

Countdown to a Cure for AIDS: A Cure by 2020?



amfAR Trustee Harry Belafonte delivered a powerful call to action at the amfAR New York Gala, February 5, to launch amfAR's Countdown to a Cure.

In February 2014, amfAR announced it will ratchet up the intensity of its research efforts with the launch of a bold new initiative, *Countdown to a Cure for AIDS*. The goal: to develop the scientific basis for a broadly applicable cure by 2020.

"With an improving economy, recent technological advances and momentum in the research community, now is the time to commit ourselves to finding an accessible cure and finally bring the global HIV/AIDS epidemic to an end," said amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole.

Research breakthroughs over the last several years have brought

the scientific community a new understanding of the challenges that must be overcome to get to a cure. And there is growing confidence that, with the right investments, these challenges can be overcome.

To reach the ambitious goal of a cure by 2020, amfAR plans to raise and dedicate up to \$100 million to the effort. It is also moving to a more directed research investment strategy focused on collaborative approaches to addressing what amfAR has identified as the four key challenges that stand in the way of a cure:

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amfAR Ramps Up Investments in Cure Research

THREE ROUNDS OF GRANTS IN FIRST HALF OF 2014 TOTAL ALMOST \$4 MILLION

In the first six months of 2014, amfAR announced three new rounds of cure-focused research grants to 21 teams of scientists totaling close to \$4 million. The new grants will enable researchers in five countries to explore a range of innovative strategies aimed at eradicating HIV.

"The scientific challenges to a cure for HIV have been illuminated, and with the right investments, these challenges can be overcome," said amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost. "These new grants represent our strengthened commitment to high-impact, smarter

research that will accelerate our progress toward a cure."

Representing the largest sum ever disbursed by amfAR in a single round of cure-focused research awards, in February the Foundation announced the allocation of more than \$2.15 million to 12 teams of researchers. This round of funding was supported by a generous donation from the Foundation for AIDS and Immune Research (FAIR).

In one of the funded projects, Dr. Nancy Haigwood and her colleagues at Oregon Health and Science University

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Synergy at Work



Everything we do here at amfAR revolves around research. Our TREAT Asia program, for example, has had a research focus since we launched it 14 years ago. Through the accumulation, analysis, and publication of data on treatment patterns and outcomes,

TREAT Asia is helping improve treatment and care for both adults and children living with HIV across the continent.

Sometimes our programs come together in ways we could not have predicted. Here's a great example.

Until quite recently, no one was paying much attention to the idea of curing HIV/AIDS in children, largely because pediatric HIV has been all but eliminated in the U.S. and other countries with broad access to drugs that prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Since 2007, however, TREAT Asia has been working to improve treatment and long-term survival for the 180,000 children living with HIV in the region through its pediatric network. At the urging of TREAT Asia Director Dr. Annette Sohn, in June

2012 amfAR organized a pediatric HIV cure think tank. An outgrowth of the meeting was the pediatric cure research consortium that was instrumental in documenting the case of the Mississippi Child—the first child to be cured of HIV.

One of the participants in that June think tank was Dr. Jintanat Ananworanich, a clinical researcher at the HIV Netherlands-Australia-Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) at the Thai Red Cross in Bangkok and a longtime principal investigator with TREAT Asia. As a result of her evolving research interests, last year Dr. Jintanat was awarded funding as a collaborating investigator within amfAR's cure-focused Research Consortium on HIV Eradication (ARCHE). Then in February of this year, she was appointed to a leadership position at the US Military HIV Research Program, where she will be a key player in MHRP's HIV cure-focused clinical trials.

There is some wonderful synergy at work here. Our programs continually reinforce each other and collectively advance the mission that guides and drives us onward each day: to eradicate the global AIDS epidemic through innovative research.

Kevin Robert Frost
Chief Executive Officer

INNOVATIONS

The Newsletter of
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for AIDS Research
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AIDS 2014: Stepping Up the Pace

The 20th International AIDS Conference will convene in Melbourne, Australia, July 20–25. amfAR grantee Dr. Sharon Lewin of Alfred Hospital and Monash University, Melbourne, will co-chair the conference with International AIDS Society (IAS) President and co-discoverer of HIV, Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi.

The theme of this year's conference, "Stepping up the Pace," reflects the opportunity that AIDS 2014 presents for mobilizing stakeholders from around the world and building the momentum necessary to change the course of the epidemic.

During the conference, amfAR, IAS, and The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation will honor Ugandan physician and AIDS and human rights advocate Dr. Paul Semugoma with the Elizabeth Taylor Human Rights Award.

