**PHACS Scientific Working Groups**

Scientific Working Groups analyze and publish data, propose new studies, and provide expert input on PHACS protocols. People from all areas of the PHACS network participate in the working groups.

**Adolescent Behaviors Working Group**

This group looks at how HIV and HIV medicines affect how children develop into adolescents. They want to know what puts adolescents affected by HIV at risk for poor health and what things help them make decisions that keep them healthy.  They are interested in how youth affected by HIV do in school and how they handle their feelings and relationships with friends and family.  This group is studying how HIV and HIV medicines might affect the decisions adolescents make about taking drugs, drinking alcohol, or having sex. The group wants to know what things put children at risk for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.  For youth with HIV, this group is interested in seeing if adolescents take their medicines as they are supposed to.

**Conference Call: The 4th Tuesday of every month at 3:00 pm ET**

**Cardiopulmonary Working Group**

This group looks at the structure and function of the heart and lungs of children in PHACS. In particular, they are looking for evidence for early heart problems and signs of asthma.

**Conference Call: The 4th Thursday of every month at 9:00 am ET**

**Complications Working Group**

This group wants to know what problems children with HIV have that are caused by HIV and/or its treatment. This group looks at how the treatment of children with HIV has changed over the years. They’re interested in what has happened to the children’s CD4 counts and viral loads.  They are also interested in children who have stopped their HIV treatment. They want to know if they have kidney and liver problems.
**Conference Call: The 4th Friday of every month at 11:00 am ET**

**Hearing and Language Working Group**

This group looks at hearing, speech, language and reading problems of children with HIV and children without HIV born to HIV-infected mothers. They study what might cause these problems and how best to treat them.

**Conference Call: The 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1:00 pm ET**

**Maternal Exposures Working Group**

This group looks at what happens to children of women with HIV infection when they take HIV medications during pregnancy. They also look at other things that might make a difference during pregnancy in women with HIV, like mental and physical health, genetics, behaviors, and substance use. They also look at the role of the mothers’ relationships and their environment.

**Conference Call: The 1st Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm ET**

**ND/Neuro Working Group**

This group looks at how HIV and/or HIV medicines affect youth’s brains and their development and behavior. Interests include neurological problems like seizures, thinking skills, and if the children develop normally. They look at what kinds of emotions the children have about school, friends, and family.  As children age, this group will work with the Adolescent Working Group to study if HIV and/or HIV medicines affect risk-taking behaviors like drug and alcohol use and sexual activity.

**Conference Call: The 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm ET**

**Nutrition Growth Metabolism (NGM) Working Group**

The NGM Working Group looks to see if children with HIV are different from children without HIV in height, weight, body fat, bone development, and puberty. They want to see if they have a higher chance of heart disease or diabetes later in life. The group wants to know if HIV and/or HIV medicines affect these things. They also look at children without HIV whose mothers took HIV medications while pregnant to see if the medicines affect the children’s growth and metabolism.

**Conference Call: The 2nd Thursday of every month at 10:00 am ET**