

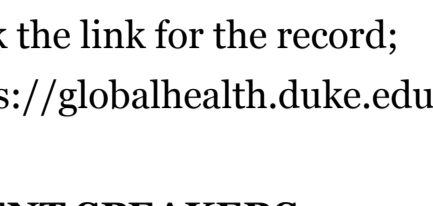


Tanzanian Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance

Research Activities

Peers Helping Peers With Mental Health

During a DORH event, researchers and providers say peer-led support can help close gaps in access to mental health care for African youth.



Think Global from Duke Global Health Institute featured a discussion about peer-led interventions to improve mental health among youth in sub-Saharan Africa.

WHY THIS EVENT?

Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have far too few trained specialists to address the burden of mental health issues, especially among the region's growing adolescent population. In the U.S., as well, the increasing demands for mental health care are stretching the capacity of providers with specialized training. Both in the U.S. and globally, researchers are assessing how non-specialists as peers can be trained to fill the gap, and many of these interventions are showing promising results. In this Think Global event, mental health experts and sub-specialists working in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Kenya will explore the evidence supporting a handful of such interventions, which are being implemented to help address mental health issues such as alcohol dependency and stigma surrounding HIV among adolescents.

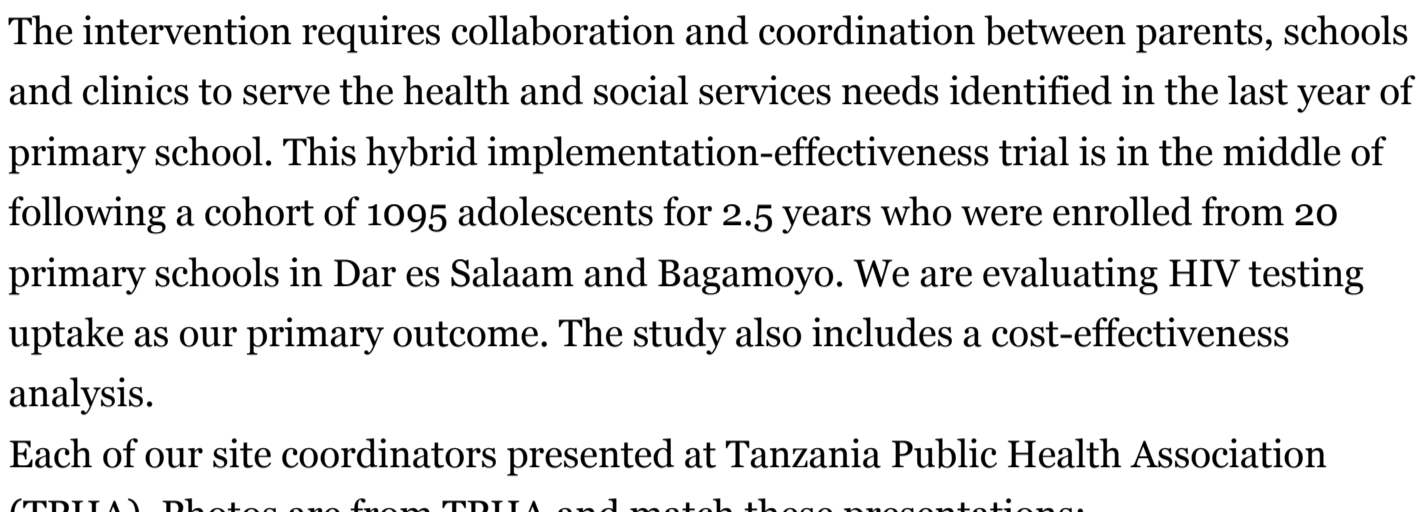
Click the link for the record;

<https://globalhealth.duke.edu/news/peers-helping-peers-mental-health>

EVENT SPEAKERS

Dorothy Dow, MD, MSc, is a physician-scientist, co-director of the Duke Center For AIDS Research Clinical Core, a member of the Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance (called AHISA), co-developer of Sauti ya Vijana (SYV-The Voice of Youth), a peer-led, group-based mental health intervention for YLWH in Tanzania. Florence Jaguga, MBChB, MMed, holds a Master's degree in Psychiatry and a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery degree from Moi University School of Medicine. Primrose Nyamayaro, Ph.D., MRes, is a mental health researcher based in Zimbabwe. Eve Puffer, Ph.D., M.A., (moderator) is a global mental health researcher and a licensed clinical psychologist.