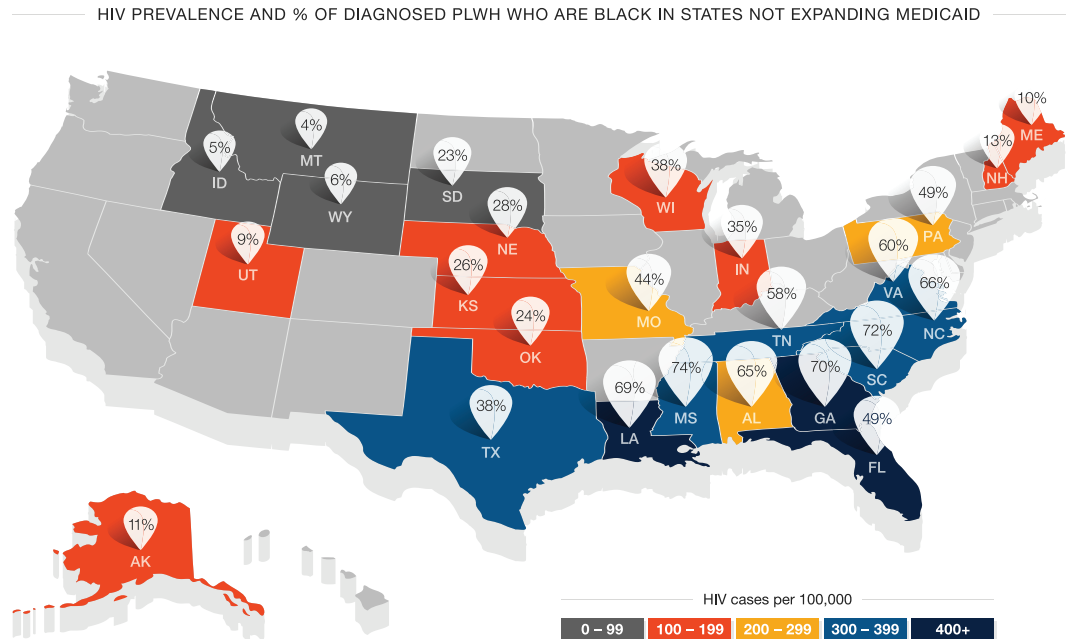


First given at the 2012 conference in Washington, D.C., the award recognizes exemplary efforts to advance human rights in the field of HIV/AIDS.

Among the distinguished plenary speakers are Dr. David Cooper of the University of New South Wales, a Steering Committee member for amfAR's TREAT Asia program; Dr. Jintanat Ananworanich, an amfAR grantee and former principal investigator for TREAT Asia who was recently appointed Associate Director of HIV Therapeutic Trials at the US Military HIV Research Program in Maryland; and Dr. Kenneth Mayer, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and co-chair of the Fenway Institute in Boston, and a member of amfAR's Program Advisory Board. ■

Medicaid Expansion: An Essential Tool to Fight HIV and Health Disparities

As of March 2014, 25 state governments are not expanding Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) even though the vast majority of costs would be covered by the federal government. In these states, an estimated 8.5 million uninsured Americans who would have qualified for full Medicaid coverage will most likely remain uninsured. Black Americans—the racial group most affected by HIV—are approximately twice as likely as other Americans to fall into this category. amfAR has produced an infographic that shows how denying Medicaid coverage to Americans in poverty impedes efforts to deliver care to people living with HIV (PLWH), reduce health disparities, and prevent the spread of HIV and other diseases. You can view this infographic at www.amfar.org/policy-and-advocacy. ■



A Slowdown in the Global AIDS Response?

While President Obama's proposed FY2015 budget protects the Administration's commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a lack of investment increases raises serious concerns that flat-funding the global AIDS response after years of cutbacks will undermine the strong gains against HIV/AIDS that U.S. leadership has helped foster around the world.

Since FY2010, over \$600 million has been cut from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) budget. And although bilateral HIV funding through PEPFAR would remain the same in FY2015 as last year, a recent analysis by amfAR and HealthGAP estimates that the pace of HIV treatment scale-up will slow considerably unless investments in treatment are increased.

"While we applaud the Administration's unbroken commitment to the Global Fund, we fear that stagnant funding for programs like PEPFAR will considerably slow the rate at which we can respond to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic with effective evidence-based intervention scale-up," said Kali Lindsey, amfAR deputy director of public policy. "If we're going to reach our goal of an AIDS-free generation, it is crucial that Congress restore PEPFAR funding to pre-cutback levels." ■

Turning the Tide on the Domestic HIV/AIDS Epidemic

On December 1, 2013—World AIDS Day—the White House released a report on progress toward National HIV/AIDS Strategy goals and provided evidence of headway being made in three U.S. cities hard hit by HIV/AIDS—New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

A complementary report released by amfAR and Treatment Action Group (TAG), "Filling the Gaps in the U.S. HIV Treatment Cascade: Developing a Community-Driven Research Agenda," calls for a deliberate and expedited research agenda to end HIV, including stepped up research on how to effectively deliver proven interventions effectively.

"Communities in the U.S. that are significantly expanding access to evidence-based programming are seeing tangible impact against HIV/AIDS," said amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost. "By following the evidence on what works in both domestic and global settings, we can drive down HIV incidence and mortality." ■



Policy and Research Leaders Headline amfAR Capitol Hill Summit



Left to right: World Bank Group President Dr. Jim Yong Kim, Congressman Jim Himes, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, amfAR Senior Policy and Medical Advisor Dr. Susan Blumenthal, and amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole

Dr. Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank Group, was among a stellar line-up of speakers at an amfAR-sponsored briefing on Capitol Hill, April 30. In an impassioned address, Dr. Kim touted the enormous positive impact the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has had on the global economy, attributing financial growth to improved health among those hardest hit by AIDS.

But he warned that money alone will not be enough to effectively tackle the pandemic: "Institutionalized discrimination is one of the underlying issues that drives this epidemic. Too many people around the world today face discrimination based on their sex, their age, their race, their religion, or sexual orientation. Institutionalized discrimination is bad for societies and it's bad for economies, and we can't tolerate it."

