

# INNOVATIONS

## amfAR Issues Call to Action at Capitol Hill Summit

Nancy Pelosi, “Magic” Johnson, Jeffrey Crowley, Dr. Anthony Fauci Among Speakers



*Moderator Ted Koppel, senior news analyst for NPR, and keynote speaker Earvin “Magic” Johnson discussed HIV and stigma, particularly in the African-American community.*  
(Photo: Paul Morigi/WireImage)

National leaders and HIV/AIDS experts called on the federal government to take swift action to fulfill President Obama’s pledge to strengthen the domestic AIDS response at a Washington, D.C., conference on May 13, co-sponsored by amfAR and Research!America.

Participants emphasized the urgency of implementing an evidence-based national AIDS strategy aimed at lowering the incidence of HIV infection, increasing access to care, and reducing the profound racial disparities of the epidemic. The landmark summit was the first major conference to address the future of the fight against HIV/AIDS since the new administration took office.

“Today’s conference gives us hope that by increasing our investments in research and marshalling the skills of these experts, we can make tremendous strides in prevention, treatment, and care

of HIV/AIDS,” said conference chair Dr. Susan Blumenthal, amfAR’s senior policy and medical adviser.

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who received amfAR’s Award of Courage along with Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, discussed the importance of

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## From Cameroon to Kazakhstan, MSM Initiative Extends Its Reach

New Round of Awards Targets Eastern Europe and Central Asia

It is well established that HIV epidemics worldwide are concentrated among vulnerable populations, such as injection drug users, sex workers, and men who have sex with men (MSM). Indeed, a 2007 study found that MSM in low- and middle-income countries were 19 times more likely to be infected with HIV than the general population.

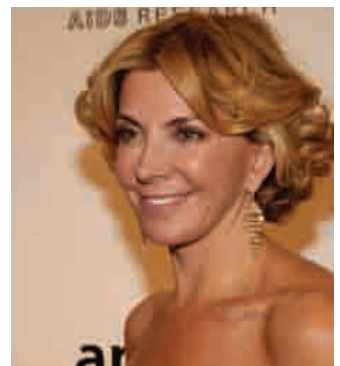
To help reduce these inordinately high rates of infection and support vital HIV/AIDS programs in the developing

world, amfAR launched its MSM Initiative in 2007.

Since announcing a first round of awards in February 2008, amfAR has supported community-based HIV programs for MSM in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Latin America. In June, a new round of funding was announced for grassroots groups working to stem rising rates of HIV infection in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

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### In Memoriam



**amfAR Trustee**  
**Natasha Richardson,**  
**1963–2009.** (Story page 8)

## The Challenge and Opportunity of a National AIDS Strategy



New estimates about the HIV infection rate in America should serve as a wake-up call to all of us. More than 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV, and about half of them are not

receiving care. Additionally, profound racial disparities continue to characterize AIDS in our country. Yet while the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief requires that nations receiving its funds develop comprehensive national AIDS plans, 28 years into the epidemic the U.S. still does not have a national strategy to guide the use of AIDS-related dollars or hold government agencies and others accountable for steadily improved outcomes.

At a recent Capitol Hill conference on HIV/AIDS (see page 1), amfAR issued a call to action urging our political leaders to adopt a national AIDS strategy. We cannot continue to address a serious national epidemic with a largely uncoordinated, patchwork response that has been flat funded for years and is too often hindered by policies not based on evidence of what works. That is why President Obama's commitment to a national strategy has received such broad support in the AIDS and health communities.

But a national HIV/AIDS strategy could lead to dramatic progress against AIDS only if

it emphasizes bottom-line outcomes and the need for a more strategic, accountable, and coordinated federal response—not simply more resources and programs. Like the broader effort for health reform, a national HIV/AIDS strategy is going to require fresh thinking instead of just more of the same.

The domestic effort on HIV requires expanded resources and immediate action to enact evidence-based policies. Beyond those measures, however, we need a revitalized response to AIDS with specific targets to help lower incidence, increase access to care, and reduce disparities, along with annual reporting on progress toward these targets.