The VITAA project

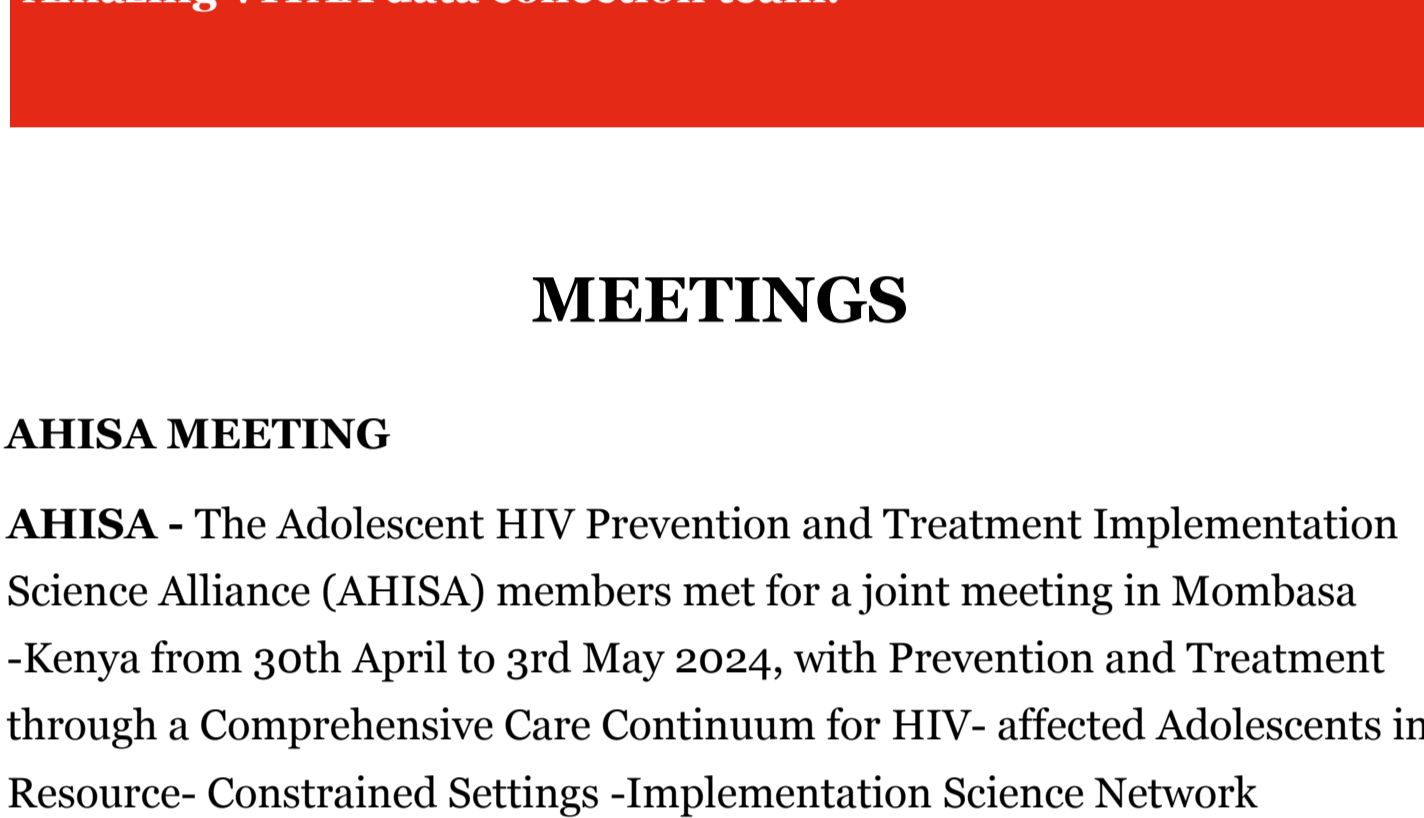


The VITAA Project team at Tanzania Public Health Association (TPHA) meeting on 29th May 2024.

