

The HIV cure research training curriculum (CUREiculum™) is a collaborative project aimed at making HIV cure science accessible to the community and the HIV research field.

Community needs assessment and pilot test of a novel HIV cure research training curriculum

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Background

The HIV cure research field presents new challenges to study conduct, design, risk, and a host of other issues – scientific, biological, social, ethical and regulatory – that many stakeholders are grappling with. There has been an expressed need to increase literacy around the growing HIV cure research field in order to adequately make decisions around HIV cure research. To this end, the Collaboratory of AIDS Researchers for Eradication (CARE), along with AVAC (formerly the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition), other Martin Delaney Collaboratories (DARE and defeatHIV) and engaged community groups (TAG, Project Inform, iBase and Sidaction) are spearheading a novel, comprehensive HIV cure research training curriculum (“CUREiculum”). The goal of the CUREiculum is to make HIV cure science accessible to the community and the HIV research field.

Specifically the HIV cure research curriculum:

- Provides basic scientific knowledge on a range of HIV cure research related topics
- Strengthens community capacity to participate in and make decisions about HIV cure research
- Promotes the ethical development and implementation of HIV cure clinical studies

The CUREiculum was launched at CROI 2015.

CUREiculum



What is the CUREiculum?

The CUREiculum is a suite of tools that provides simple, accessible information on HIV cure research, organizing into a systematic format for ongoing or issue-specific learning. The CUREiculum was developed in a multi-collaboratory process by leading scientists, community educators and various advocacy organizations who recognized the need for increasing literacy in this exciting arena. The tools are designed for community educators, funders, media and other stakeholders. Fifteen key areas of HIV cure research have been developed into free standing modules.

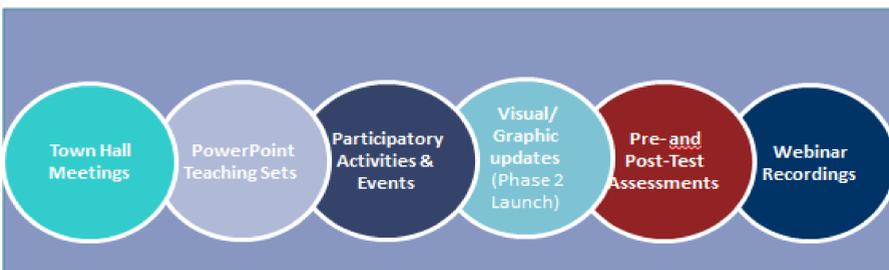
How was the CUREiculum developed?

There was a growing and expressed need among members of the community to increase literacy around the growing HIV cure research field in order to adequately participate in and make decisions on HIV cure research. In 2014 community educators, HIV advocacy organizations and the Martin Delaney International Community Advisory Boards formed a coalition to build and deploy the curriculum materials. Each module has been developed by a community scientific partnership. Several modules have been piloted during community workshops in the US and France.

CUREiculum website: <http://www.avac.org/cureiculum>

Methods

During the period of August–October 2014, participants attending HIV cure research training sessions completed a brief online HIV cure research literacy survey. The needs assessment questionnaire fed into the development of the HIV cure research literacy curriculum. Individuals who completed the needs assessment questionnaire were invited to participate in pilots of three different curriculum modules. Participants evaluated the content and usefulness of modules, assessed HIV cure research ‘literacy’ levels and sought real-time feedback from participants to develop and refine subsequent training modules.



