

HIV: THE NEW BASICS IN CARE

THE COMMUNITY IMPACT OF U=U

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Ramada Plaza Ballroom

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- CANCure, Community Advisory Board Member
- Toronto to Zero, Co-Chair and Community Engagement Committee Member

“It’s now very, very clear that **the risk is zero**. If you’re on suppressive antiretroviral treatment, you’re sexually non-infectious. Undetectable equals Untransmittable.”

Dr. Alison Rodger, lead author of PARTNER 2
International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam
July 25, 2018

ELIMINATING HIV RISK

- Research has definitively proved there is no risk of transmitting HIV to sexual partners if:
 - People at risk of HIV exposure are taking PrEP
 - People living with HIV have a fully suppressed viral load
- Ongoing treatment is an effective form of HIV prevention for:
 - Sexual Transmission of HIV
 - Transmission while giving birth

RETHINKING LIFE WITH HIV

If you're diagnosed early, start treatment promptly and stay on it, you can:

- Live a long and healthy life
- Have healthy, HIV-negative children
- Can't pass on HIV to your sexual partners

U=U IS TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ABOUT HIV

- U=U undoes 35 years of previous messaging that saw people with HIV as vectors of disease from whom the public had to be protected
- U=U can:
 - Raise broader public awareness of HIV
 - Reduce stigma and fear of HIV and of people with HIV
 - Motivate testing and early initiation of treatment
 - Improve treatment adherence
 - Allow us to imagine a community without boundaries

BUT WHAT IF MY VIRAL LOAD IS DETECTABLE?

- We must avoid creating two classes of people with HIV
- Value is not dictated by viral load
- People with detectable viral loads are not a danger to anyone and have the right to full sexual & social lives
- Benefits of U=U are a compelling argument for equitable access to testing, treatment and support for all