Titled "Making AIDS History: From Science to Solutions," the conference was organized by Dr. Susan Blumenthal, amfAR's senior policy and medical advisor and former U.S. Assistant Surgeon General. Its aim was to review recent progress in the fight against AIDS in both research and policy, discuss the impact of human rights issues on the global AIDS response, and to chart a roadmap for ending the pandemic.

"For the first time in history, we are at a tipping point towards reversing the pandemic," said Dr. Blumenthal. "We are the first

generation that has the scientific, the technological, and the public health tools to prevent, treat, and cure AIDS. Now we must commit the necessary resources so that we can soon reach the time when children have to turn to their history books to learn that there was ever a disease called AIDS."

In an engrossing interview with Judy Woodruff, co-anchor and managing editor of *PBS NewsHour*, Dr. Paul Farmer reflected on his experiences providing treatment and care to people living with HIV/AIDS in Haiti and Rwanda. As chief strategist and co-founder (with Dr. Jim Yong Kim) of Partners in Health, Dr. Farmer successfully pioneered a model of community-based care among resource-limited communities in both countries.

"When you're focusing not on what's good for the doctors and nurses, but on what's good for the patients," said Farmer, "you move all the care to them [via community health workers], so that patients are not inconvenienced, so they don't have to travel miles for treatment, and that's when you see a turnaround."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi thanked amfAR for its years of unwavering service to the fight against AIDS and praised the

Countdown to a Cure for AIDS initiative, saying (of a cure for AIDS), "wherever it happens, it will not have happened without the dedicated, determined, persistent leadership of amfAR."

Other notable speakers included Michel Sidibé, executive director of UNAIDS, Ambassador Deborah Birx, M.D., giving her first address as the new U.S. Global AIDS



Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff interviews Dr. Paul Farmer, chief strategist and co-founder of Partners in Health.

Coordinator; Douglas Brooks, recently appointed head of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy; Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health; Senator Tom Harkin; Congressman Jim Himes; Regan Hofmann, policy advisor at UNAIDS and an amfAR trustee; and Gabriela Isler, Miss Universe 2013.

"I've been involved in HIV/AIDS activism for almost 30 years now, and I've never seen so much optimism in the world of AIDS research," said amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole, announcing the launch of the *Countdown to a Cure* initiative. "But we must remain relentless in our commitment to do whatever has to be done with whatever resources are available to support all efforts needed to find a vaccine and a cure." ■

amfAR Welcomes Greg Millett



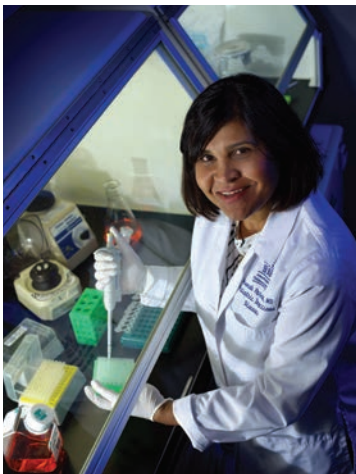
In May 2014, Gregorio "Greg" Millett, M.P.H., joined amfAR as Vice President and Director, Public Policy. Mr. Millett comes to amfAR from the Office of National AIDS Policy at the White House where he was Senior Policy Advisor and staff lead for the HIV interagency working group on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Previously, he was a senior behavioral scientist in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Cure Research: amfAR-Funded Scientists Report Latest Findings

At the 2014 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections—the preeminent annual scientific conference on HIV/AIDS—in Boston, March 3–6, several scientists reported new findings resulting from research supported by amfAR.

No sign of virus in infant infected at birth

Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins Children's Center reported that another baby diagnosed with HIV appears to be free of the virus after being put on antiretroviral therapy shortly after it was born. The mother had advanced AIDS, and had not been taking drugs to prevent transmission of the virus to the child. Four hours after the infant was born, doctors administered a three-drug cocktail at a high dose usually used for treatment instead of prevention. The virus was undetectable within 11 days. It is important to note, however, that it is not known whether the baby is “cured” because she is still on antiretroviral therapy. The first baby cured of HIV, known as the Mississippi child, stopped receiving treatment two years ago and is still HIV-free at the age of 41 months.



Dr. Deborah Persaud

Boston patients followed up

Dr. Timothy Henrich of Harvard University and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston continues to follow a pair of patients



Dr. Timothy Henrich

who had appeared to be free of HIV following stem cell transplants administered to treat lymphoma. After a period of months—longer than any other such cases recorded to date—both experienced a resurgence of virus. Examining blood samples taken from both patients immediately before the virus reemerged, Dr. Henrich was unable to find any signs that could have predicted viral rebound. He and his colleagues plan to continue following up on the two patients, and to study other HIV-positive patients who have received stem cell transplants.

Acute infection and early treatment

In an effort to identify research subjects in the first couple of weeks of infection, Dr. Hiroyu Hatano of the University of California, San Francisco, and colleagues are targeting participants in ongoing studies of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis). Dr. Hatano reported the case of one patient who initially tested negative for HIV and was put on PrEP. Tested again one week later, the man was found to be HIV positive after all. The initial test was negative because HIV antibodies had yet to develop in his blood. The patient was immediately put on antiretroviral therapy, remains on treatment, and after six months has no detectable HIV, according to intensive laboratory tests. By studying patients immediately after infection, Dr. Hatano hopes to determine which cells HIV infects at various stages of acute infection and how very early treatment might affect the size or distribution of the viral reservoir.

