The Uganda Russia Boston Alcohol Network for Alcohol Research Collaboration on HIV/AIDS (URBAN ARCH) Consortium was funded by NIAAA in September 2011 to carry out cohort and intervention studies to address gaps in our understanding about HIV and alcohol. The central goal of the URBAN ARCH Consortium is to examine the consequences of alcohol on HIV disease and to mitigate its harmful effects. The Consortium studies build upon three existing HIV-infected cohorts from Boston, Uganda, and Russia with distinctive strengths and well-characterized alcohol consumption patterns. The three cohorts are integrated in terms of characteristics and common measures, which will allow evolution of cross-cohort studies. Moreover, samples collected from all three cohorts are stored in a centralized repository for future use.

**Administrative Coordinating Core – URBAN ARCH Consortium**

The Administrative Coordinating Core will ensure that the scientific and programmatic goals of the URBAN ARCH Consortium are achieved with high quality and timeliness. The Admin core oversees the data and sample repository and encourages collaboration with investigators within and outside the Consortium.

**Biostatistics and Data Management (BDM) Core – URBAN ARCH Consortium**

The principal objectives of the Biostatistics and Data Management Core are to provide active statistical collaboration in the design and analysis of each individual study and to develop and maintain an integrated, centralized data management system that may be used by all studies within the URBAN ARCH Consortium.

**Impact of Heavy Alcohol Use on Pre-ART HIV Disease – Uganda ARCH Cohort**

This is a 650-person prospective cohort study to determine the effect of heavy alcohol consumption on HIV disease progression prior to the start of antiretroviral therapy in Mbarara, Uganda.

**Alcohol and Zinc Impact on Inflammatory Markers in HIV Disease - Russia ARCH Cohort**

The Russia ARCH Cohort will examine a cohort of 250 HIV-infected, ART-naive Russians with a spectrum of alcohol use to determine alcohol’s impact on biomarkers reflecting microbial translocation.

**Zinc for HIV Disease among Alcohol Users – An RCT in the Russia ARCH Cohort**

This double-blinded randomized controlled trial will assess the efficacy of zinc supplementation vs. placebo among 250 HIV-infected Russians, who are ART-naive at enrollment and have a recent history of heavy drinking.

**Addressing Alcohol/HIV Consequences in Substance Dependence – Boston ARCH Cohort**

The Boston ARCH Cohort (n=250) will accurately characterize alcohol use and consequences in people with HIV infection affected by multiple substances, look prospectively at impact on bone health, and implement the TWWOFER clinical trial. The TWWOFER (Treating with Opioids for Ethanol Risks) trial will assess if high-dose buprenorphine (32mg) reduces heavy drinking compared to standard-dose (16mg) in a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled trial among HIV-infected participants with opioid dependence.

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