The VITAA project (Vijana Tambua Afya, which means Youth Health Checks) is a clinical trial to test the impact of 'Adolescent Wellness Visits', a newly developed health service platform, for reaching young adolescents with HIV testing and other evidence-based prevention services which are clinic-based and school-facilitated. The intervention requires collaboration and coordination between parents, schools and clinics to serve the health and social services needs identified in the last year of primary school. This hybrid implementation-effectiveness trial is in the middle of following a cohort of 1095 adolescents for 2.5 years who were enrolled from 20 primary schools in Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo. We are evaluating HIV testing uptake as our primary outcome. The study also includes a cost-effectiveness analysis.

Each of our site coordinators presented at Tanzania Public Health Association (TPHA). Photos are from TPHA and match these presentations:

- Gitagno D, Mtei RJ, Kaaya S, Cannon A, Mayfour K, Lema I, Minja A, Somba M, Saronga H, Van Praag E, Egger JR, Baumgartner JN. Adolescent Wellness Visits in Tanzania: Descriptive data on the health status of Standard 7 students. Oral Presentation at the Tanzanian Public Health Association Conference; Morogoro, Tanzania; 17 May 2024.
- Mtei RJ, Minja A, Cannon A, Mayfour K, Lema I, Gitagno D, Somba M, Saronga H, Van Praag E, Baumgartner JN, Kaaya S. Adolescent Wellness Visits in Tanzania: Teachers' and Clinicians' Perspectives. Oral Presentation at the Tanzanian Public Health Association Conference; Morogoro, Tanzania; 17 May 2024.



Amazing VITAA data collection team.

MEETINGS

AHISA MEETING

AHISA - The Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance (AHISA) members met for a joint meeting in Mombasa -Kenya from 30th April to 3rd May 2024, with Prevention and Treatment through a Comprehensive Care Continuum for HIV- affected Adolescents in Resource- Constrained Settings -Implementation Science Network (PATC3H- IN and PATCH3H teams).

The meeting aimed to bring together teams and exchange ideas related to the implementation science methods and findings in the context of adolescent HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa, identify opportunities to strengthen dissemination of implementation science findings especially to non-traditional research audiences, to explore plans for sustainability for project and for the alliance. The meeting was attended by delegates from South Africa, East Africa, Central and West Africa, and the USA.

