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NEW VIDEO: "MPTs FOR A BETTER WORLD," NEW TECHNOLOGIES REDUCE UNINTENDED PREGNANCY, HIV & STIS TOGETHER

http://www.cami-health.org/mpts-video

<u>Sacramento, CA</u>: As the global community marks <u>World Contraception Day</u> on September 26, researchers, health care providers and women's health advocates are calling for increased investment in new female-initiated prevention that blends contraceptive technologies with STI and HIV prevention. These broad spectrum products are called **MPTs – Multipurpose Prevention Technologies –** and they are, advocates say, the future of contraception.

To help raise the visibility of this groundbreaking field, the **Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies** has created a video "MPTs for a Better World," that aims to inform policymakers, the public and the media about MPTs. The video makes the point that reducing the incidence of unintended pregnancy, HIV and STIs is a public health imperative, and it introduces viewers to the innovative collaboration that is working to develop new technologies that better address women's concerns and life circumstances.

"MPT spells the future of women's sexual and reproductive health prevention," says CAMI-Health Director Dr. Bethany Young Holt, who serves as the coordinator of the international Initiative. "It is abundantly clear that women around the world want methods that offer broad spectrum prevention. Condoms, while important, are simply not enough. When we bridge the fields of contraception, HIV and STI research and advocacy we are able to magnify expertise, and together we are moving the science forward."

"MPTs can significantly reduce unplanned pregnancy rates, along with rates of HIV and other STIs," says Dr. Elizabeth Anne Bukusi of KEMRI and University of Washington. "MPTs will make it possible for women to delay childbearing and advance their education while avoiding HIV and other STIs that can cause, if untreated, infertility and cancers. And women who are healthy are more likely to have healthy children. The impact of MPTs on global health will be tremendous."

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CAMI Health is a project of the <u>Public Health Institute</u>
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