



# COACH Team Newsletter

*Counselling to Optimize Adherence, Choice, and Honest Reporting*

December 2016

## In this issue:

- An introduction from Ivan
- Meet the COACH session raters
- “What else would you like to discuss about the Ring or the other HIV prevention approaches you selected?”
- Link to the demonstration videos

Hello COACH Team!!

I am very excited to share with you our first COACH Team Newsletter. We plan on sending a newsletter to you each month with information and updates that are important to our COACH Team. We will also use the newsletter to highlight some key aspects of the counseling sessions that emerge as we review sessions for all of the sites.

I am also very excited about introducing you to my team here in New York. You have heard me speak about them during our time together in Durban and Cape Town as well as during our calls. But it is always nice to put a face to a name and to learn something about them. You may remember that in Durban, I took pictures of the teams from the different sites. We plan to print those pictures and display them on a board in the HOPE team office! So, although we may be separated by an ocean, we are all one team, working together to help women remain HIV negative!

## Meet the COACH Session Raters!



**Rebecca Giguere, Project Director  
English Session Rater**

Grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Holds a Master’s degree in Public Health. Currently, a Project Director at the HIV Center, with 8 years of experience on several MTN studies including MTN-017 (rectal tenofovir gel with MSM) and MTN-027 (vaginal ring with young women in the US). Responsible for training and supervising the US-based rating team.



**Lonely Kachenjera  
Chichewa Session Rater**

From Zomba, Malawi. Holds a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematical Sciences Education, majoring in Statistics, from the University of Malawi, Polytechnic. Currently, pursuing a Master’s degree in Pure Mathematics and Lehman College, City University of New York.



**McLoddy Kadyamusuma  
Shona Session Rater**

Born in Harare, Zimbabwe, lived in Chitungwiza until the age of 23, when he left Zimbabwe. Earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Potsdam in Germany. Currently an assistant professor at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

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**Clare Kajura-Manyindo**  
**Luganda Session Rater**

Born in Wakiso, Uganda, with family in Entebbe, Kampala, and Fort Portal. Attended Makerere University for a Bachelor's Degree in Education and Bishop Magambo Counselor Training Institute for a Diploma in Counseling, and Mercy College, NY for a Master's in Counseling. Prior to moving to NY, she taught high school, was a counselor, and facilitated counseling trainings for service providers working with HIV patients. Currently teaches Psychology.



**Cody Lentz, Project Coordinator**  
**English Session Rater**

From New Oxford, Pennsylvania. Completed a Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Fordham College in New York. Currently, a Research Coordinator at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, coordinating all audio files and preparing them for rating, in addition to rating session in English.



**Zanele Ndlovu-Ford**  
**Zulu Session Rater**

Born and raised in Esikhawini, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. Lived in Lamontville for two years after graduating from high school and in Johannesburg for three years before moving to the US in 1997. Attended the university at Medgar Evers College in New York, with a degree in Computer Science. Currently works as a translator, translating scripts between English and Zulu.



**Christine Rael**  
**English Session Rater**

Originally from Rochester, New York. Holds a Ph.D. in Health and Behavioral Science from the University of Colorado at Denver. Currently, a post-doctoral fellow at the HIV Center for Clinical & Behavioral Studies, where her work focuses on expanding access to HIV prevention and care via mobile technology for stigmatized populations.



**NoCamagu Tuswa-Haynes**  
**Xhosa Session Rater**

Born and raised in Umtata, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Moved to the US in 1981. Earned a degree in Pharmacy and currently works as a community pharmacist, specializing in public health, harm reduction, & HIV prevention.

## *“What else would you like to discuss about the Ring or the other HIV prevention approaches you selected?”*

It has been interesting to see how many counselors have difficulty asking this question. In the flipchart, close to the end of each session, there is a page that says “What else?” That page is to remind you to ask a question similar to the one above. What we often hear in the recordings is the counselor asking a closed ended question such as:

*“Is there anything else you want to talk about?” or “Do you have any questions?”*

As a result, the participant quickly responds NO, usually without even thinking much about whether or not she actually has any questions she wants to ask. That is not unusual, it is what we all tend to do when asked such a question. But this specific issue has resulted in many sessions not meeting criteria for fidelity!

For this part of the session, I would like all of you to remember to ask a question that has **two key components**:

1. It is an **open-ended question** that cannot be answered YES or NO. It invites the participant to think about what other questions they may still have.
2. It **focuses on the Ring or the other HIV prevention approaches** the participant has selected.

Here are some possible examples:

*“What else would you like to discuss about the Ring or the other HIV prevention approaches you selected?”*

*“What else would you find helpful to discuss about using the Ring or the other HIV prevention approaches you are going to be using during the next month?”*

*“As you think about using the Ring (or any of the other HIV prevention approaches you chose) what questions do you have?”*

Feel free to develop a question that you feel comfortable asking, just remember that it should be open-ended and focused on the Ring or other HIV prevention approaches selected.

### ***HOPE Counseling Demonstration Videos***

The HOPE Counseling Demos model client-centered counseling skills and task completion for both Enrollment and Follow-up Visits. They cover various scenarios, from participants who choose to use the ring to those who do not, as well as participants with High, Medium, and Low drug levels in the Ring. Here is the URL to access a playlist with all of these videos: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSxFFM-6EltKigi\\_IAAs9R2O3XRW5Ct1g](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSxFFM-6EltKigi_IAAs9R2O3XRW5Ct1g)