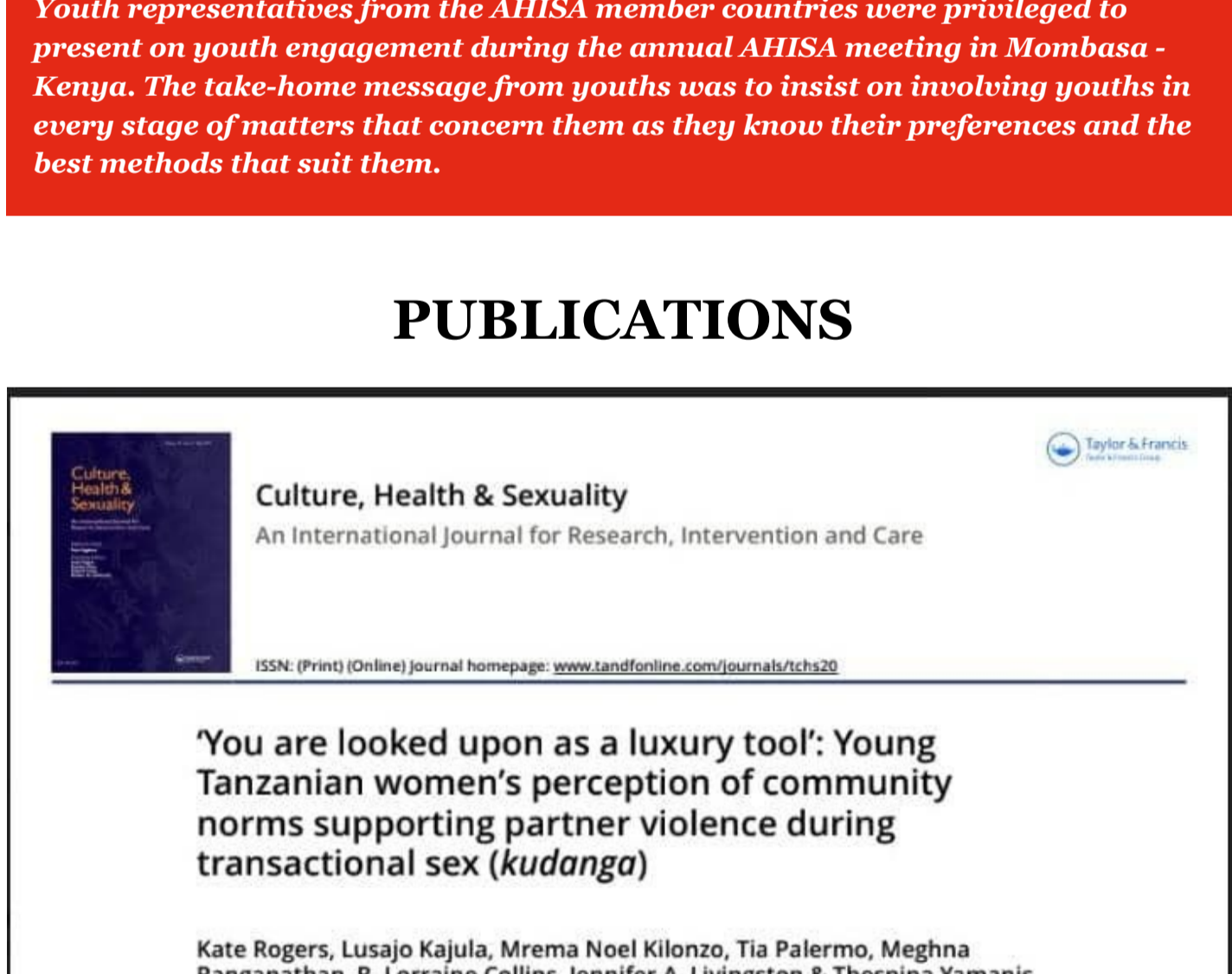


Top picture from left: Nina Yamanis, Angelina Goi, Fortunata Nasuwa, Rachel Mtei, Lusajo Kajula, Dorothy Dow, Mrema Kilonzo and Dr. Jerome Kamwela who is the acting Executive Director for Tanzania AIDS Commission (TACAIDS) T-AHISA team group photo during the AHISA meeting.

Bottom picture on the left: Emmanuel Katabaro, Matilda Mlowe, Fortunata Nasuwa and Idda Lyatonga. MWOTAJI and T-AHISA team members

Bottom picture on the right: T-AHISA and MWOTAJI project PATC3H-IN teams gathering in Mombasa Kenya. From left front row: Nina Yamanis, Jenny Liu, Lusajo Kajula, Angelina Goi, Idda Lyatonga, Anasel Mackfallen. Back row from left: Rachel Mtei, Mrema Kilonzo, Dorothy Dow, Jerome Kamwela and Fortunata Nasuwa.

Youth Engagement Presentation Mombasa-Kenya



Youth representatives from the AHISA member countries were privileged to present on youth engagement during the annual AHISA meeting in Mombasa - Kenya. The take-home message from the youth was to insist on involving youths in every stage of matters that concern them as they know their preferences and the best methods that suit them.

