

The ASPIRE logo features the word "ASPIRE" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. A green ring is positioned around the letter "A".

**ASPIRE**

A Study to Prevent Infection  
with a Ring for Extended Use

# Retention in MTN-020

---

Thesla Palanee, PhD  
On behalf of the ASPIRE team

MTN Annual Meeting, Bethesda  
22 February 2012



# Overview

---

- **Definition in MTN 020**
- **Requirements**
- **Group discussion of lessons learned**
- **Site feedback on anticipated approaches**

# Retention

---

- Refers to completion of required follow-up visit procedures at time points specified in the protocol
  
- Retention data will be routinely provided to Protocol Team in two ways;
  - a per-visit retention rate (%) as well as
  - an overall (cumulative) retention rate (%)

# Per-Visit Retention (PVR)

---

- PVR rate (%) for each required follow-up visit will be calculated and provided in a monthly Enrollment and Retention Report

**Per-Visit Retention % =**

**No. of ppts expected for visit who complete visit within allowable time frame**

**No. of ppts expected for the visit.**

- Note that for this calculation, a participant is not considered “expected” once she has seroconverted

# Overall Retention

---

- An overall (cumulative) retention rate (%) for each site will be provided in a monthly Data Summary Report

**Overall retention % =**

**Total number of completed visits to-date within visit allowable time frame**

**Total number of expected study visits**

- For this calculation, “expected Visits” is the number of visits expected to be completed assuming no missed visits or loss to follow-up

# Retention Requirements

---

- MTN-020 will use a per-visit retention rate target of 95% for all required follow-up visits
- All study sites will target a retention rate of at least 95 %for each required follow-up visit
- Low retention rates impacts on HIV infection rates observed in participants
  - In each group, the observed HIV infection rate could be higher or lower than the true rate, but it is not possible to determine the direction of the error



# Retention Requirements

---

- Once enrolled, a participant will be calculated as “expected” for every visit thereafter, regardless of loss to follow-up or termination
- Retention begins at enrollment

# Retention Requirements

---

- To avoid bias in study results, high participant retention rates must be maintained throughout
  
- If 95% per-visit retention rate is not achieved from start of accrual period, protocol team may request that accrual be
  - slowed or
  - stopped altogetheruntil retention rates are brought to an acceptable level.





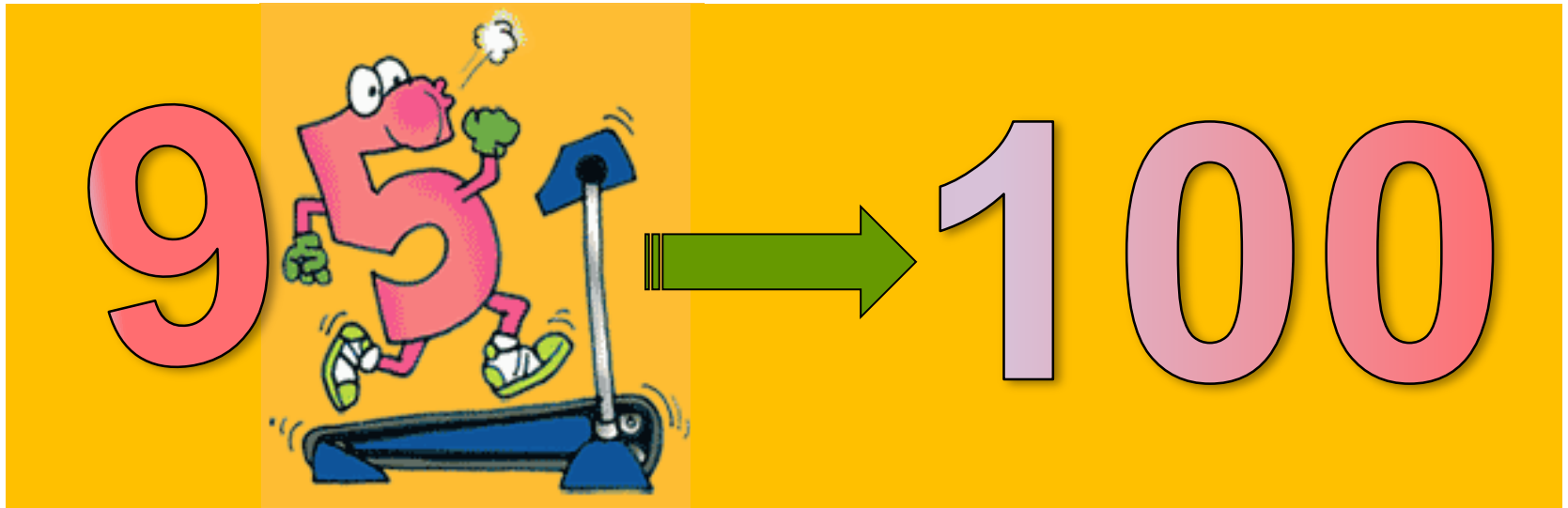
# Reasons: Adherence

---

- Full adherence is not possible when a women does not have product
  - Study Adherence
  - Product Adherence
- Even when maintaining a desired overall retention rate, intermittent LTFU can negatively impact the results of a trial
  - Loss of power
  - Underestimate potential effectiveness
    - Effectiveness is a population level measure
  - Inability to estimate efficacy
    - Efficacy is a person level measure (biomedical impact of the drug)
- Ensuring women return for visits or have other arrangements that allow them to stay on ring is

**CRITICAL**

Let's **ASPIRE** for .....



