

HIV Transmission Cluster Analysis to Inform Prevention

PI: Hong-Ha M. Truong PhD MS MPH

Co-Investigators: William Woods PhD, Alberto Curotto PhD, Willi McFarland MD PhD, Robert Grant MD MPH, Steve Shiboski PhD

Project Description

This research will evaluate how high-risk clusters and current prevention strategies affect HIV transmission patterns. There are a number of potential drivers of the epidemic, including substance use, undiagnosed infections and high number of sexual partners. However, it still remains unclear which drivers contribute to the epidemic with HIV transmission as the biological outcome. The study aims to characterize HIV clusters and correlates associated with transmission. Phylogenetic analysis will be performed to assess transmission clusters. Qualitative interviews will be conducted to describe the psychosocial and behavioral contexts associated with transmission.

Significance

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They are often referred to collectively as a high-risk group, but this generalization belies the fact that there is a high degree of heterogeneity of HIV risk within the population. Certain socio-ecological factors place some MSM at higher risk for HIV. Characterization of the structural, behavioral and biological correlates that predict transmissibility would inform the development of targeted interventions.

Project End Date: June 2017