



The Network

FEBRUARY 2015

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25th Annual AIDS Update Symposium

March 19th, 2015 | 11:30am to 5:00pm | Embassy Suites | San Luis Obispo, CA | CMEs & CEUs Available

Please join us for our 25th Annual AIDS Update Symposium!

Our program strives to examine topics that inform us about the health of our community.

This year's symposium will include several topics, including details surrounding Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), new treatments for the hepatitis C virus (HCV) with incredible cure rates and less intense treatment side-effects.

In addition, we will review new research in HIV/AIDS care and treatment.

As healthcare providers and concerned community members, the 25th Annual AIDS Update Symposium will

provide you with important updated information about HIV/AIDS and HCV treatments and that will keep you on the forefront of caring for individuals

living with these devastating diseases.

Upon completion of this program, participants will including:

- Become acquainted with the changing face of HCV care, including new medications for HCV treatment with shorter durations, less severe side-effects, and incredible cure rates;
- Learn about the revolutionary new tool for HIV prevention, PrEP;
- Identify current modalities for

HIV/AIDS treatment, including highlights from the most recent annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI).

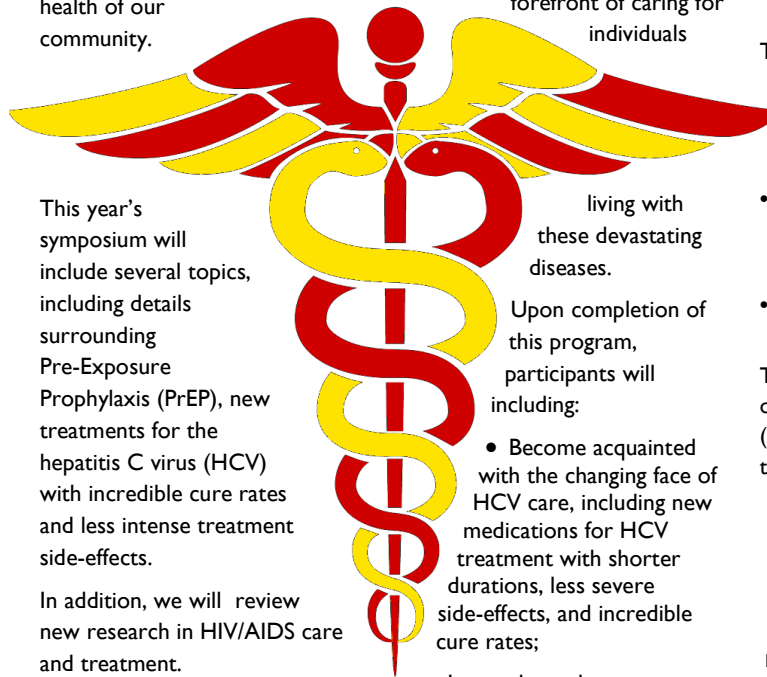
The event program includes:

- Jay Gladstein, M.D.
– *Important Information About Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)*
- Val Rob, F.M.P.
– *Changing Face of HCV Care & Treatment*
- Richard Presnell, M.D.
– *HIV Update*

To **register online**, visit asn.org, or send your registration fee check (payable to AIDS Support Network) to:

*The AIDS Support Network
AIDS Update Symposium
P.O. Box 12158
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
Attn: David Kilburn*

Registration fees are \$55 before March 11 and \$65 after that date. Contact us for available **student discounts**. Fees include lunch, materials from speakers, and a comprehensive list of local resources.



FREE HIV Testing at ASN

The ASN offers FREE confidential HIV testing every week!

Come and see us!

WEDNESDAYS:

1pm to 4:pm

FRIDAYS:

11am to 3pm

#Follow Us!



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@ASNSLO

PAN Foundation Offers Assistance for PrEP

The mission of the Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation, a national non-profit, is “to offer help and hope to people with chronic or life-threatening illnesses for whom cost limits access to breakthrough medical treatments” (panfoundation.com)

Since its launch in March 2014, the PAN Foundation has assisted over 5,200 people through its HIV Treatment and Prevention fund. In January 2015, PAN announced that it will be

expanding its HIV fund to include financial assistance for people at-risk for HIV to access pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

In other words, PAN will help cover the costs necessary to stay on PrEP for those who are accepted into the program.

Those who qualify for PAN’s HIV Treatment and Prevention fund are eligible to receive an annual grant to help cover the out-of-pocket costs associated with PrEP, such as blood tests and

doctor’s visits.

Qualified applicants must have some form of primary insurance coverage for the medication, must be at-risk of acquiring HIV, or have been exposed to bodily fluids potentially containing HIV within the last 72 hours.

Visit panfoundation.org and click “Apply Now” to access the online application.



Patient Access Network
foundation

“...You are especially at risk for Hep C if you were born between 1945-1965; if you’ve ever used IV drugs; or, if you received a blood transfusion before 1990.”

Get Tested. Get Treated. Get Cured.

