

THE NIA ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

Volume 2, Issue 5

CATCHING THE VISION

As a graduate of the 2nd Nia Alliance Cohort, I've been a part of the Nia Alliance for a little over 3 years now. In review of my first email from Nancy, dated May 15, 2007, Nancy has always included in her auto-signature, the watchword "Yours in The Struggle". Later on, Nancy added "Catch the Vision". "Yours in the Struggle" I understood, but when I first saw the phrase, "Catch the Vision" in the bold red font, I have to admit that I thought it was a provocative proclamation to make on behalf of a small, HIV department in the heart of the East End of Bridgeport.

Well, three years, seven cohorts, hundreds of churches and thousands of contacts later, I'm a believer and I'm not alone!

This past May, Nancy was contacted by Amanda Posila, a local graduate student who had witnessed Nancy's leadership in the community and her work through the Nia Alliance and she was so moved, that she offered to build a website for the Nia Alliance as her final project for her graduate program!

If you haven't already, please log onto our new website:

WWW.NIAALLIANCE.COM

From our website you'll find the information regarding our current programs, our calendar of events and, access to our social media outlets. We look forward to your feedback and also welcome your contributions to the Nia Alliance blog.

Nancy's vision has taken root and is in full bloom!

As a resident of the City of Bridgeport and a person affected by HIV, I thank God for Nancy Kingwood, the Visionary!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CATCHING THE VISION	1
NEW FDA APPROVED HIV TEST	2
CARIBBEAN DAY EVENT	3
NIA COMMUNITY CALENDAR	4
RESOURCES: WHERE TO FIND IT	5
ABOUT NIA	6

NEW FDA APPROVED HIV TEST**Press Release****FDA Approves First-of-Its-Kind HIV Test Which Can Detect HIV Days Earlier Than Current U.S. Tests****June 21, 2010**

Abbott Park, Illinois ([NYSE: ABT](#)) – Every nine and a half minutes, someone in the United States is infected with HIV, and one out of every five of these individuals doesn't know it. To help stem the spread of this disease, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today approved an innovative new diagnostic tool, which will allow patients to be diagnosed earlier than ever before.

Abbott's *ARCHITECT* HIV Ag/Ab Combo assay is the first test approved in the United States that can simultaneously detect both HIV antigen and antibodies. HIV antigen is a protein produced by the virus immediately after infection, whereas antibodies are developed days later as the body works to fight off the infection. Studies have demonstrated that Abbott's new test may detect HIV days earlier than antibody-only tests, which is important in controlling the spread of the virus.

"Since individuals are most infectious to others shortly after infection, detecting HIV earlier is critical and life saving," said Peter Leone, M.D., medical director, North Carolina HIV/STD Prevention and Control Branch, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. "A significant percentage of new HIV infections are transmitted by someone with an undetected acute infection, so identifying more people earlier offers a significant opportunity for counseling, which can reduce high-risk behaviors and also initiate antiretroviral treatment for early-stage infection, if appropriate."

Studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that current antibody-only tests miss up to 10 percent of HIV infections in some high-risk populations because they do not detect antigens. However, Abbott's new assay detects the HIV p24 antigen, or the direct presence of HIV, allowing for diagnosis of early infections days before antibodies emerge.

Abbott and HIV

Abbott has been a leader in HIV/AIDS research since the early years of the epidemic. In 1985, the company developed the first licensed test to detect HIV antibodies in the blood and has marketed more than 20 HIV tests on six testing platforms to meet the unique customer needs in the United States and internationally. Abbott has developed two protease inhibitors for the treatment of HIV.

About Abbott

Abbott (NYSE: ABT) is a global, broad-based health care company devoted to the discovery, development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceuticals and medical products, including nutritionals, devices and diagnostics. The company employs approximately 83,000 people and markets its products in more than 130 countries.

Please [click here](#) to read the entire press release.

Please note that the Nia Alliance will not use Abbott's ARCHITECT HIV Ag/Ab Combo assay test at this time.