PUBLICATIONS

Culture, Health & Sexuality
An International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care

ISSN: (Print) 0898-0101; (Online) journal homepage: www.tandfonline.com/journals/chtch20

You are looked upon as a luxury tool: Young Tanzanian women's perception of community norms supporting partner violence during transactional sex (kudanga)

Kate Rogers, Lusajo Kajula, Mrema Noel Kilonzo, Tia Palermo, Meghna Ranganathan, R. Lorraine Collins, Jennifer A. Livingston & Thespina Yamanis

To cite this article: Kate Rogers, Lusajo Kajula, Mrema Noel Kilonzo, Tia Palermo, Meghna Ranganathan, R. Lorraine Collins, Jennifer A. Livingston & Thespina Yamanis (26 Apr 2024): You are looked upon as a luxury tool: Young Tanzanian women's perception of community norms supporting partner violence during transactional sex (kudanga), Culture, Health & Sexuality, DOI: 10.1080/13691058.2024.2339280

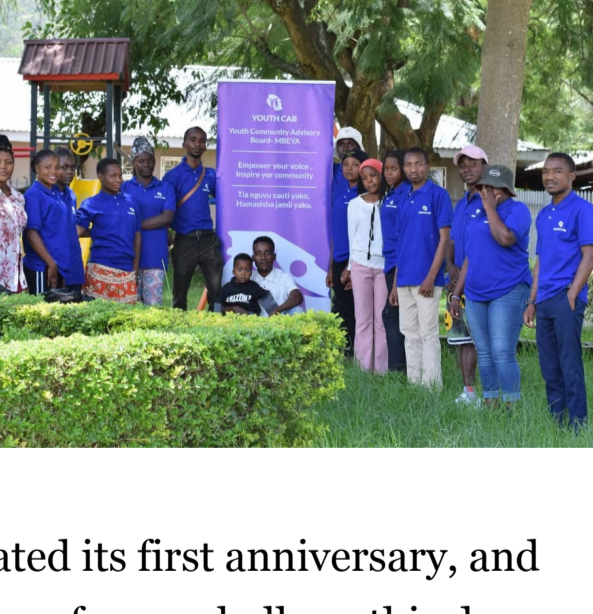
To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2024.2339280>

Congratulations to our T-AHISA members Mrema Kilonzo, Lusajo Kajula and Thespina Yamanis for their publication.

Click the link for more and enjoy the reading

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38669268/>

Citation; Rogers K, Kajula L, Kilonzo MN, Palermo T, Ranganathan M, Collins RL, Livingston JA, Yamanis T. 'You are looked upon as a luxury tool': Young Tanzanian women's perception of community norms supporting partner violence during transactional sex (kudanga). Cult Health Sex. 2024 Apr 26:1-16. doi: 10.1080/13691058.2024.2339280. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38669268.



At the international AIDS Conference 2024 two young researchers from Sauti ya Vijana (SYV) a mental health intervention have featured presentations to share their findings.

Oral Presentation by Chinenye Agina, et al.

