



## BRONX MWCCS NEWSLETTER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Welcome to the Fall edition of the Bronx MWCCS Newsletter! In this issue, we're excited to introduce our new staff members, outline what you can expect during your next visit, and explain any updates for this visit cycle. Your feedback is crucial to the success of our study, so we encourage you to share your thoughts. We look forward to staying connected through our Community Advisory Board.

**In this newsletter  
you will find:**

Announcements/  
Staff Updates  
Community Advisory  
Board (CAB) Updates  
Events/Reminders

Highlights  
What to Expect  
for V1051  
Contact Us



# STAFF UPDATES

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We wanted to welcome our newest members of the MWCCS team warmly. Some of these faces you may have seen before, and some might be new!



Tempest  
Littlejohn



Abena  
Bosompem



Mireya  
Ortiz



Juan  
Gatica  
Portillo



Aaliyah  
Turnbull



Jacqueline  
Martinez



Wenyan  
Ma



Joseph  
Kove



## Meet Your National Community Advisory Board (NCAB) Representatives:

"Hi everyone, my name is Michelle Lopez and I am an HIV/AIDS advocate, mother and long-term HIV survivor. I also serve as a PrEP and PEP Educator for Staff and Seniors receiving services at Seniors Centers throughout New York City. I am very excited to take on this opportunity as one of the Bronx CAB Representatives!"

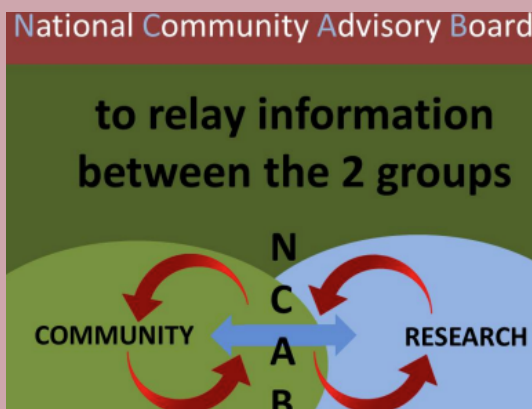


"Hello, I'm Bob Thurber; I generally just go by my last name. I'm a stage manager, although my path there led through Intel Corp. and Wall St. first. I was born and raised in NNJ, and other than four years of college and two years in Washington DC I have spent my life living within about ten miles of Montefiore. I have been involved in MACS since the beginning, starting in 1984/85 at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. I'm proud to have contributed for so long to this vital research, and I'm glad of this new opportunity to be an ear and a voice for my fellow participants."

## What is the NCAB?



The NCAB is a group of study participants from all MWCCS sites who work along with the Executive Committee to ensure representation and accessibility for all study participants with any study-related concerns. The NCAB offers ongoing input on community, scientific, psycho-social, and political aspects of the national MWCCS agenda.



YOU CAN CONTACT THE NCAB BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO THE NCAB AT: [MWCCSNCAB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MWCCSNCAB@GMAIL.COM)





# CAB UPDATES

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## Community Advisory Board (CAB)



### What is the CAB?

The CAB (like the NCAB) is a group of study participants who meet with their local MWCCS (Bronx) staff to advocate and make changes in their own site.

### What you can do in the CAB:



- Identify pertinent research issues not addressed
- Provide study concerns to MWCCS leadership
- Provide feedback on proposed research activities
- Represent and be accessible to community members for any study-related concerns

Please reach out to Mireya Ortiz at (929)358-1852 if you are interested in joining the CAB!

## ✨ HIGHLIGHTS ✨

Our **NCAB** rep **Michelle Lopez** had the wonderful opportunity to present at the United States Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA) in New Orleans, LA.

USCHA is a conference organized by NMAC, whose mission is to “urgently fight for health equity and racial injustice to end the HIV epidemic in America.” They are the largest conference of the HIV community where they address the impact of continuing change in the healthcare system.

If you would like to learn more about the Impact of USCHA visit the QR below:



At your next visit be on the look out for your annual gift!





