



# \$7.9M Grant to Develop a MyPEEPS HIV Prevention App

August 26, 2016

---

The National Institutes of Health awarded the Columbia University School of Nursing a \$7.9 million grant for a clinical trial to adapt and test a mobile app called MyPEEPS that delivers HIV prevention information to young men who have sex with men (MSM).

The trial will last five years and be spread across four sites: Birmingham, Alabama; Chicago; New York City; and Seattle. According to a [press release from the Columbia University Medical Center](#), the project will include 700 racially and ethnically diverse 13- to 18-year-olds.

MyPEEPS is currently an in-person intervention that covers topics such as condom use, stigma and shame. The grant will help develop a mobile, web-based version, complete with games, videos and interactive components.

The research team is led by Rebecca Schnall, PhD, at the School of Nursing. Co-principal investigator is Robert Garofalo, MD, of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. Garofalo and his team developed the original MyPEEPS intervention.

POZ readers will recognize Garofalo, a [POZ 100 honoree](#) from 2013, as the man behind the Fred Says charity—featuring his adorable Yorkshire terrier—and the HIV-related photo exhibit “[When Dogs Heal](#).” You can read more about his work at Lurie [here](#).

---

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/79m-grant-develop-mypeeps-hiv-prevention-app>