



October 2014

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.** We know that ANAC members and other nurses work in response to domestic violence and other forms of violence such as sexual assault all year long. One in every four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime and 85% of reported cases of domestic violence are women. We recognize that domestic violence is not confined to one gender, and that men can be victimized by intimate partner violence in same sex relationships and through sexual assault. However, the impact of violence and risk for HIV infection for women is becoming better understood and this association has been the focus of a growing number of studies and [outlined by the CDC](#).

Across the world, women fearing violence are less able to protect themselves from infection and they do not have the power to negotiate for safe sex or to refuse unwanted sex. Teenage girls and young women ages 16 to 24 face the highest rates of dating violence and sexual assault. The post-traumatic stress disorder that may result can increase risks for HIV and may prevent women and girls from seeking prevention, treatment, and health services. The Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (JANAC) devoted two recent issues to the intersection of violence and trauma and HIV. They are available on-line at: [JANAC July–August 2013](#) and [JANAC January–February 2014](#).

Earlier this year, [ANAC and other nursing organizations released a statement](#) recommending that systems be established to ensure that survivors of sexual assault have universal access to medications to prevent HIV following rape. Even today, in too many communities, access to these medications is lacking or inconsistent. [We welcome organizational co-endorsement](#).

The **NY State Department of Health AIDS Institute** in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University just released [updated guidelines for non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis \(PEP\)](#). The [UCSF Clinician Consultation Center hotline](#) is available for direct consultation on urgent PEP decision making, including for sexual assault.

In September 2013, the White House released a report entitled [Addressing the Intersection of HIV/AIDS and Violence against Women and Girls](#). **A 2014 progress update was just released that noted ANAC's role in education about trauma informed care.** We appreciate ANAC members' work in this area and will continue to provide content in 2015.