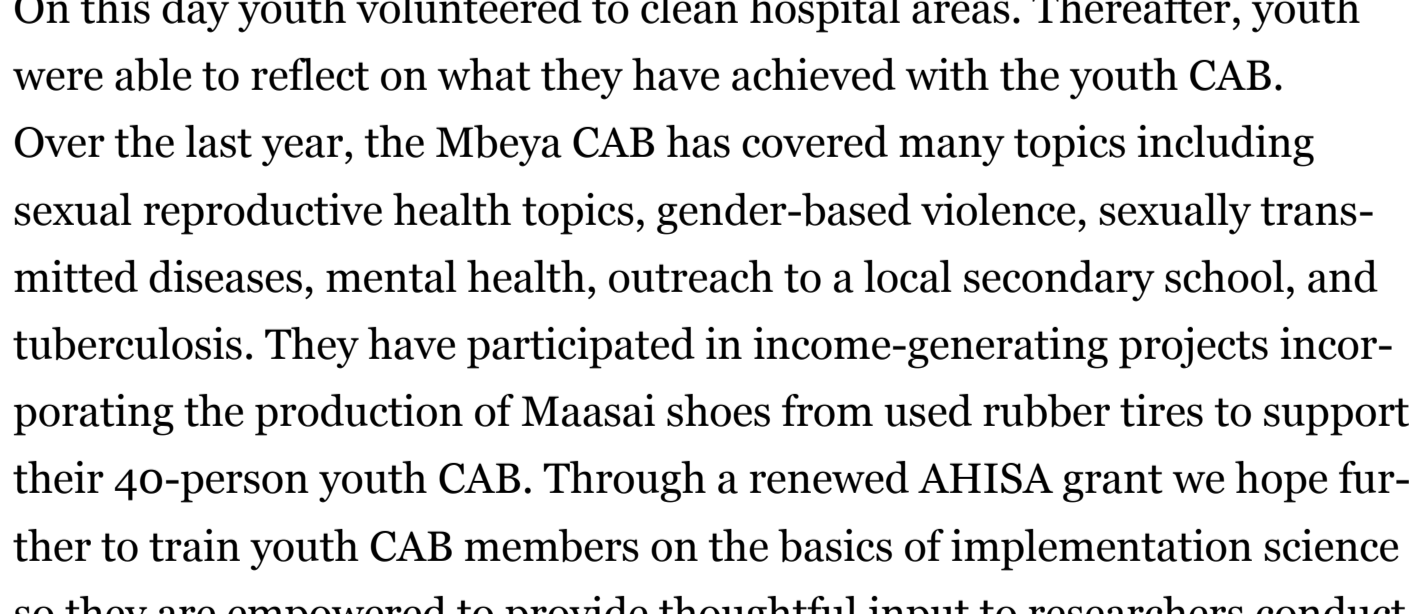
Peer-led interventions: exploring the peer group leader experience of delivering a group-based mental health intervention for adolescents living with HIV in Tanzania

Session Title: Mental Health Matters Date/Time: Tuesday, 23 July 3 pm- 4 pm Room: 13b/Channel 7

Poster Presentation by Dana Chow, et al.

Abstract # 7315; Poster # Title: The integration of a mental health referral system within adolescent HIV clinics

Poster presentation on Thursday 25 July 12-1 pm



Mbeya Youth CAB one year celebration



On 24/02/2024 Mbeya Youth CAB celebrated its first anniversary, and activities were carried out at MZRH small conference hall, on this day members were reminded and emphasized the importance of volunteering in different youth CAB activities, improving participation and cooperation. On this day youth volunteered to clean hospital areas. Thereafter, youth were able to reflect on what they have achieved with the youth CAB. Over the last year, the Mbeya CAB has covered many topics including sexual reproductive health topics, gender-based violence, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health, outreach to a local secondary school, and tuberculosis. They have participated in income-generating projects incorporating the production of Maasai shoes from used rubber tires to support their 40-person youth CAB. Through a renewed AHISA grant we hope further to train youth CAB members on the basics of implementation science so they are empowered to provide thoughtful input to researchers conducting youth-related projects that are presented to the youth CAB. Mbeya Youth CAB is looking toward an exciting year ahead! The day ended with a small celebration at BAYLOR Gardens located within MZRH. The youth had fun with a small cake for the celebration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AHISA meeting - Mombasa - Kenya from 29th April - 2nd May 2024

International AIDS Conference 22nd - 26th July 2024 in Munich Germany.

visit the link for more information

<https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/aids2024>

Tanzanian Health Summit Conference, 1st - 3rd October 2024

visit the link below for more information, <https://ths.or.tz/-conference/>

International Workshop on Adolescence, SRHR & HIV, 2nd - 4th October 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

visit the link below for more information,

<https://penta-id.org/event/international-workshop-on-hiv-srhr-adolescence/>

IMPAACT Network Annual Meeting, 22nd - 27th September 2024 at Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

visit the link below for more information,

<https://www.impaactnetwork.org/impaact-network-annual-meeting>