National Caribbean-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Event

NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS
FREE CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING

Saturday, July 10, 2010

10:00 am

**New Vision International Ministries
Bishop Elect Derek L. Calhoun
130 Gregory Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 384-1077**

FOOD-FUN-PRIZES
TOGETHER WE FIGHT THE EFFECTS OF HIV/AIDS
IN OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

This Event is sponsored by the Ashe HIV Faith Project of Mount Aery Development Corporation funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

UPCOMING EVENTS



Access our calendar below for information regarding our upcoming events.
Please come out and support the community as your calendars permit!

For more information regarding our upcoming events, please bookmark the following web address: <http://www.localendar.com/public/NiaAlliance>

If you're aware of a community or faith based event and would like to add it to the calendar, please submit the following information to newsletter@niaalliance.com

- ◇ Event Name
- ◇ Point of Contact
- ◇ Date and time of Event
- ◇ Description of Event

RESOURCES: WHERE TO FIND IT...

Need HIV, STD or statistical info and not sure where to find it?
See the list of resources below.

FREE LOCAL HIV TESTING LOCATIONS**GBAPP**

258 Mill Hill Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm
203- 384-3629

Optimus Health Care Incorporated

982 East Main St, Bridgeport, CT 06608
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm
203-696-0085

Southwest Community Health Center

361 Bird St, Bridgeport, CT 06605
Hours: Mon-Fri., 8:30am-5pm
203-330-6000

Yale-New Haven Hospital (AIDS Care Program)

20 York St, New Haven, CT 066511
Hours: Mon., 9am-3pm; Tues., Thurs., Fri., 8:30am-5pm; Wed., 9:30am-3pm
203-688-3298

Norwalk Health Department

137 East Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm

HIV/AIDS Statistics

Local Stats: CT Department of Public Health (DPH)

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3135&q=393048>

National Stats: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/index.htm>

Other Related Information:

STD info: Fact Sheets, Statistics, STD testing Sites, etc:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>

Substance Abuse: Treatment facilities, etc:

<http://www.ct.gov/DMHAS/site/default.asp>

2-1-1: referral services for the entire state of CT:

<http://www.infoline.org/>

**REFERRAL
SOURCES:**

**TESTING
SITES,
STATISTICS,
ETC...**

ABOUT NIA

THE NIA ALLIANCE

MADC
72 George Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Tel: 203-870-0761
www.niaalliance.com

The Nia Alliance is an initiative with the goal to develop a volunteer network of men and women who are dedicated to learn and respond to the growing HIV epidemic among women of color. In August 2006, GBAPP, Inc. developed a training curriculum to prepare men and women of color to serve as volunteer liaisons to faith-based organization. Objectives for participants completing the training workshop are 1) enhance knowledge of HIV, 2) develop skills to engage peers in HIV-related services, and 3) serve as community liaisons and planning body for HIV awareness events sponsored by GBAPP.

NIA ALLIANCE MISSION STATEMENT

The Nia Alliance is a community mobilization initiative dedicated to equip people of African descent to respond effectively and emphatically to the AIDS epidemic in communities of color through education, advocacy, direct services and community collaboration. Grounded in faith, we recognize the importance of being inclusive and nonjudgmental as we empower our participants to make informed decisions.

The Ashe HIV Faith Project

funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Faith and Community Based Support Initiative

The Ashe Faith Project aims to reduce substance abuse and HIV/AIDS in communities of color by strengthening the partnerships between local community organizations and faith groups, utilizing a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to maximize local synergies, promote program collaboration, and encourage service integration.

For more information regarding the Nia Alliance, please contact:

Contact: Nancy Kingwood, MSHS, CHIVC

Project Director

Mount Aery Development Corporation (MADC)

72 George Street

Bridgeport, CT. 06604

Tel: (203) 870-0761

Fax: (203) 394-9957

Email: ashefaithmadc@yahoo.com

**Would you like to
contribute to the
newsletter?**

Please email your article,
event, pictures, etc to
newsletter@niaalliance.com
by the 10th of each month.