T cells and viral reservoirs

Dr. Mathias Lichterfeld of Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, reported on his progress in characterizing a recently identified subset of T cells. These stem cell memory T cells, or T_{SCM} cells, have

properties similar to stem cells and have been identified as particularly important reservoirs of latent HIV. Comparing them to other types of T cells, Dr. Lichterfeld found that T_{SCM} cells have higher concentrations of HIV, suggesting that they could be an important site of viral persistence as well as a source of virus that re-emerges when ART is stopped.



Dr. Mathias Lichterfeld

“Shocking” HIV out of its hiding places

Working in the lab of amfAR grantee Dr. Robert Siliciano at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Greg Laird is looking at drugs that could be used to “shock” HIV out of latent reservoirs so that it can be “killed” by antiretroviral treatment or by the immune system. With a new assay he developed, Dr. Laird tested eight candidate drugs and found that none of them worked particularly well on its own. Finding that the drug bryostatin was the most effective of them, he tested it in combination with each of the others. All combinations worked equally well with the exception of the drug disulfiram—despite having shown early promise as a potential “shock” candidate.

Targeting specific regions of HIV

Also working in the Siliciano lab at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Kai Deng is looking at strategies for eliminating HIV once it can be coaxed out of reservoirs of persistent virus. Viruses that become established in reservoirs are predominantly those that mutated and evaded the immune system, and thus the immune system may have difficulty killing them if they are “shocked” out of cells. Dr. Deng found that cytotoxic T lymphocytes that target the viral protein Gag—in both its mutated and unmutated forms—can improve clearance of the virus. ■

Countdown to a Cure CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chart the locations of the reservoirs of virus that persist even when a person is taking antiretroviral therapy.

Understand how these persistent reservoirs are established and maintained.

Record the amount of virus contained within the reservoirs.

Eliminate the reservoirs and other adverse consequences of HIV infection (e.g., immune dysfunction).



To reach the ambitious goal of a cure by 2020, amfAR plans to raise and dedicate up to \$100 million to the effort. It is also moving to a more directed research investment strategy focused on collaborative approaches to addressing the key unanswered questions.

To help direct the research and to ensure that investments are made in the most promising areas, amfAR will establish a “Cure Council” comprising some of the world’s leading HIV/AIDS researchers. ■

We hope we can count on your support of the Countdown to a Cure. To learn more, visit www.amfar.org/countdown

“A cure for AIDS is no longer a dream. It’s a visible, achievable, and as always, necessary goal,” said Chelsea Clinton, who spoke during the New York Gala launch of Countdown to a Cure.

A Decade at the Helm of amfAR

Iconic fashion designer Kenneth Cole became chairman of amfAR’s Board of Trustees on World AIDS Day 2004. The



Innovations team talked with Kenneth about his accomplishments, particularly his provocative AIDS awareness campaigns, the evolving role of social media in spreading awareness, and amfAR’s *Countdown to a Cure* initiative. You can find the interview at www.amfar.org/treatasia. ■

Cure Grants CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Portland are attempting to limit the development of reservoirs in newborn macaques using antibodies found to be effective in controlling HIV in humans. Their study could inform our understanding of how and when viral reservoirs are established in infants infected with HIV. And Dr. Mario Ostrowski and his team at the University of Toronto are conducting a small pilot clinical trial of a therapeutic vaccine to determine whether it can reduce the size of the reservoir by inducing the immune system to target cells infected with dormant virus.

The other two rounds of grants, totaling more than \$1.6 million, were made to nine teams of researchers working under the auspices of amfAR’s Research Consortium on HIV Eradication (ARCHE), now in its fifth year.

Dr. Eric Arts of Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, is working with Dr. Ronald Veazey at the Tulane Primate Center in Covington, Louisiana, and a team of researchers in the United Kingdom to test an experimental vaccine in monkeys with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV). The vaccine, which has previously shown

promise in the test tube, is derived from a patient’s own virus and is intended to specifically target latently infected cells. Success in a primate model would represent a milestone toward testing the vaccine in humans.

Another team of researchers led by Drs. Cynthia Gay of the University of North Carolina and Catherine Bollard of the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., is attempting to augment a patient’s immune system by taking their cytotoxic T cells, an important player in the immune response, and reprogramming them to expressly kill HIV-infected cells. The enhanced immune cells will then be infused back into the patients to determine the extent to which they reduce the size of the latent viral reservoir.

Finally, the “shock and kill” strategy for destroying reservoirs of HIV is an approach that uses drugs to “shock” the virus out of latency so it can be “killed” by the immune system and antiretroviral drugs. Drs. Jane Rasaiyaah and Leo James at University College London in the United Kingdom will attempt to increase

the effectiveness of this intervention by strengthening the immune system’s capacity to detect infected cells. They will build on the recent discovery that HIV—in a subset of cells—hides itself by using an “invisibility cloak.” Specifically, Rasaiyaah and James will investigate whether a similar mechanism is at work in T cells, the main reservoir of HIV, and whether a compound called SmBz can help reveal the virus to the immune system by blocking the protein it uses to cloak itself.

“While we’re steadily closing in on leading strategies that will help us cure HIV, there are still plenty of hurdles to cross, such as figuring out viable ways to purge reservoirs of dormant HIV,” said Rowena Johnston, Ph.D., amfAR’s vice president and director of research. “These latest grants will give us the opportunity to explore these strategies, and piecing together these findings will help enrich our understanding of the disease, which will one day lead to a cure.” ■

For a full list of 2014 research grants, go to www.amfar.org/research.