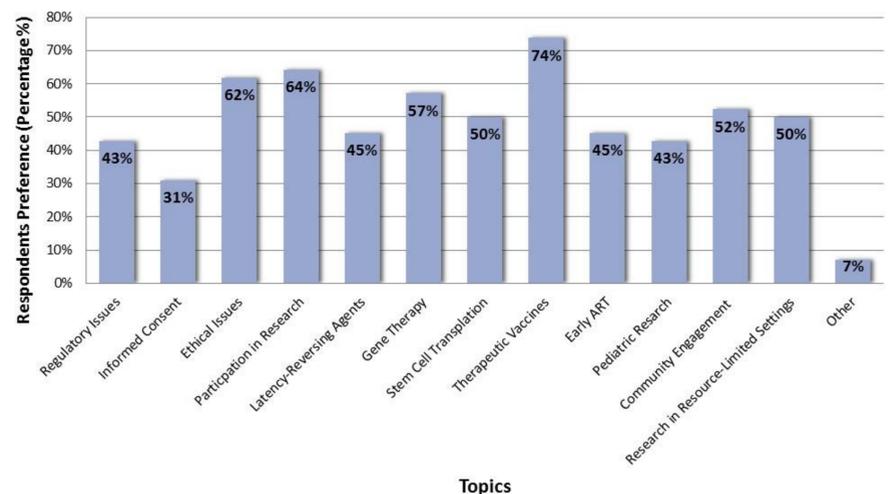
Town Hall Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUREiculum hosts workshops and seminars in major U.S. cities next to major HIV (cure) research conferences and meetings
Powerpoint Teaching Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUREiculum keeps PowerPoint teaching sets up to date for each module
Participatory Activities and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUREiculum provides tools to meaningfully engage communities around HIV cure research
Pre-/Post-Test Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUREiculum provides instruments to assess knowledge
Webinar Recordings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUREiculum provides links to video stream recordings
Videos and Graphic Updates (Phase II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUREiculum will transform each module into a video and will update graphics to make HIV cure science more accessible

CUREiculum Service Delivery Proposition

Results

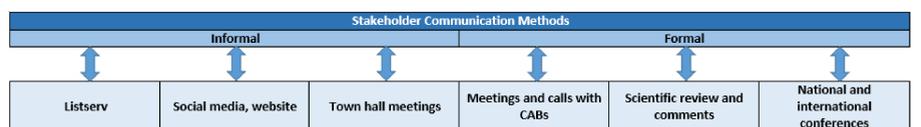
Of the n = 42 respondents, 40 (95.2%) found the curriculum module very useful and 1 (2.3%) found it somewhat useful, as opposed to not very useful or not at all useful (1 answer missing). Most participants found the module very easy (32/42; 76.2%) or somewhat easy (12/42; 28.6%) to understand, as opposed to not very easy or not at all easy. In-person talks or forums (27/42; 64.2%) were the preferred method of learning, compared with webinars/conference calls (5/42; 11.9%) or self-paced web-based learning programs (8/42; 19.0%). Participants preferred training topics by the community included therapeutic vaccines (31/42; 73.8%), participation in HIV cure research (27/42; 64.2%) and ethical issues (26/42; 61.9% of participants).

What HIV cure-related topics would you like to learn about?



Conclusions

The needs assessment of the curriculum effort during the pilot test phase showed the usefulness of the training modules and desires to increase community ‘literacy’ around HIV cure research. Based on the results of the pilot tests and needs assessment questionnaire, 15 curriculum modules are being developed and scaled-up by scientific and community liaisons. The curriculum can strengthen community capacity to participate in and make decisions around HIV cure research. However, greater efforts to systematically roll out the literacy tool is needed in diverse community populations.



CUREiculum Communication Framework (following Good Participatory Practice)



CUREiculum Timeline

Next Steps

The CUREiculum team will consolidate the training modules and foster synergies with the HIV research networks (including Martin Delaney Collaboratories, AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Network (IMPAACT), HIV Prevention Trials Network (HTPN), and the Women’s Interagency HIV Study (WHIS). The CUREiculum website will provide a clearinghouse of information on HIV cure research. The CUREiculum team will continue to encourage a meaningful dialogue between scientists and communities around HIV cure research and strive to calibrate expectations and make HIV cure science information accessible to a lay audience as much as possible. A more formal needs assessment and evaluation component will be incorporated as part of the CUREiculum effort. Translation of the CUREiculum modules into other languages is also envisioned.

Acknowledgements

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