The HIV Specialty for Nurse Practitioners

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Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for PLHIV requires an adequate workforce.

Growing need for providers skilled in HIV specialty & primary care.

Four NP and one PA program funded by HRSA (2013-2018).

DUSON only program in the South where 52% of all new HIV diagnoses occur.

DUSON is only distance-based program and only HIV specialty currently enrolling students.
HIV Clinician Workforce

• Decline in number of primary care and infectious disease physicians to manage HIV while there will be an increase in demand

• Need to utilize other health care professionals such as NPs, PAs, nurses, dentists and pharmacists

• Provision of more training opportunities
A study conducted at an academic HIV clinic in a large U.S. city found that PLHIV prefer integration of HIV and primary care but HIV specialty providers had variable interest in serving as PCPs.
DUSON HIV Specialty Curriculum

- Epidemiology and Pathogenesis of HIV/AIDS
- Psychosocial, Political, Ethical and Legal Aspects of HIV/AIDS
- Pharmacologic Management of HIV/AIDS
- Clinical Care and Treatment in HIV/AIDS
Inter-professional & Interdisciplinary focus

- Dermatology
- Hepatology
- Cardiology
- Social Work
- Case Management
- PLWH
- LGBTQ
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Advocacy
- Mental Health
- Law & Policy
- Primary Care
- Medicine
- Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
Impact on the HIV Provider Workforce

- NPs who can assume the full spectrum of primary care and HIV-specialty services needed by PLHIV
- Understanding of and skills to address unique challenges faced by PLHIV
- 47 graduates
- 31 are working in settings caring for PLHIV
What is next?

• Increase clinical care capacity
• Improve healthcare provider knowledge and competency to care for this unique population
• Increase training opportunities and access to them
A Call to Action

1. Funding to expand access to training programs

2. Assure that training not only focuses on medical aspects of HIV but also the unique challenges for PLHIV

3. Create and evaluate novel ways of systematically providing primary care to PLHIV