indigenous HIV Response**

#### **Host: Ontario HIV Treatment Network**

Centering GIPA – the greater involvement of Indigenous People living with HIV – in the Ontario and Manitoba Indigenous HIV Response is crucial to ensure life-saving outcomes for Indigenous communities across both provinces. Led by Oahas, the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy, and Ka Ni Kanichihk in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the event will engage community leaders in a cross-provincial conversation about how Indigenous People living with HIV are centred in this work. You will hear more about the Indigenous-led responses, the resources created, and the cascade outcomes achieved through partnership, dialogue, and ceremony. The Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) is honoured to support this event through coordination and sponsorship.

### **Responding to Changing Global HIV Policies by Developing a Canadian HIV Strategy through a Co-Design Workshop**

#### **Host: Canadian Strategic Consortium to Address the changing Policies and Environment of global HIV care (CanSCAPE-HIV)**

With substantive funding cuts for global HIV programs, low/middle income countries are being forced to reduce or cancel many HIV treatment and prevention programs. While this significant withdrawal of global health funding has profound implications for countries directly affected, the consequences will be widespread across all healthcare systems and societies with studies warning that a global HIV resurgence is imminent. The Canadian HIV community, care providers, clinical programs and policy makers need to be aware of and proactively plan for the implications of these funding cuts.

We will hold a co-design workshop to identify current challenges, deficiencies and success in HIV care delivery, establish recommendations for policy changes and advocacy needs to protect the health of migrants and people living with HIV and to establish a coordinated pragmatic action plan to respond to a foreseeable re-emergent HIV/AIDS crisis. We hope to engage individuals from across Canada representing a range of HIV expertise,

knowledge and experience to discuss evidence informed, experience-based strategies to address key objectives within an HIV action plan.

### **Advancing Women-Centred HIV Care in the Prairies**

#### **Host: Manitoba Women-Centred HIV Care (WCHC) Sub-Hub.**

Advancing Women-Centred HIV Care in the Prairies is a one-day, hybrid-format, action-focused gathering responding to the urgent and evolving realities of HIV affecting women in the Prairies. The Prairie provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan continue to experience the highest HIV rates in Canada, with women increasingly and disproportionately affected. Many women are navigating overlapping challenges including limited uptake of prevention tools such as PrEP, housing instability, substance use, living in remote and isolated areas, and gaps in care during pregnancy and postpartum. Addressing these intersecting issues requires coordinated action across sectors – not just among HIV care providers.

Hosted by the Manitoba Women-Centred HIV Care (WCHC) Sub-Hub, this event will convene experts in HIV, sex and gender, housing, harm reduction, perinatal care, and outreach care – alongside women with lived experience – to identify practical, scalable solutions in a Prairie context. The day will include a keynote address, a cross-sector panel, and structured roundtable sessions focused on four priority areas:

- HIV care for women in rural, remote, and isolated areas
- Innovative harm reduction and housing initiatives
- Expanding access to HIV PrEP for women
- Improving HIV care in pregnancy and postpartum

Participants will work collaboratively to generate concrete, actionable recommendations that will inform a post-event advocacy brief for provincial and regional decision-makers. If you are interested in strengthening coordinated, women-centred responses to HIV in the Prairies, your expertise is needed in this room, and we encourage you to register and join us!

### **CanCURE 3.0 Scientific Meeting: Advances in HIV Cure Research**

#### **Host: CanCURE**

The CanCURE 3.0 Scientific Meeting is a meeting by invitation only that will convene the network researchers, affiliated students and trainees, scientific collaborators and the CanCURE CAB members. CanCURE researchers will provide an update on their progress and discuss the latest developments in immune-based interventions, latency reversal, and novel therapeutic approaches aimed at achieving sustained HIV remission. The meeting

will also provide a platform for early-career investigators affiliated to CanCURE 3.0 to present emerging data and engage in knowledge exchange.

CanCURE members will engage into strategic discussions to identify gaps and opportunities that should be included in the CanCURE scientific agenda. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to develop novel collaborations between the members. By bringing together multidisciplinary expertise, this ancillary event aims to accelerate Canada's contribution to global HIV cure efforts and strengthen partnerships across research network(s).

### **Engage 2.0 and MECS/MESH Study Team Meeting**

**Host: University Of Northern British Columbia**

This event is intended for Engage and MECS/MESH collaborators, co-investigators, and knowledge users. Attendees will discuss:

- recruitment updates
- planning priority analyses for Engage 2.0 and MESH/MECS
- Questionnaire development for MECS/MESH
- Planning future KT/CE activities.

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of women living with HIV. This interactive ancillary session offers participants the opportunity to continue to drive the advancement of the SRHR of women living with HIV in Canada by helping shape an evaluation framework and build accountability into the project.