# Retention SOP Content-SSP

---

- *Site-specific retention goals*
- *Methods for tracking actual retention versus retention goals*
- *Procedures for completing and updating participant locator information*
- *Site-specific definition of “adequate” locator information (for purposes of determining participant eligibility)*
- *Visit reminder methods and timeframes*
- *Methods and timeframes for identifying when a visit has been missed*
- *Planned retention methods, including what outreach/locator efforts are taken within various time intervals after a visit has been missed*
- *Definition of “chronic defaulter”*
- *Strategies for recovering participants considered to be chronic defaulters*
- *Methods for timely evaluation of the utility of retention methods*
- *Ethical and human subjects considerations*
- *Staff responsibilities for all of the above (direct and supervisory)*
- *QC/QA procedures related to the above (if not specified elsewhere)*

# Design efficiencies

- Accrual
  - Large number of sites, modest sample size = achievable number of recruitments
  - Focus will be on protocol adherence during screening and enrollment – i.e., really trying to enroll only those who will return as scheduled for follow-up



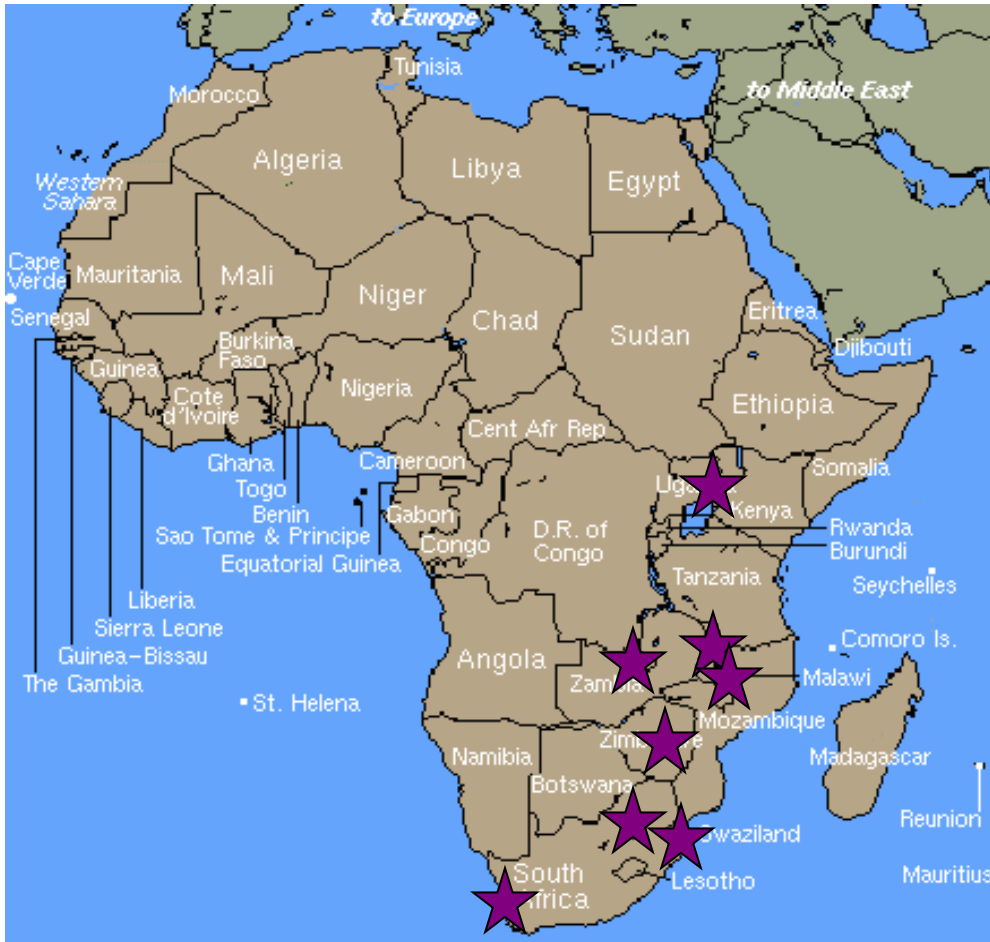
**BE SELECTIVE**

# Design efficiencies

---

- Follow-up
  - Streamlined data collection and study procedures = reduced time spent in clinic
  - Allowances for efficiencies for individual women – protocol provisions for extra ring dispensing and off-site visits
- Retention
  - Focus from day one from participant one: resource and attention allocation will be critical
  - *No retention = no adherence*
- Provision of services on-site
  - Contraception: expanding method mix and convenience
  - Partner HIV testing, STI evaluation/referral

# Multisite Strategy Sharing Session



- Lessons learned
- Anticipated approaches

Blantyre, Lilongwe, **Malawi**

Cape Town, Durban (8 sites)  
Klerksdorp, Johannesburg  
**South Africa**

Kampala, **Uganda**

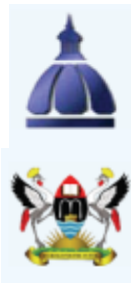
Lusaka, **Zambia**

Harare (3 sites), **Zimbabwe**

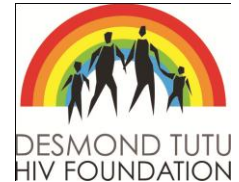
# ASPIRE TEAM



Malawi College of  
Medicine – JHU  
Research Project



INTERNATIONAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
MICROBICIDES



UNC Project -  
Malawi

University of Zimbabwe,  
School of Medicine





# Acknowledgements

---

MTN is funded by NIAID (5U01AI068633), NICHD and NIMH, all of the U.S. National Institutes of Health

