Crowdsourced HIV partner services intervention among men who have sex with men in Guangzhou

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Purpose: To develop a crowdsourced partner services (PS) intervention for Chinese men who have sex with men (MSM) using open contests, and to assess the feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of a pilot intervention.

Research project: Three subsequent studies, which are cross-sectional study, intervention development through crowdsourcing and designathon, and a pilot randomized control trial (RCT) will all be conducted in Guangzhou, China. In step one, a cross-sectional study will assess the use, preferences and barrier to the use of HIV PS services among PLWH in Guangzhou. The results of the cross-sectional study will be used to inform the development of crowdsourced PS intervention for Chinese MSM through crowdsourcing and designathon (Step two). In step two, a crowdsourcing intervention will be developed in two phases: Phase 1) implement sequential contests (an open contest and a designathon) and evaluate contest entries using standardized criteria to develop the intervention package; Phase 2) assess preferences of approaches to distributing the crowdsourced PS intervention using formative research. Finally, a pilot RCT that aims to test the feasibility, acceptability, and pilot the preliminary impact of crowdsourced PS with conventional PS on promoting HIV testing uptake among partners of newly identified MSM cases will be conducted.

Intern objectives and milestones: An intern would be responsible for helping to design the cross-sectional study, study coordination, and data analysis. The intern would be expected to join monthly teleconferences, do background reading in this area, and contribute to a peer-reviewed research manuscript.

Scope of work: Joining monthly teleconferences, at least six weeks in Guangzhou during the summer, contributing to the research as outlined above