Here are 3 reasons why you should get tested for the hepatitis C virus:

- You could have Hep C even if you feel fine! It can take 30 years for you to develop any symptoms. Untreated, the virus could cause significant damage to your liver, including cancer or cirrhosis.
- If you do have Hep C, new treatments have improved dramatically and even have an over 90% cure rate! The

sooner you get tested, the quicker you can get treatment!

- You are especially at risk for Hep C if you were born between 1945-1965; if you’ve ever used IV drugs; or, if you received a blood transfusion before 1990.

The test is quick, easy, and, thanks to generous funding from Dignity Health Community Grants Program, confidential Hep C testing is now available to you FREE at locations throughout SLO County!

Call us or any of our community partners and we’ll get you connected to a testing site near you!

The SLO Hep C Project
(805) 543-4372

The Center
(805) 544-2478

The Noor Clinic
(805) 439-1799

Planned Parenthood
(888) 898-3806

Your support and the support of local community members and businesses are vital to our continuing ability to provide comprehensive services to our growing number of clients. There are many ways that you can make a generous donation!

- **Money:** ALL MONEY DONATED TO THE ASN IS TAX DEDUCTABLE & REMAINS IN THIS COMMUNITY to help SLO County residents in their struggle with HIV/AIDS and Hep C.
- **Time:** One of the most important ways the SLO community supports the ASN is through the gift of time. Our volunteer program offers opportunities to directly assist clients and help keep the agency streamlined.
- **Food:** ASN’s Food Party is always in need of the basics. If you would like to hold a food drive, or donate food directly, we have a list of suggestions for you!

You will make a difference! Contact us, or visit ASN.org, for more details!

You Can
Make a
Difference!

SB 138: Keeping Your Health Info Confidential

The Affordable Care Act brought about many excited changes including increasing access to birth control, mental health professionals and medications, and even extended the time that a child could remain on their parent's insurance!

However, one barrier remained: if someone was enrolled in a health insurance policy that was in another person's name, like a parent or spouse, they used to be able to send some health information, like your provider and the services you received, to the primary policy holder as part of regular health insurance communications about payment and coverage.

This created a barrier for many people who wanted to access these services, but didn't want their health information shared with their policy holders.

For example, a college student might want to access mental health services, but doesn't want their parents to know. Or, someone might want to access birth control or STD services but feels they can't because their spouse would find out.

SB 138, or the Confidential Health Act, creates an opportunity to prevent these situations from occurring by requiring insurance companies to accept Confidential Communications Requests

(CCR) and stop sharing this information.

Whenever someone sends their insurance company a CCR, they must stop sharing your confidential health information with your health plan's main policy holder. SB 138 makes accepting CCRs a requirement in two situations:


- 1) When someone asks for confidentially regarding a "sensitive service" (i.e. sexual and reproductive health, drug treatment, sexual assault services, etc.).
- 2) When someone indicates that sharing all or part of your private health information to the policy holder will put you at risk of harm or harassment. **You will NEVER be asked to explain.**

A CCR can be done either via the phone or in writing. Many health insurance companies already have a specific CCR form for you to fill out which might be online or on paper. If they do not, you can download one at myhealthmyinfo.org that includes all the necessary information, including your policy number and how you want communications sent to you.

Once a CCR is in place, it remains active and your insurance company must honor it until either you change your CCR or you tell them that you no longer need or want it.

Visit myhealthmyinfo.org for more information or to download a Confidential Communications Request.

KEEP IT CONFIDENTIAL.



Your health insurance plan does NOT keep your health information private unless...

YOU TAKE ACTION.

The ASN Housing staff are actively recruiting landlords interested in learning more about the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

We have several clients who are seeking rentals willing to accept these HCVs.



For more information, please call 805-781-3660 and speak with Elena.



Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 12158
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Physical Address:
 1320 Nipomo St.
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

*Phone: 805-781-3660
 800-491-9141
 Fax: 805-781-3664*

The San Luis Obispo County AIDS Support Network remains the sole community-based, non-profit organization in this county that provides supportive services to residents living with HIV disease & AIDS, and their families and friends.

The SLO Hep C Project is dedicated to meeting the needs of people living with hepatitis C and increasing public awareness through educational outreach in SLO County.

The agency strives to improve the quality of life and independence of its clients by providing support on an individual basis.

Lean more at ASN.org & SLOHepC.org

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Upcoming Events & Opportunities!

We are proud to offer our community a wide variety of **volunteer opportunities**. You're sure to find one that's perfect for you!

Front Desk Volunteer:

Our front desk volunteers are the back bone of the office. They direct phone calls, greet incoming clients, help with distributing food from our pantry, and overall help to keep us sane! We love, LOVE, our front desk volunteers!

Direct Client Services:

There is always a need for a variety of services, including companionship, meal delivery & preparation, housekeeping, gardening, transportation for medical visits or groceries, pet care, and other invaluable services.

Contact us for more details!



Upcoming Events:

25th Annual AIDS Update Symposium

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Featuring education about PrEP and the newest treatments for Hep C, the annual Update Symposium offers SLO County's health care providers and community members up-to-date information about HIV/AIDS & Hep C prevention, care, & treatment that will keep our health care community on the forefront of caring for individuals living with these devastating diseases.

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