

CHEST Receives \$725K in Grants for HIV Prevention

The Hunter College Center for HIV Educational Studies and Training, Co-Directed by faculty members [Dr. Jeffrey Parsons](#) (Chair, Psychology) and [Dr. Sarit Golub](#) (Associate Professor, Psychology) has been awarded two grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct research on HIV prevention. Both awards will support CUNY's ongoing efforts to conduct behavioral research to prevent the spread of HIV.

Dr. Jeffrey T. Parsons and [Dr. Christian Grov](#) (Brooklyn College, Department of Health and Nutrition) are lead investigators on a new study that will develop an innovative web-based intervention for Black men who have sex with men and women. They received a three-year award of \$450,000 from the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH).

"HIV disproportionately impacts Black men who have sex with men and women, and, unfortunately, there are no interventions that have been demonstrated effective for this population," said Christian Grov. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have highlighted this group as a priority population for HIV prevention.

"A lot of research has indicated this is a hard-to-reach population, so our intervention will be delivered over the Internet," said Jeffrey Parsons "Participants will watch content in the privacy of their own homes."

The funding will allow the research team at Hunter/Brooklyn College to create and package a series of brief videos featuring peers talking about their experiences with safer sex and HIV. Participants in the study will watch a new video online each week for a period of six weeks. The research team will then follow participants for 6 months to monitor the impact of the videos.

Dr. Sarit Golub is the lead investigator on a study focusing on the role of neurocognitive factors in determining HIV risk behavior. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) awarded \$275,000 for her 2-year study.

"At present, little research has been conducted to bridge the gap between neuropsychological and behavioral findings regarding HIV prevention," says Dr. Golub. "This study is designed to identify particular neurocognitive deficits or decision-making patterns that make HIV risk behavior more likely."

The study examines ways in which problems with decision-making, working memory, or impulse control may be working against existing HIV prevention strategies, and is designed to assist in the development and adaptation of HIV prevention interventions that will best meet the needs of the population they serve.



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