Anti-LGBT Laws Threaten HIV/AIDS Response

New anti-homosexuality laws that went into effect in Nigeria and Uganda in early 2014 have not only increased the already long jail sentences for same-sex sexual behavior in both countries, but also criminalized LGBT organizations and “the promotion” of homosexuality. Both laws put LGBT and the health providers and educators working with them at risk of criminal prosecution and violence and could seriously undermine national responses to HIV.

The Nigerian law punishes those who enter into a same-sex marriage or union with 14 years in prison and others who participate in gay organizations, societies, or relationships with 10 years. “Rarely have I seen a piece of legislation that in so few paragraphs directly violates so many basic, universal human rights,” said Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Ugandan law punishes “aggravated homosexuality” with life in prison and those who “aid or abet” homosexual relations with seven years in jail. Petitions challenging the constitutionality of the laws have been filed in both countries.

“These bills severely curtail the fundamental rights of gay men, lesbians, and trans people, forcing an already vulnerable and marginalized community further underground,” said amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost. “This action is the latest in



a wave of anti-LGBT legislative activity in some parts of the world that threatens to roll back decades of progress on human rights and HIV/AIDS.”

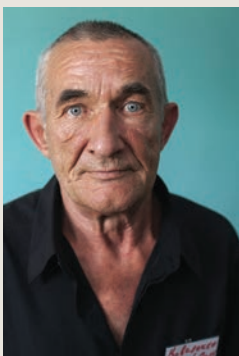
amfAR’s grantee partners and other organizations in both countries providing HIV-related services to gay men, other men who have sex with men, and trans individuals (collectively, GMT) have been forced to suspend services to protect both clients and staff. In April, Ugandan police raided the Makerere University Walter Reed Project, a U.S.-funded site that provides HIV/AIDS services to GMT. In Nigeria, advocates report that GMT are being removed from the government’s HIV surveillance program that tracks HIV rates by sub-populations. Other

African countries, notably Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are beginning to consider similar laws.

amfAR has called on the U.S. government to maintain funding for the response to HIV/AIDS and other health and development concerns while redirecting this aid away from governments that enact legislation infringing on basic human rights. Funding should instead be directed toward nongovernmental and civil society organizations that serve the communities in these countries where aid is needed most. ■



Top: A protester in front of the Nigerian Consulate in New York during the March 7 Global Day of Action against the Nigerian law. Bottom: A Global Day of Action protest against the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in front of the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya.



Reaching Out to Ukraine’s ‘Outcasts’

In the Ukrainian penitentiary system, inmates who are gay—or even perceived to be homosexual—are treated as outcasts and relegated to the worst jobs in the prison. Frequently humiliated, they are often subjected to physical and sexual abuse.

Into this grim existence, the Penitentiary Initiative, a longtime amfAR GMT Initiative partner, brings a little light. Based in the port city of Nikolaev in southern Ukraine, the Penitentiary Initiative provides HIV/AIDS education, self-confidence and career training, and a safe

place for outcast prisoners to gather and talk.

A new photo essay, produced by amfAR, takes a look at the Penitentiary Initiative and the souls whose spirits are lifted by its humanitarian work. View the photo essay at www.amfar.org/outcasts. ■

Communities in Action

NEW AWARDS SUPPORT GMT ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA

amfAR has awarded two new rounds of community grants to 15 frontline organizations in Latin America and Africa working to reduce the spread and impact of HIV among gay men, other men who have sex with men, and trans individuals. The awards—totaling almost \$300,000—were made through amfAR's GMT Initiative with financial support from the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

One of the Latin American groups is returning grantee Asociación Silueta X, a trans-led community organization in Guayaquil, Ecuador, that is improving the lives of trans individuals through policy, advocacy, and research. In 2012, with funding from amfAR Silueta X conducted Ecuador's first trans-specific health and human rights study and found widespread discrimination among trans individuals, especially when accessing healthcare.

With the new grant from amfAR, Silueta X will continue addressing stigma and discrimination against the trans community by advocating for greater trans rights and for their inclusion in health



On May 17, 2014, Asociación Silueta X marked the 10th International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Guayaquil with a public 'Kiss-In.'

policies and services. They will also actively engage local government and health authorities to improve holistic health services for trans individuals in public clinics, and to create what they hope will become a model for trans health that can be replicated across Ecuador.

Among the African awards was a second year of funding for Men Against AIDS Youth Group (MAAYGO) in Kisumu, Kenya. Aiming to reduce the vulnerability of GMT to HIV through economic empowerment, MAAYGO will use the latest grant to build on their previous work to promote financial independence through job skills training and their micro-credit program, which offers members loans of roughly \$150–\$200 to start small businesses.

"Among GMT, poverty is a major factor that increases HIV vulnerability because with limited financial options, turning to sex work is at times their only means of survival," said Kent Klindera, director of the GMT Initiative. "Economic empowerment strategies not only help provide better choices, but they also help motivate GMT to be healthier and to avoid HIV infection or to remain adherent to HIV medication if they are already living with HIV." ■

Sign Up for the *TREAT Asia Report*

For the past 15 years, amfAR's TREAT Asia program has evolved into a model of regional collaboration on AIDS research, education, and training. The *TREAT Asia Report* provides regular updates on the progress of the TREAT Asia network and on the most pressing AIDS research, policy, and community issues facing the Asia-Pacific region. It also features in-depth interviews with leaders in global health, research, and policy.