Designing the strategy will challenge all those engaged to identify what works and what needs to be improved. But the stakes are too high to dodge the difficult questions and the political challenges ahead. With presidential leadership and the broad collaboration of committed stakeholders, a national HIV/AIDS strategy can help all of us—government, the private sector, affected communities, and people living with HIV/AIDS—establish a much more efficient and effective response to AIDS at home.

Kevin Robert Frost

## INNOVATIONS

The Newsletter of  
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for its generous support of  
amfAR's mission.

## amfAR Welcomes New Leadership

Chris Collins, a veteran AIDS advocate who has helped shape HIV/AIDS policy and communications for nearly 20 years, joined amfAR in April as vice president and director of public policy. In May, Gregory Boroff joined amfAR's staff as vice president of development. Boroff comes to amfAR from the Food Bank for New York City, where he served as senior vice president of external relations. ■



Chris Collins and Gregory Boroff.

## CAPITOL HILL SUMMIT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

evidence-based policies in fighting HIV/AIDS. Expressing her confidence that President Barack Obama would honor his commitment to “restore science to its rightful place,” she said, “Some say we must choose between faith and science. We say that science is the answer to our prayers.”

Jeffrey Crowley, director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, spoke of the new administration’s emphasis on evidence-based solutions to HIV/AIDS. “This president has asked us to focus on the

domestic AIDS battle by following the science,” said Crowley. “We now have a window of opportunity to refocus our efforts on the HIV/AIDS epidemic.”

Stressing the importance of HIV prevention among youth, Dr. Kevin Fenton, director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noted that 34 percent of all new HIV infections in 2006 occurred among youth aged 13–29 years, and that black youth comprised 70 percent of those cases.

amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost issued a call to action that outlined steps the government must take to implement a national AIDS strategy and reduce the incidence of HIV infection in the U.S.

“If this administration is serious about AIDS, it needs to close the book on the failed policies of the past and invest solely—and boldly—in those programs that we know to be effective or that show promise for the future,” he said.

The day-long event, titled “Future Directions in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS,” also featured presentations from a number of HIV/AIDS experts, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of



*Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, spoke about pathogenesis, treatment, and prevention.*



*Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, head of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, addressed new directions in the fight against AIDS.*

## amfAR Honors Pelosi, Johnson, Kennedy, and Koop

Four leading figures in the fight against HIV/AIDS—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Senator Edward Kennedy, and former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop—received amfAR’s Awards of Courage at its Capitol Hill summit.

Speaker Pelosi was honored for her work in Congress on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS and her support for federal funding for AIDS research. After amfAR Chairman of the Board Kenneth Cole presented Pelosi with her Award of Courage, she reminisced about her first speech to the House in 1987, in which she shocked her fellow members of Congress with her vocal support for people living with HIV/AIDS. “We have made a great deal of progress since then, but so much more work remains,” she said.

Senator Kennedy, a longtime amfAR supporter and leader in the fight against AIDS, received the award for his instrumental role in securing passage of the legislation that has formed the bedrock of the U.S. government’s response to HIV/AIDS for the past two decades. Congressman Patrick Kennedy, Senator Kennedy’s son, accepted the Award of Courage on his father’s behalf.

“Magic” Johnson was recognized for his courageous announcement in 1991 that he was living with HIV, and for his tireless advocacy and philanthropy through the Magic Johnson Foundation and the award-winning “I Stand With Magic” campaign. Ted Koppel, senior news analyst for NPR and a moderator at the Capitol Hill conference, presented Johnson with his award.

Dr. Koop, who was surgeon general during the Reagan administration from 1982 to 1989, was praised for his efforts to educate Americans about HIV/AIDS at a time when few public figures would speak out about the crisis. Dr. Koop accepted his award in a pre-taped video segment. ■



*House Speaker Nancy Pelosi received amfAR’s Award of Courage from amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole.*

(Photo: Paul Morigi/WireImage)

the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr. Jack Whitescarver, director of NIH’s Office of AIDS Research; and Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. ■

## Fighting HIV/AIDS in the Lab and on the Phone

### amfAR Awards \$1.6 Million in New Research Grants

Most parents of teenagers have experienced frustration at their offsprings' obsession with text messaging. But what if it could be used to save lives? At the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, a country where few have landlines but most own a cell phone, Dr. Joyce Nyoni is trying to do precisely that.

