

THE SECS STUDY

Understanding sex, couples and science



WHAT:

This study aims to understand how sex alters the genital tract, microbiomes, and immune responses.

The ultimate goal is to understand how these changes alter risk of HIV transmission.

WHY: ?

This is a novel study, which looks at time points after sex previously unexamined in research.

Having a greater understanding of the details of genital environments and their effects on HIV transmission is essential to building towards a greater understanding of HIV transmission itself.

HOW: ⚙️

Heterosexual couples who screen negative for common STIs, pregnancy, and HIV are selected as participants.

Samples are taken from the participating couples who are asked to follow a timed regimen for select sexual activity. The same sample sets are taken following each sexual activity for comparison.

IMPACT:

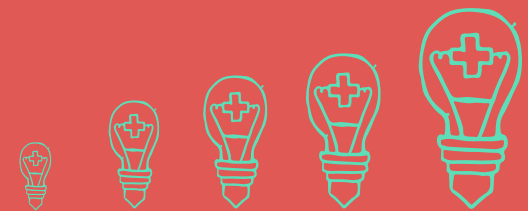
This study is ongoing with overall impacts and data to be assessed upon completion, to date:

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Heterosexual couples are participating



The study has also acted as a **capacity building** opportunity for new and emerging researchers



WHO:

Principle Investigators: Wangari Tharao and Dr. Rupert Kaul, Coordinators: Avid Mohammadi, Azadeh Fazel, Sareh Bagherichimeh, and Elizabeth Tevlin, Community Advisory members: Valerie Pierre-Pierre, Shannon Ryan, Alexander Vadala, and Stella Osagie.

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