

VACCINE-O-LICIOUS 18 TAKES BROOKLYN PERFORMERS UNITE FOR AN HIV VACCINE

In honor of HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, we held our 18th Annual Vaccine-O-Licious event on May 28th at 3 Dollar Bill, a Queer bar and performance venue, in partnership with Columbia Research Unit and the NYC HIV Prevention Community Advisory Board. Other co-sponsors of the event included the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, HIV Stops with Me.Org, and Select Health VNS Health. Admission was free and open to our current and past study participants and to the public. The event was hosted by Jus Jahlisa (the Queen of Vaccine) and Stella D'oro (the Queen Mum of Vaccine). Award-winning NYC DJ, JCLEF, provided the evening with passionate music. Stunning guest performances by Jiggly Caliente (of RuPaul's Drag Race) and Jayse Vegas (NYC songwriter and dancer) impressed the crowd. After eight talent performances and an HIV vaccine and prevention research Q&A session, the hosts judged each performance and Manhattan-based performer Taraye was crowned Mx. Vaccine-o-Licious 18.



Jiggly Caliente engages with crowd



Taraye crowned Mx. Vaccine-o-Licious 18



Jayse Vegas performs

**JOIN AN HIV
VACCINE
STUDY**

RECEIVE \$700-\$2,000 FOR
COMPLETING ALL STUDY VISITS.
LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT HIV.

Scan on Spotify

Partners in Research
achieve COLUMBIA
RESEARCH UNIT

**MORE
STUDIES
INSIDE**

SCAN QR CODE OR CLICK ON STUDY PROMO TO VISIT
ELIGIBILITY SURVEY



Research Study : Black Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM)

Your Voices Matter!

We would like to hear your experiences:

- Accessing HIV prevention services
- Interacting with health care providers
- Interacting with HIV research / vaccine trials
- How can HIV services be more Black MSM-friendly
- Ways to motivate BMSM to be a part of HIV research

[Scan Me](#)

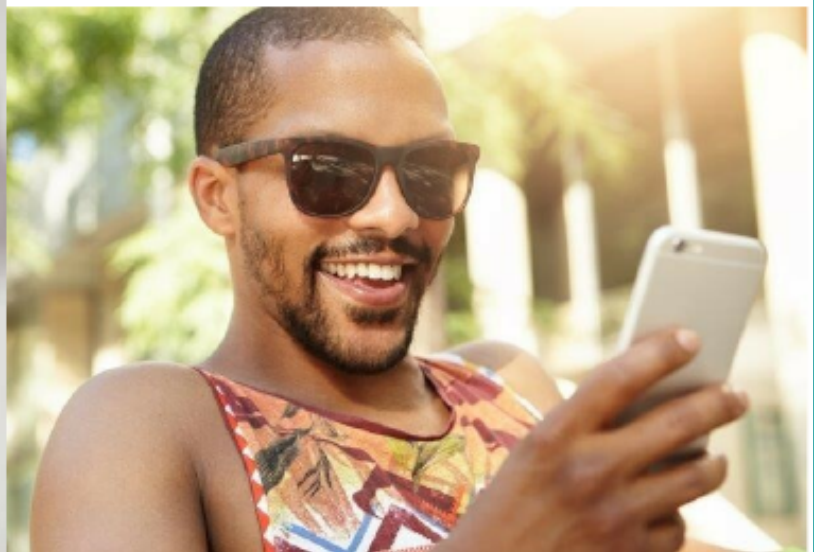
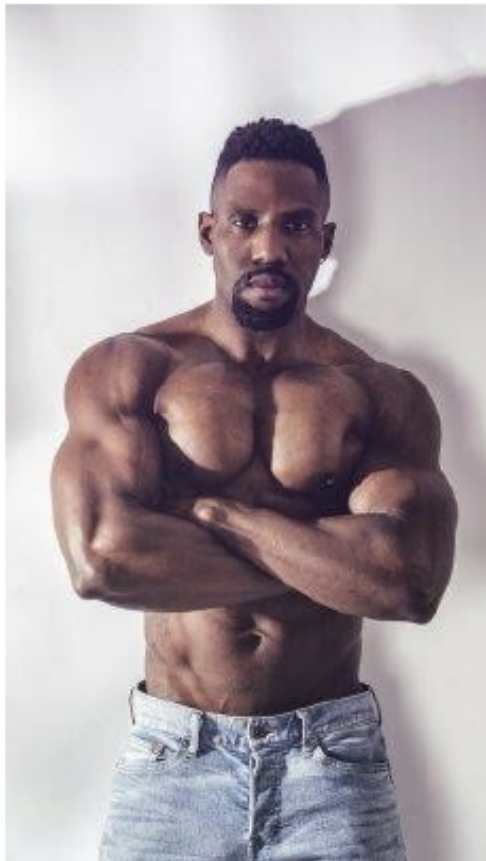


Make *Your* Opinions Known!