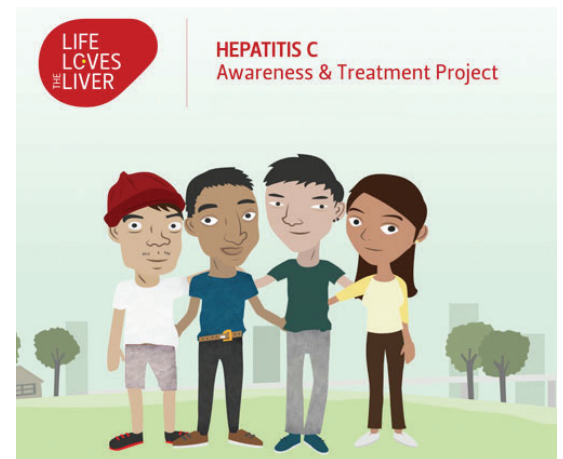
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**TREAT ASIA
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New Educational Resources to Combat Hepatitis C Co-Infection

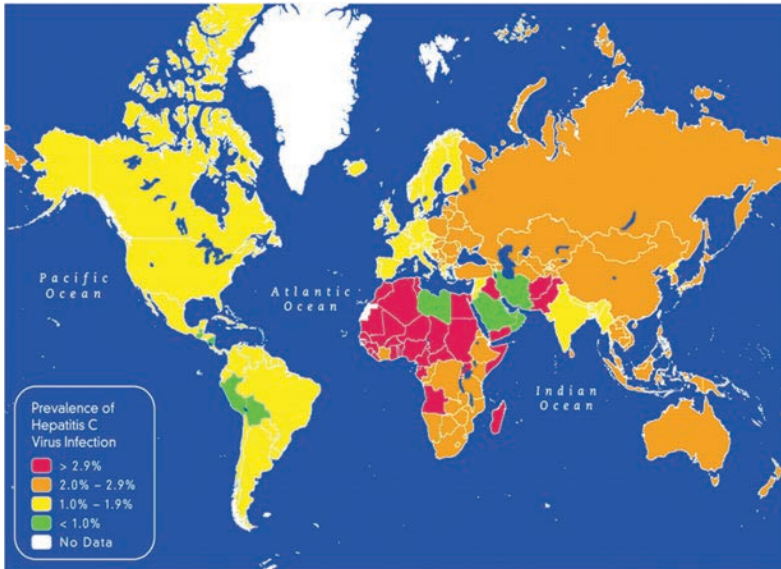
amfAR's TREAT Asia program has followed the launch of its new hepatitis C education campaign and screening and treatment study (see facing page) with the release of easy-to-understand educational materials about hepatitis C and HIV co-infection. The information is intended for patients, community members, and healthcare providers to better understand the impact of co-infection and how to manage it effectively.

The materials are available in English, Indonesian, Malay, Mandarin, Thai, and Vietnamese. They include animated videos, flip charts, and booklets featuring a young man named Zaki as he navigates co-infection, plus flyers and treatment planning booklets designed to help patients take and adhere to treatment. ■



For more information and to download these important new resources, visit: www.amfar.org/HepatitisC-Education/

The Public Health Crisis Jeopardizing Progress on HIV



Map of the global prevalence of chronic hepatitis C virus infection (Averhoff FM, et al. Clin Infect Dis, 2012; 55:S10–S15.)

Nearly five million people living with HIV, or 15% of the worldwide total, are co-infected with hepatitis C (HCV). If left untreated, HCV can cause chronic and debilitating liver diseases—including fibrosis, cirrhosis, and cancer—that can result in death. And co-infected individuals are more likely to develop HCV-related liver disease than patients infected with hepatitis C alone.

“The resources needed to effectively treat [these patients] remain out of reach for most,” according to Annette Sohn, M.D., amfAR vice president and director of amfAR’s TREAT Asia program, “due to the high cost of hepatitis C medicines and the overall lack of experience with treating co-infected patients in the region.” As a result, HCV co-infection has become a significant cause of death among people living with HIV in the Asia-Pacific region.

In response to this growing epidemic, TREAT Asia in January launched a new HCV screening and treatment study along with an education campaign. The clinical study will investigate how to better diagnose and treat hepatitis C in individuals co-infected with HIV in resource-limited settings.

TREAT Asia will first screen up to 400 co-infected patients to determine their treatment eligibility. The second phase of the study will include providing up to 200 co-infected patients

with free HCV medication at four partner HIV treatment centers: Cipto Mangunkusumo General Hospital in Jakarta, Indonesia; the HIV-NAT/Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center in Bangkok, Thailand; the National Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Hanoi, Vietnam; and the University of Malaya Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The aims of the study are to assess the need for immediate HCV co-infection treatment and to develop a pilot model for treatment provision and education that can be replicated across the Asia-Pacific region.

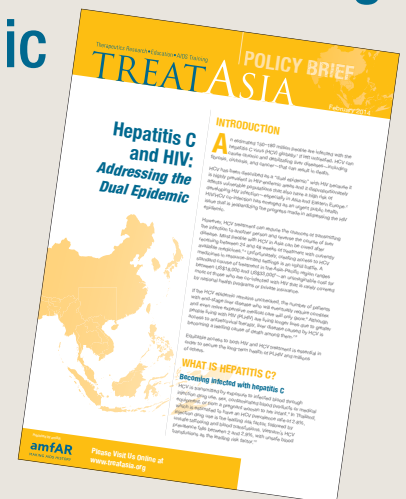
As part of the HIV/HCV awareness campaign, TREAT Asia is holding hepatitis C treatment workshops, and will begin distributing a series of easy-to-understand educational materials (see page 8) for patients and healthcare providers that includes animated videos, booklets, and flipcharts—available in Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, English, Malay, Thai, and Vietnamese.

