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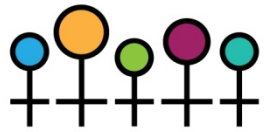
# Contextualizing U=U in the Lives of Women Living with and Vulnerable to HIV

*AIDS 2018, Global Village*

*U=U Networking Zone, Booth 508*

*July 24, 2018*

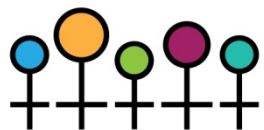
*4:15 pm – 5:00 pm CET*



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# Agenda

- Introductions
- The Well Project and U=U
- The WRI 2018
- Discussion of U=U with women living with HIV
- Q&A



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# Speakers



**Krista Martel**, executive director, The Well Project



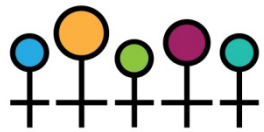
**Dawn Averitt**, WRI founding director and founder, The Well Project



**Judith D. Auerbach, PhD**, co-chair of the board, WRI advisory board member, The Well Project; professor, UCSF



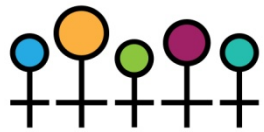
**Gina Brown, MSW**, community advisory board, WRI member, The Well Project; Southern AIDS Coalition



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# About The Well Project

- Non-profit organization with a mission to change the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a unique and comprehensive focus on women and girls
- Leverages technology to improve health outcomes and increase quality of life for women and girls living with HIV
- Provides accessible and comprehensive #information, #community support, and #advocacy building
- Access our resources and join our community at [www.thewellproject.org](http://www.thewellproject.org)



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# The Well Project and

## U=U

- The Well Project has been a proud supporter of U=U and partner of Prevention Access Campaign
  - Endorsed consensus statement in April 2017
  - Created U=U fact sheets and slide sets in English and Spanish
  - Post blogs on *A Girl Like Me/Una Chica Como Yo* about U=U
  - Conducted advocacy/educational webinar on U=U
  - Convened WRI meeting on U=U and women
  - Incorporate U=U messages across our resources
  - Present sessions on U=U at conferences/convenings in English and Spanish



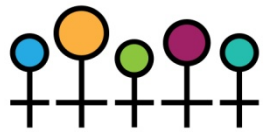
**UWU**

**UNDETECTABLE=UNTRANSMITTABLE:  
Building Hope and Ending HIV Stigma**



**III**

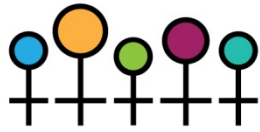
**INDETECTABLE=INTRANSMISIBLE:  
Infundir Esperanza y Eliminar el Estigma**



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# About the Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS (WRI)

- Founded by The Well Project in 2003
- Advocates for “more, better and faster research” in HIV disease in women
- Brings together extraordinary group of leaders to identify opportunities to accelerate understanding of HIV in women
  - By addressing issues that affect women through a variety of lenses, the WRI expands understanding of effective treatment/prevention for women and girls living with or vulnerable to HIV
- Members represent stakeholders in women's HIV community, clinical care, research, academia, community-based services, advocacy, government, the pharmaceutical industry



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# WRI 2018

- In April 2018, WRI convened “U=U: Contextualizing a Campaign in the Lives of Women Living with and Vulnerable to HIV”
- Reviewed research, described science, explored opportunities of U=U to contextualize it in the lives of women
  - Examined relevance for women in context of: sexual relationships, motherhood, access to treatment, stigma, injection drug use
- Validated importance of U=U as public health message and tool to reduce HIV-related stigma, increase personal empowerment, improve health outcomes
- Identified limitations of extrapolating data supporting U=U for sexual transmission to other routes of transmission (e.g., breastfeeding and injection drug use)

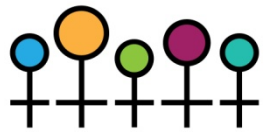




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# WRI 2018

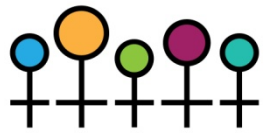
- Considerations for U=U and Women
  - Power dynamics, particularly within intimate relationships
  - Access to HIV-related treatment and care
  - HIV criminalization
  - Pregnancy/breastfeeding
  - Stigma
  - Injection drug use
  - Disclosure of HIV status



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# WRI 2018

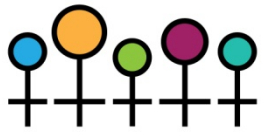
- WRI identified research, policy, advocacy gaps that need to be addressed in order to optimize the impact of U=U among women
- View our issue brief at [www.thewellproject.org](http://www.thewellproject.org)
  - Copies here today



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# Panel Discussion

*with Dawn Averitt and Gina Brown,  
MSW, led by Judith Auerbach, PhD*



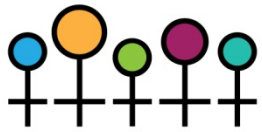
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# WRI 2018 Panel Perspectives

“U=U gave me a sense of hope. I’ve been living with HIV for 20 years and I haven’t been in a real relationship with anyone in a long time. But when I learned about U=U, it made me feel normal, it changed my life. And it’s changing other lives too. My community has a high prevalence of undiagnosed HIV. This is the thing that’s going to give women who look like me the empowerment they deserve.”

“It’s really important to advocate U=U. People’s lives are on the line. U=U impacts criminalization and violence in relationships. People die because of fear of HIV. Women have been murdered after having their status found out.”

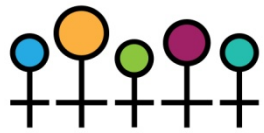
“For me, this is about will. For the last several years, our scientific leaders have been saying that we now have the tools to end the epidemic, but do we have the will? U=U is a way to generate the will and inspire action.”



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# Learn More!

- To learn more:
  - [Undetectable Equals Untransmittable: Building Hope and Ending HIV](#)
  - [Indetectable es igual a intransmisible: infundir esperanza y eliminar el estigma](#)
  - Visit [Prevention Access Campaign](#) **#UequalsU**
- For more fact sheets and to connect to our community of women living with HIV, visit:
  - [www.thewellproject.org](http://www.thewellproject.org)
  - [www.facebook.com/thewellproject](https://www.facebook.com/thewellproject)
  - [www.twitter.com/thewellproject](https://www.twitter.com/thewellproject)



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# Thank You!



## Questions & Answers