As part of \$1.6 million in new research grants, amfAR has announced that it will fund three projects, including the work of Dr. Nyoni, that aim to harness social networking technologies to prevent the spread of HIV. Dr. Nyoni will recruit a small number of men who have sex with men (MSM) to receive and send regular text messages containing HIV/AIDS information, and they in turn will recruit other MSM to do the same. Dr. Nyoni will then assess the changes in knowledge and behavior that she hopes will result from the program.

In addition to funding novel prevention strategies, amfAR also awarded six new grants for innovative biomedical research aimed at advancing the treatment and cure of HIV/AIDS. Using our deepening understanding of evolution to identify new targets for anti-HIV drugs, Dr. Sara Sawyer of the University of Texas at Austin will base her study on the "Red Queen hypothesis," which suggests that organisms must continue to evolve just to keep up with the other organisms

that surround them. Arguing that mutations in cell proteins that compromise HIV's ability to grow will be favored over time, Dr. Sawyer hopes to identify the proteins that show the greatest promise as drug targets.

Through the Mathilde Krim Fellowships in Basic Biomedical Research, a third group of awards totaling almost \$500,000 was allocated specifically to younger scientists. The four new Krim Fellows will examine viral latency along with new targets for microbicide and anti-HIV drug development.

"HIV does not slow down in a recession," said Dr. Rowena Johnston, amfAR's vice president and director of research. "In fact it's more important than ever to fund projects with the potential to help those who are hit hardest in times like these. These new awards focus on the fundamental needs of the field of HIV/AIDS research: new prevention technologies, new treatments, recruitment of young researchers, and progress towards a cure." ■



## Can a Pill a Day Prevent HIV?

### Still in Trials, PrEP Attracts Rising Interest

What if those most at risk for HIV could take a pill that would reduce the risk of infection? Growing attention to pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, prompted amfAR's Public Policy office to gather a panel of experts to discuss the implications of just such a scenario at a Congressional briefing in Washington, D.C., December 4, 2008.

"At this point in time, we do not have the resources to bring this epidemic under control," said panelist Dr. Carl Dieffenbach, director of the Division of AIDS at the National Institute

of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. "Therefore we must turn to novel prevention strategies," such as PrEP.

The experimental technique involves administering anti-HIV drugs before possible exposure to HIV in the hope that they will lower the chances of infection among those at high risk—a proposition currently being tested in ongoing clinical trials overseen by Dr. Dieffenbach in Botswana, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, and the U.S. Initial results are expected



within the next year, but interest in the idea is already rising.

While the viability of PrEP is unclear, the fact that antiretrovirals are already on the market and widely available means that it is crucial to address related issues now, including paying for PrEP, targeting at-risk populations, adherence, and drug

## Battling Taboos and Scientific Challenges of Rectal HIV Transmission

Rectal HIV transmission accounts for a significant number of infections among men and women globally—in fact, more women are exposed to HIV rectally than men, according to amfAR grantee Dr. Carolina Herrera. But social taboos surrounding anal sex and a related lack of research funding have limited scientists' ability to evaluate its impact or look for ways to prevent it.

In an effort to address this discrepancy, in 2007 and 2008 amfAR funded 10 researchers exploring biomedical and social/behavioral aspects of rectal HIV transmission. In March, with support from the Calamus Foundation, amfAR brought the researchers together to share their findings, identify gaps in current knowledge, and establish research priorities.

Several of the grantees focused on developing rectal microbicides to prevent HIV transmission. “Anal intercourse is the most efficient route of sexual transmission of HIV,” said Dr. Herrera of St. George’s University of London, explaining the urgent need for rectal microbicides.