You may be eligible if you are:

- Black MSM
- Live in New York City
- 18 - 49 years of age

Earn \$100 for your participation



COVID-19 ORAL TREATMENT STUDY



- HAVE YOU TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN THE LAST FEW DAYS?
- RECEIVE UP TO \$600 FOR COMPLETING ALL STUDY ACTIVITIES
- 7 VISITS TO OUR OFFICE OVER A 6-MONTH PERIOD
- FREE CAR TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FOR SAFETY



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MEET RACHELLE MONTEAU



Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown: Laurelton, Queens

Affiliations: Haitian, queer, womanist

Rachelle Monteau is a rising-second year medical student at the CUNY School of Medicine in Harlem, NY. She is working at Project ACHIEVE as a Research and Mentorship Program (RAMP) scholar through the [HIV Vaccine Trials Network \(HVTN\)](#) program.

What motivated you to join Project ACHIEVE?

As a medical student, I have always been interested in public health and infectious diseases. When I first heard about the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, I knew that I would want to be part of it. When I looked through the sites and projects, I was particularly drawn to Project ACHIEVE because of my interest in Mpox and the diverse population Project ACHIEVE serves. In the future, I aspire to be a physician-scientist that works with marginalized communities, whether that be different racial, gender, sexuality or socioeconomic groups. Working here is putting me one step closer to that goal.

What does your role entail?

I help with recruitment through the Community, Engagement, and Recruitment team, shadow clinical visits, and conduct interviews for the IMAGINE Study. The IMAGINE Study is focused on learning the experiences of gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, who had Mpox in NYC during the 2022 outbreak. I keep up on current literature on Mpox, help write the discussion guide, recruit for the study, and collect the data through interviews. As we wind down on interviews, I am excited to start to learn the analysis needed for this qualitative study.

How has your experience been so far?

I love my experience so far! I enjoy that the lab has a mix of study types from qualitative, quantitative, and clinical based research. I have conducted quantitative research in the past so getting exposure to different forms of research has been fascinating. I also really enjoy the people that I have gotten to know here at Project ACHIEVE. I have felt welcome here since I joined the lab back in May.

What other interests or hobbies do you have outside of work?

Outside of work, I love going to the gym. I love weightlifting and I have recently started indoor rock climbing. I'm an avid reader and I have recently been reading Octavia Butler. I love to read books in the social sciences since so much of my day is focused on medicine.



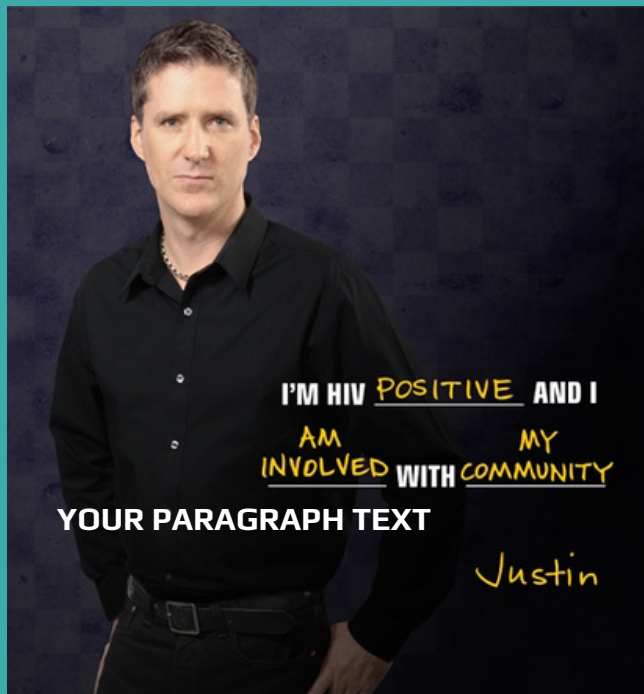
COMMUNITY PARTNER SHOUT-OUT:

HIV STOPS WITH ME.ORG

HIVSTOPSWITHME is a national social marketing campaign that aims to prevent the spread of HIV and reduce any associated stigma. The organization produces videos that feature real HIV positive people talking about real issues. Each spokesmodel is an active member of their community, committed to stopping the spread of HIV while also promoting the values of self-care and healthy living. All of them are united by their goal of ending HIV stigma, supporting linkage to care, building self-esteem and, creating a sense of community among people living with HIV.

Website visitors can engage with the spokesmodels, read about HIV/AIDS issues, learn about events, and find local services/resources. HIVSTOPSWITHME sponsors many events and spokesmodels sometimes make public appearances. HIVSTOPSWITHME was one of the sponsors of Project ACHIEVE's and Columbia Research Unit's very own Vaccine-o-Licious 18 event on held on May 28th. One spokesmodel, Jahlove AKA Jus Jahlisa, Queen of Vaccine, crowned X as Mx. Vaccine-o-Licious 18.

HIV Stops With Me has been nominated for Best Advertising Campaign by GLAAD (Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) and received a Webby Award for Best Health Website. The campaign has also received Telly and Davey awards, along with a W3 and American Graphic Design award. HIV Stops With Me has been evaluated 14 times, making it one of the most well-evaluated HIV prevention campaigns.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

Consider joining The HIV Prevention Research CAB which is critical to keeping researchers informed of local issues and concerns that can influence the conduct and implementation of our studies. You can help give advice on scientific and ethical issues regarding study design, recruitment, and protection of study volunteers.

If you're interested in volunteering, please visit our website, projectachieve.org and click on GET INVOLVED then click JOIN OUR COMMUNITY.