TREAT Asia is also preparing to work with the World Health Organization to disseminate their upcoming HCV treatment guidelines, and is collaborating with regional partners to advocate for increasing the availability of HCV co-infection treatment in Asia. “We believe that this comprehensive program of disease education, treatment preparedness, and ongoing

adherence support will allow us to guide patients throughout their treatment journey, and significantly enhance the chances of individual cure and program success,” says Nicolas Durier, M.D., M.P.H., TREAT Asia’s director of research and one of the study’s principal investigators. ■

Hepatitis C and HIV: Addressing the Dual Epidemic

As part of its campaign to raise HIV/hepatitis C awareness, TREAT Asia has produced a policy brief providing detailed information about the effects of co-infection and the regional and global impact of the dual epidemic. The brief also makes the case for investing more in hepatitis C treatment, and will serve as a tool to advocate for increased treatment access. ■



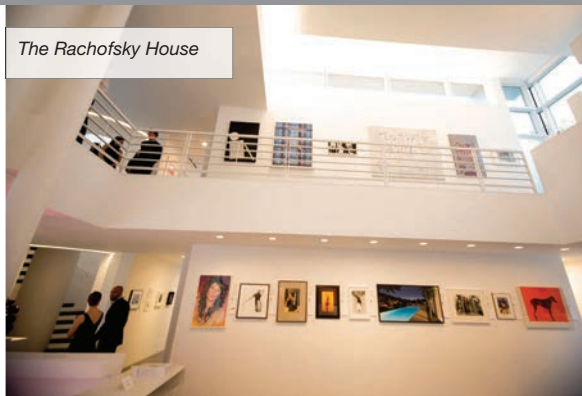
TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art

The 15th annual TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art gala dinner and auction at The Rachofsky House on October 26, 2013, was a spectacular success, raising more than \$5 million for amfAR and the Dallas Museum of Art. Highlights included a mesmerizing performance by eight-time Grammy winner Gladys Knight and the presentation of amfAR's Leadership Award to longtime amfAR supporter Chris Salgado, president of Kiehl's Since 1851. Belgian artist Luc Tuymans was honored with amfAR's Award of Excellence for Artistic Contributions to the Fight Against AIDS at a brunch the following day.

Special thanks: Audi of America, Christian Dior Couture, Sotheby's, Nancy C. Rogers, Deedie Rose, Kiehl's Since 1851, AT&T, Inc., Aston Martin of Dallas, Chubb Personal Insurance, Dom Pérignon, MICHELE Watches, Moët Hennessy USA, Neiman Marcus, Todd Events, U.S. Trust, and U.S. Risk (Photos: Kevin Tachman)



Gladys Knight, the "Empress of Soul," performed.



The Rachofsky House



TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art Host Jesse Metcalfe



Gary Tigges, M.D., Quinn Tivey, and Cyrus Hadjesmaili



Gilles Marini, Jesse Metcalfe, Howard Rachofsky, Cindy Rachofsky, amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost, Melissa Meeks Ireland, and honoree Chris Salgado



Maxwell Anderson, Eugene McDermott Director at the Dallas Museum of Art, with Emily Summers

Inspiration Gala Los Angeles and São Paulo

The legendary Lily Tomlin and amfAR Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone were among the presenters at the Inspiration Gala Los Angeles, December 12, 2013, honoring Goldie Hawn, Aileen Getty, and Hugo Boss. Chelsea Handler hosted and Grace Jones performed. On April 4, 2014, the Inspiration series moved to Brazil for the 4th Inspiration Gala São Paulo, honoring Nizan Guanaes and Donata Meirelles. The festive evening, hosted by Naomi Campbell and co-chaired by Kate Moss, culminated in an inspired performance by Mary J. Blige. The two events combined to raise more than \$6 million.

Special thanks: M•A•C Viva Glam, Wells Fargo, Microsoft, Delta Air Lines, Moët & Chandon, Vogue, Louis Vuitton, Iguatemi São Paulo, Carla Amorim, Carmen Steffens, Cyrela Realty, Fasano, Vogue Brasil, Belvedere Vodka, Gloria Ferrer, Peroni Italy, Chateau Marmont, Silvia Furmanovich, and Karavelle (Photos: Kevin Tachman)



Grammy Award-winning superstar Mary J. Blige in São Paulo



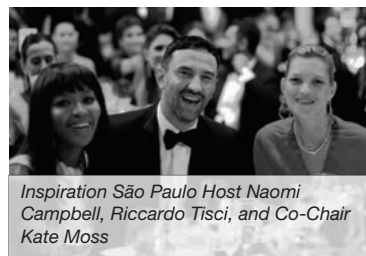
amfAR Humanitarian Award recipients Donata Meirelles and Nizan Guanaes on the red carpet in São Paulo



Honorary Chairs Dinho Diniz (left) and Felipe Diniz (right) flank Joao Felipe Diniz in São Paulo.



Chelsea Handler hosted Inspiration Los Angeles for the second consecutive year.



