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Ending intimate partner violence among women living with HIV: How attachment and HIV stigma inform understanding and intervention

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Authors

Davis, Katy
Dawson-Rose, Carol
Cuca, Yvette P
[et al.](#)

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1 Dear Colleagues,

2

3 It is November and for many members of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) that
4 means the ANAC Annual Conference. As we are going to publication for this issue of the
5 Journal, it is the middle of August and globally we are experiencing another wave of the
6 COVID-19 pandemic. While many other organizations have made the decision to meet virtually
7 again this year, we at ANAC are holding out hope that while following the current guidelines
8 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) we can gather in Washington, D.C.
9 on November 11-13, 2021 for our annual conference.

10

11 The November annual conference is also a time of transition for the ANAC Board of Directors
12 (BOD). This year, Carol will move off the BOD as President and step into life as a past ANAC
13 president and organizational member. We are thrilled that Melanie Steilen will be your new
14 ANAC President and that Mitchell Wharton will transition to the President-Elect role on our
15 BOD. This transition is such good news for our organization. With these changes, we also
16 welcome three new BOD Members at Large. These individuals include a return to the BOD for
17 Kimberly Adams Tufts, and the addition of two new BOD members, Rasheeta Chandler and
18 Anthony Velasco. We welcome you!

19

20 In the last issue of the Journal, I described some of the ANAC organizational achievements of
21 which I am most proud. For this issue we would like to tell you a bit more about your outgoing
22 BOD members as well as your incoming BOD members. We hope you read these profiles and
23 think “I could do that!” and run for an ANAC office. We know you can do it! Please stop and

24 chat if you see us at the conference in November or email us any time about saying yes and
25 becoming more involved in ANAC.

26

27 We want to acknowledge and say Thank You to ANAC Directors at Large who have served on
28 the BOD since November 2018. What links these members together is their desire to contribute
29 to ANAC at the national level and to stewarding the organization forward. We also want to note
30 that each of our BOD members have pulled into COVID-19 response while participating as
31 ANAC leaders.

32

33 ***Marik Moen is*** a member of the ANAC Chesapeake Chapter where she served in several
34 leadership roles and participated in local workshops to prep members for the AIDS Certified RN
35 (ACRN) certification exam, marched in Pride events with ANAC, and has participated in
36 AIDSWatch, the US Conference on AIDS, and the International AIDS Conference. Marik is a
37 true collaborator and advocate for ANAC Global members.

38

39 ***Stephen Perez*** came to the BOD after involvement in at least two ANAC local chapters: the
40 Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia local chapters. Stephen served in the D.C. local chapter
41 leadership and has taught ACRN prep courses, and he has been a presenter and participant at the
42 ANAC national conference. Stephen brought his passion for the organization and ANAC's
43 commitment to the community we serve.

44

45 **Erin Athey** came to the BOD from the Washington, D.C. Chapter where she participated as a
46 member and as a local chapter leader. Erin stepped forward to Co-Chair the upcoming ANAC
47 conference in D.C. and as such is bringing her passion for social justice to our response to the
48 HIV epidemic.

49

50 Your current ANAC BOD is described below and includes members rotating onto the BOD, and
51 your new ANAC President and President Elect:

52

53 **Melanie ‘Mel’ Steilen** is our incoming ANAC President. Mel has lots of experience with the
54 National organization serving two terms as a Director at Large. She has chaired two ANAC
55 committees – Palliative Care and Global. Locally, Mel has been a member of the Greater New
56 York ANAC chapter, has maintained her ACRN since 1997, and served in the local chapter
57 leadership. She brings her passion, and the lessons learned from nurses doing the work of HIV
58 throughout the world to the organization and our members.

59

60 **Mitchell Wharton** recently served on the ANAC BOD as our Treasurer and is now our
61 President-Elect. He is committed to keeping ANAC at the forefront of educating and
62 empowering health professionals in the field of HIV. He joined ANAC in 2004 and was a
63 member of the Finger Lakes Chapter and served in a leadership role. Mitchell is also a mentor
64 for ANAC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Student Mentorship Scholarship.

65

66 **Kimberly Adams Tufts** or '**KAT**' served as the ANAC BOD Secretary. She is a clinician
67 educator who currently works at the Veterans Administration (VA) and is a member of the First
68 Virginia Chapter. For the last 15 years, she has pursued her passion of exploring ways that
69 people living with HIV take care of themselves. At her first ANAC meeting, KAT thought, "This
70 is the place for me."

71

72 **Rasheeta Chandler** has served as both Treasurer and President of the Metro Atlanta chapter
73 of ANAC, as well as Director of Community Engagement. As a nurse researcher, she addresses
74 sexual health interventions for young Black women. She has presented her work at the annual
75 ANAC conference, as well as other national and international conferences.

76

77 **Crystal Chapman Lambert** began her HIV patient care journey in 2008 during her clinical
78 rotations. She attended her first ANAC conference in Jacksonville, FL and, since then, has built
79 on the relationships she established at ANAC to learn and be mentored by other HIV nurse
80 leaders. At the 2019 ANAC conference, she and her colleagues Rasheeta Chandler and Michele
81 Crespo-Fierro presented a panel on Women of Color in HIV.

82

83 **Anthony Velasco** served as President for the ANAC's Greater Palm Springs chapter and
84 served on the university advisory boards for a Center of Health Equity and an LGBTQ+
85 Resource Hub. His work focuses on the role of nurses in improving the lives of oppressed
86 communities, and he has worked to create health programs to improve access to care for
87 transgender/ gender diverse (TGD) people in the Coachella Valley.

88

89 ***Felicity Tsikiwa*** is an active member of the Greater New York ANAC chapter and has
90 served as Secretary for the past five years. She was drawn to HIV/AIDS nursing as a young
91 person with loved ones affected by HIV/AIDS. She has worked as a nurse at an LGBTQ+
92 centered Health Center, then in HIV/AIDS Case Management at an FQHC (Federally Qualified
93 Health Center). Through ANAC, she has gained a treasured community of colleagues.

94

95 ***Jonah Pierce*** has focused his life's work on providing frontline HIV care, serving as a
96 tireless advocate for a non-judgmental approach to care for all people living with HIV. Working
97 in the Southeastern United States, he sees the real world struggles that people living with HIV
98 face in rural communities. He has been an active member of ANAC for many years, serving on
99 the Award Committee, the Policy Committee, and the Health and Wellness Committee.

100

101 ***Darcel Reyes*** is Secretary of the ANAC BOD and has been an ANAC member for many
102 years. As an HIV clinician and educator, her work in health literacy has helped to expand our
103 understanding of how to communicate important HIV-related information to all patients. She has
104 also broadened her expertise into the field of substance use and addiction.

105

106 It has been and continues to be an honor to work with this group of individuals who are so
107 committed to improving the lives of people with HIV and the communities that are impacted by
108 HIV. Thanks to all of you for stepping into ANAC leadership roles. To all ANAC members who
109 are considering leadership or joining a committee – join us.

110

111 With gratitude,

112 Carol and Mel

113