### **Centering Indigenous Knowledges and Wholistic Approaches to Address Syndemics in Manitoba and Beyond: A Solutions-focused Gathering**

**Host: University Of Saskatchewan**

This full-day session aligns with the conference theme, “Under Open Skies: Rising to Meet Unprecedented Challenges in the HIV Response.” It brings together Indigenous leaders, researchers, service providers and community members to advance wholistic, strength-based approaches to the interconnected impacts of HIV, STBBI, substance use and systemic factors such as racism, poverty, colonization and trauma. Building on CAHR’s 2025 syndemics session, the gathering centres Manitoba Indigenous communities while sharing teachings and lessons learned from Indigenous stakeholders across the region, from British Columbia to Ontario.

Grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, the session highlights the importance of addressing spiritual, emotional, mental and physical dimensions of health. The day will be rooted in ceremony, relationship and cultural safety, incorporating diverse experiences. An immersive listening experience created with Lobe 4D Spatial Sound Studio will support sensory and embodied learning. Additional land-based and cultural components—currently being finalized—may include discussions on culturally safer housing for 2S/LGBTQI people, the Kotawêw Indigenous HIV/STBBI Doula Project at Ka Ni Kanichihk, and other stigma-reducing strategies.

Throughout the day, participants will explore Indigenous-led, community-driven innovations and policy actions. Through dialogue, sharing and experiential learning, they will co-develop practical, wholistic approaches that braid harm reduction, cultural safety and systems change to improve health equity for Indigenous peoples affected by HIV and other STBBI across Canada.

### **Workshop on Administrative Health Data in Population Health Research**

**Host: British Columbia Centre For Excellence in HIV/AIDS**

Administrative health data, combined with clinical, laboratory, and behavioural datasets, provide an essential foundation for understanding the burden of disease and health services use across Canada. Provincial data platforms such as the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy’s Population Research Data Repository, Population Data BC, ICES in

Ontario, and similar centres in other jurisdictions offer powerful opportunities for case-finding, longitudinal follow-up, and the evaluation of prevention, treatment, and monitoring strategies for people living with and without HIV, as well as related conditions.

Despite these strengths, administrative data also present important challenges, including incomplete capture, misclassification, limited clinical and behavioural detail, delays in availability, linkage errors, differential coding practices, and selection biases. Addressing these limitations requires careful study design and appropriate analytic methods. This workshop will focus on best practices for the responsible and effective use of administrative and linked data, with an emphasis on advanced methodological approaches, including mathematical modelling, syndemics-informed analyses, machine learning, and health services research.

The overarching goal of the workshop is to build methodological capacity across Canada so that administrative data are used rigorously, transparently, and in ways that meaningfully inform programme planning, policy development, and public health action. Using applied examples from HIV and sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections research, aging and multimorbidity, and broader health services research, the workshop will demonstrate how these methods can support risk prediction, identification of service gaps, population stratification, and evaluation of health-care access, utilisation, and quality of care. Community perspectives and data governance considerations will be integrated throughout.

### **Mic'd Up & Mobilized: Using Digital Storytelling to End HIV Stigma**

#### **Host: The National Network For Immigrants And Refugees-Canada**

Mic'd Up & Mobilized is an interactive workshop and live podcast recording exploring how digital storytelling and podcasting can advance HIV awareness, resilience and stigma reduction among 2SLGBTQIA+, Black newcomer immigrant and refugee communities. Led by the National Network for Immigrants and Refugees-Canada, this session invites participants to reflect on the transformative power of stories, how sharing lived experiences through digital media can humanize HIV, challenge stigma and foster empathy across differences.

Participants will learn practical storytelling techniques, podcasting basics, hands-on use of podcasting equipment and ethical ways to record, edit and share community narratives. Together, we'll co-create a short podcast episode that uplifts voices often unheard in HIV discourse. This event builds on Voice Up, a youth-led storytelling initiative recognized for amplifying diverse voices and fostering digital inclusion. By centering stories of courage,

care and healing, Mic'd Up & Mobilized turns storytelling into a form of HIV advocacy and collective empowerment.

**Middle Eastern and North African Trans and Gender Diverse Photovoice Art Exhibit: Stories of Resilience & Be/Longing**

**Host: Family Studies and Human Development Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University**

The Trans Photovoice Art Exhibit: Stories of Resilience & Be/Longing aims to amplify the lived experiences of transgender and gender-diverse Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) newcomer youth. This initiative is part of the larger YSMENA Research Program which aims to advance culturally responsive, equitable, and evidence-based support for MENA youth in Canada.

Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the MENA Trans Photovoice Study marks the culmination of a one year community-based participatory research project led by Nominated Principal Investigator, Dr. Roula Kteily-Hawa from Western University, with Co-Principal Investigators, Dr. Sarah Flicker, York University, and Dr. Trevor Hart, Toronto Metropolitan University. The project was strengthened through collaboration with key community partners, including The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO), Queer Muslims, Sherbourne Health, LubunTo, Alliance for South Asian AIDS prevention, and the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (PWA), with a commitment to community-engaged, trauma-informed, and intersectional research approaches.

Aligned with CAHR's 2026 theme, "Under open skies: Rising to meet unprecedented challenges in the HIV response", the exhibition will showcase study participants' art pieces, photography, mixed-media installations, a documentary film, and participant reflections, to illuminate the complex realities of trans MENA youth navigating migration, identity, safety, and belonging. The research highlights urgent service sexual health gaps faced by trans MENA newcomers, and this event allows their calls to action to be seen and heard.