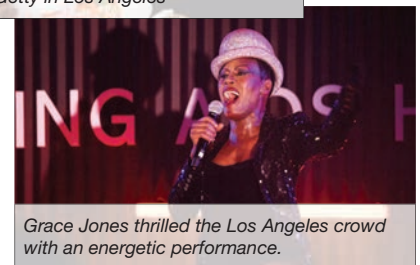
Inspiration São Paulo Host Naomi Campbell, Riccardo Tisci, and Co-Chair Kate Moss



amfAR Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone and honoree Aileen Getty in Los Angeles



amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole, honoree Goldie Hawn, and Kurt Russell in Los Angeles



Grace Jones thrilled the Los Angeles crowd with an energetic performance.

amfAR New York Gala



Andy Cohen and amfAR Founding Chairman Dr. Mathilde Krim

The Gala was held at Cipriani Wall Street.



Michelle Rodriguez

Liam Neeson made a surprise appearance at the 2014 amfAR New York Gala, where he presented amfAR's Award of Courage to Vanessa Redgrave and her daughter, actress Joely Richardson. Legendary photographer Peter Lindbergh was also honored. Guest speakers included amfAR Trustee Harry Belafonte and Chelsea Clinton, who helped launch amfAR's *Countdown to a Cure for AIDS* initiative. amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole was also a featured speaker and Jane Krakowski, Nile Rodgers and CHIC, and Grace Jones gave rousing performances. The evening raised \$1.7 million.



Nile Rodgers and CHIC got the crowd dancing with their disco classic "Le Freak."

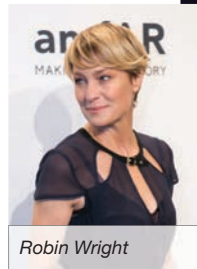


Jane Krakowski opened the night with a cabaret performance, singing a new rendition of her hilarious "Tweet" song.

Special thanks: Wells Fargo, BVLGARI, M•A•C Viva Glam, Mercedes-Benz, Mandarin Oriental New York, Gloria Ferrer, and Delta Air Lines (Photos: Kevin Tachman)



Liam Neeson presented Vanessa Redgrave and Joely Richardson with amfAR's Awards of Courage.



Robin Wright

amfAR India

Hosted by amfAR Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone and Bollywood stars Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan, the inaugural amfAR India event—amfAR's first ever event in India—was held at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Mumbai, November 17, 2013. Hilary Swank, amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole, and amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost joined many of the most distinguished figures in Indian society for the gala, which featured a glittering India's Gold fashion show and a high-octane performance by pop sensation Kesha.

Special thanks: Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla, LoveGold, Delta Air Lines, BMW, and Chivas (Photos: Kevin Tachman)



Pop star Kesha performed her hits "Animal," "We R Who We R," and "Tik Tok."



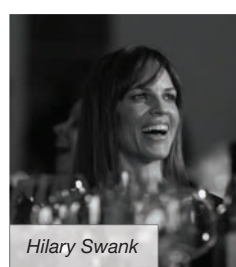
Model Nethra Raghuraman kicked off the gold-themed fashion show.



amfAR Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone and Event Producer Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla



Co-Hosts Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan with amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole.



Hilary Swank

Kiehl's Texas Run

An extension of the annual LifeRide for amfAR, this five-day charity motorcycle ride took a group of riders from Austin to Dallas in time for the 2013 TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art event (see facing page), where Kiehl's President Chris Salgado—founder of the LifeRide—was honored by amfAR. Riders made several stops at Kiehl's stores along the way, raising HIV/AIDS awareness and \$50,000 for AIDS research.



SHOP amfAR!

amfAR's online store carries a wide range of quality clothing and other merchandise. All purchases support lifesaving AIDS research so visit the shop today!

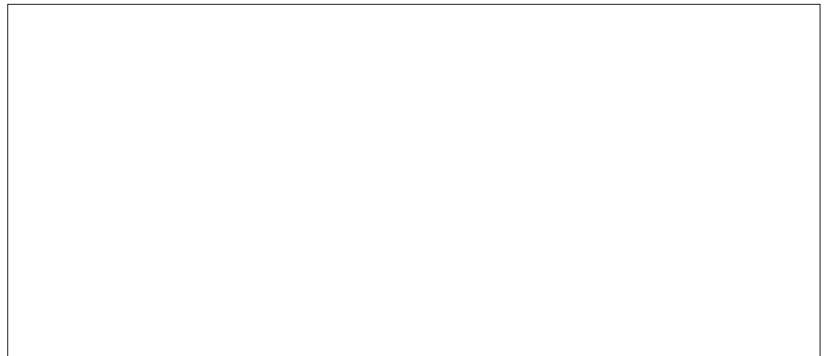
shop.amfar.org



CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?



Find out how you can support the Countdown at www.amfar.org/countdown



amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
120 Wall Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10005-3908

- amfAR Launches Countdown to a Cure for AIDS
- HIV/Hepatitis C Co-infection: A Growing Public Health Crisis
- Anti-LGBT Laws Threaten HIV/AIDS Response

INSIDE

2014 Calendar

August 2-14 • Kiehl's Life Ride for amfAR
 Milwaukee to New York City
 September 20 • amfAR Milano
 Milan, Italy
 October 25 • TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art
 Dallas, Texas
 October • Inspiration Gala Los Angeles
 Los Angeles, California
 November • amfAR India
 Mumbai, India

For more information, visit www.amfar.org.

INNOVATIONS

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The Newsletter of amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research

SUMMER 2014