# EVENTS/REMINDERS

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## *The MWCCS 30 Year Celebration*



Thank you for joining us in celebrating the 30 years of WIHS & 40 years of MACS. We were thrilled to see those of you who could make it! Your presence played a crucial role in making this event a success.



After more than 30 years serving as Principal Investigator for the WIHS (now MAC-WIHS CCS) study, Dr. Kathryn Anastos has chosen to retire. She made a formal announcement at our WIHS 30 year celebration.



Dr. Anastos had worked with community activists in the early 1990s to advocate for a study for women with HIV. In 1993, when the NIH agreed to fund this study, she submitted a successful application to start the Bronx/Manhattan WIHS. In addition to her care of patients living with HIV and her leadership of WIHS now the MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort, she has also worked to develop HIV/AIDS research and scientific capacity in Africa, including the countries of Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Cameroon and Republic of Congo.

All of us here will miss Dr. Anastos. She has taught us so much about what it takes to follow a passion and advocate for others.



# WHAT TO EXPECT: V1051



Core/Baseline Visit	6-Month Visit
Blood Draw	Blood Draw
Urine Collection	Full Cognitive Assessment (BRACE+)
Saliva Collection	Mental Health Assessment (CAT-MH)
Physical Exam (height, weight, BP)	Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT)
Body Shape & Size (Body habitus )	Biomarkers of Lung Function in the air we breath out (FeNO)
Gynecological and PAP smear(women) Male Assessment (men)	Doxycycline Post Exposure Prophylaxis (DOXYPEP) Survey for cisgender men & transgender women
Walk test, Standing balance, Grip strength, Chair Stands (>40 yo)	Questionnaires
Bio-electric Impedance Analysis (BIA)	
Ultrasound of the Liver (Fibroscan)	 <p>Reminder:</p> <p>Please be sure to arrive to your appointment on time</p> 
Dental Picture	
Hair Sample	
Brief Cognitive Assessment (BRACE)	
Mental Health Assessment (CAT-MH)	
Questionnaires	



**Kathryn Anastos, MD**  
Principal Investigator

**Anjali Sharma, MD, MS**  
Principal Investigator

**David Hanna, PhD**  
Principal Investigator

**Janet Brown-Friday, RN, MSN, MPH**  
Project Director

**Wei Gao, MS, MPH**  
Assistant Project Director, Data Manager

**Tempest Littlejohn, BS**  
Senior Study Coordinator

**Shirlyn Charles, MBA**  
Site Accountant

**Janet Wafer, WHCNP, FNP, MSN**  
Research Nurse Practitioner

**Abena Bosompem, MPH**  
Program Manager

**Christine Rivera**  
Phlebotomist/Research Specialist

**Wenyan Ma, MPH**  
Staff Scientist/CIMT Study Coordinator



**Cesarina Nunez, AA**  
Medical Assistant/Research Technologist

**Jackie Martinez**  
Medical Assistant/Interviewer

**Aaliyah Turnbull, BS**  
Medical Assistant/Interviewer

**Jessica Baez**  
Medical Assistant

**Lorraine Harper**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Mireya Ortiz, BS**  
Study Coordinator/Medical Records  
Abstractionist

**Juan Gatica Portillo, MPH**  
Study Coordinator


**Rosanna Sanchez**  
Senior Data Clerk

**Anthony Mitchell Jr. III, AA, CASAC-T**  
Clinical Interviewer

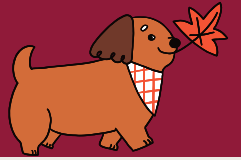
**Ilaine Perez**  
Clinical Interviewer/Research Technologist

**Joseph Kove**  
Sonographer

**Jenna Song**  
Sonographer







**We are still recruiting! You can  
contact us at:  
(718)655-8748 or  
[bronxmwccs@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:bronxmwccs@einsteinmed.edu)**

*Thank You*