Session attendees will be engaged with the MENA youth's Six Calls to Action, which highlight critical needs in the areas of gender-affirming care, HIV prevention, language accessibility, community safety, anti-violence efforts, and culturally competent health and social services. The session will end with an open buffet of Middle Eastern food.

**CanCURE Community Conversations on HIV Cure: What We Know, What We Don't, and What's Next**

**Host: CanCURE**

CanCURE, a CIHR-funded national HIV cure research initiative, is hosting a community-focused ancillary event led by the CanCURE Community Advisory Board in partnership with local collaborators. People living with HIV, clinicians, trainees, and Canadian research leaders will come together for an accessible, plain-language dialogue about HIV cure research — what we know, what we don't know, and what's next.

The session will include three science-informed presentations: • HIV Cure Research 101 – Foundational concepts including HIV reservoirs, stem-cell-associated cures, and emerging strategies such as gene editing and mRNA-based approaches, distinguishing established evidence from experimental or speculative research. • HIV Cure and End-of-Life Research – Current knowledge and emerging approaches, including minimally invasive autopsy, with discussion of ethical considerations and inequities in existing evidence, centring perspectives of people ageing with HIV and historically underrepresented communities. • Innovative Transplant-Related Cure Research (CATCH) – An exploratory Canadian initiative advancing cure science.

The event will conclude with an introduction to the CanCURE Science Buddy Program, pairing community participants and research trainees for structured engagement throughout CAHR. A nutrition break will be provided. Registration is required. Space is limited (~50 participants).

**The Power We Hold, Forge, and Reclaim: Advancing Black Emancipation, Self-Determination, and Collective Action to Transform HIV in Black Communities in Canada****Host: York University/Maureen Owino**

The Power We Hold, Forge, and Reclaim is a transformative workshop grounded in Ukataaji (Refusal) as a Black emancipatory framework for resurgence, self-determination, and collective action in HIV responses. Bringing together Black community leaders, people with lived experience, Black-led organizations, researchers, policymakers, and service providers, to imagine and activate futures beyond imposed limits. It centers Black communities as leaders and decision-makers in their own HIV responses, mobilizing knowledge, culture, care, and commitment to reshape trajectories of health, dignity, and survival.

Rooted in the long tradition of Black liberation struggles to everyday practices of care and resistance, the workshop frames refusal not merely as rejection, but as both a strategy and a principle for challenging inequitable systems and creating space for solidarity, accountability, and mutual care. Attention is given to Black women's leadership in refusing

erasure, silence, and deficit narratives through healing, storytelling, spirituality, and community governance.

Participants will explore refusal as an epistemic, cultural, political, and spiritual stance that withdraws consent from systems that marginalize Black people living with HIV, while affirming the right to define, know, and imagine otherwise. This workshop aims to cultivate courage and autonomy in reclaiming space and moving from resilience toward intentional, community-led transformation.

### **HEADING OUT! Stories That Shape Research: Peer Insights on HIV, Neurocognitive Health, Care Access, and Community-based Research**

**Host: Dalhousie University**

HEADS UP! and HEADS UP! 2 are community-based research studies examining the experiences of people living with HIV (PHAs) who report neurocognitive concerns, including how they navigate health and social care services and how care is delivered across different settings. This ancillary conference event brings together peer researchers from HEADS UP! 2 in an interactive, peer-centered session designed to share emerging insights and reflect on the process of conducting community-based research on neurocognitive health and access to care. The session combines a brief overview of study goals, methods, and preliminary qualitative findings with facilitated dialogue, audience interaction via Mentimeter, and small-group discussion.

Participants will explore how peer-led approaches contribute to ethical practice, strengthen data quality, and support meaningful knowledge translation. The event emphasizes lived expertise, collaborative sense-making, and inclusive engagement, creating space for participants to reflect on challenges, successes, and strategies for advancing equity and impact in HIV and neurocognitive health research.

### **Bots, Bias, and Better Questions: Community-Based Perspectives on AI in HIV Research**

**Host: Realize**

The use of Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasing and its effects on community-based HIV research (CBR) and program evaluation are already evident. Community organizations and CBR teams are engaging with AI without accessible, practice-ready guidance on how to mitigate its potential harms (e.g., bot interference) and assess the appropriateness and potential benefits (e.g., community governance, efficiency) of its purposeful use. These gaps raise ethical and equity-related concerns, particularly in settings where trust and accountability to communities are foundational.

This event will convene community members, peer researchers, community-based organizations, and academic researchers to examine promising responses to AI and the responsible use of AI tools in HIV CBR and evaluation. Grounded in CBR principles and lived experience, the session will explore how AI may affect community engagement, research participation, capacity building, and the interpretation and use of findings. The session will approach AI dialectically, treating its use as a contextual decision.

Drawing on HIV CBR practice, the topic will be introduced by a short, plain-language panel session. Facilitated group discussion will then be used to support shared learning. Participants will begin to co-create a practical, community-informed resource outlining key considerations for AI use across the research lifecycle.