*More women than men are exposed to HIV rectally, according to amfAR grantee Dr. Carolina Herrera.*

Noting a lack of support from traditional funders for this area of research, Dr. Charlene Dezzutti of Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation in Pittsburgh said that amfAR’s grant was crucial in helping her develop a colorectal explant model to study HIV transmission and

microbicides. Another grantee, Dr. Alex Carballo-Dieguez of the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University, developed a prototype of an applicator to be used with rectal microbicides, and is moving on to conduct further studies funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The complexities of obtaining accurate data on the prevalence of rectal transmission were noted by several researchers. “I think there’s a mixed reaction to studying heterosexual anal intercourse in South Africa and in Southern Africa in general,” explained Dr. Joanne Mantell of the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University, who conducted a survey of anal sex practices among high-risk men and women in South Africa. “People do not feel comfortable talking about it, it’s highly stigmatized, and it’s a cultural taboo.”

Many of the researchers hope to use their amfAR-funded work as a starting point for further research into rectal HIV transmission. amfAR’s vice president and director of research, Dr. Rowena Johnston, who facilitated the conference, explained the importance of providing support for these scientists.

“We can put a relatively small amount of money into a new research field and demonstrate that there are interesting findings to be made,” she said. “I really hope that what we have done here can be used to inspire other funders to get on board.” ■



resistance. “How do we prepare to deliver this prevention strategy to those populations that need it the most?” queried Dr. Thomas Coates, associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute.

At this point, researchers are keeping a close eye on the progress of the PrEP clinical trials but also on the possible ethical and financial considerations of this potential prevention tool. ■

**“ People do not feel comfortable talking about anal sex and HIV—it’s a cultural taboo. ”**

## Violence Casts a Pall on the Lives of Jamaican MSM

As a Jamaican social justice leader, Dr. Robert Carr witnesses a constant assault on the humanity of gay and bisexual people from many corners of society including elected officials, homophobic dance hall artists, and religious leaders who believe that gay rights are against God's will. All too often, said Dr. Carr, this animosity "plays itself out in physical violence—people end up being beaten or set on fire."

For the past three years, Dr. Carr has worked to address the human rights of this vulnerable population as volunteer executive director of the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition. An amfAR MSM Initiative Community Award has allowed him to build leadership among men who have sex with men (MSM) in a region known for its virulent anti-gay biases.



*Dr. Robert Carr (left) with Marcus Day and Pierre Sissaoui, fellow Caribbean activists.*

"Which I discovered how badly people living with AIDS were treated without a second thought, I was shocked," said Dr. Carr. The biggest issue he confronts is entrenched homophobia; to speak against it is to risk bodily harm. A member of Parliament recently stated that homosexuals were violent, and that laws against homosexual sex should be made harsher. "At the time, this was applauded by his fellow Parliamentarians," said Dr. Carr.

"That said, we have also seen significant progress," he continued. Key institutions such as the police, concerned about extreme violence, have begun to monitor officers' responses, and some police officers have even put themselves in the line of fire against mobs attacking men who appear effeminate.

Across the Caribbean, leaders have emerged who are willing to further this progress, said Dr. Carr, noting nascent efforts in Grenada, Antigua, Guyana, and Dominica. The funding from amfAR provided an opportunity to hold a three-day consultation and training for community leaders on how to undertake HIV prevention, community mobilization, and human rights advocacy despite the homophobia and hostility facing MSM in the Caribbean.

"The fact that the conversation is even happening is a major milestone," said Dr. Carr. "I think there's a lot to be hopeful for, and I think Jamaica will find its way. It's just going to take the time, commitment, and determination of people who have the strength and courage to differ from the majority, to stay their ground, and to do their best to make a difference." ■

## FROM CAMEROON TO KAZAKHSTAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The work of these organizations illustrates both their diversity and the challenges that are common to all. Stigma and discrimination are universal and present formidable barriers to progress. In Jamaica, for example, a country regarded as one of the most dangerous places in the world to be gay, the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, Allsexuals, and Gays has organized workshops to educate healthcare workers and police who deal with HIV-positive MSM victimized by violence.

In Thailand, SWING, a group that includes a significant number of male sex workers, has begun to use "sexual health diaries" to track its members' HIV risk. In Liberia, an

award to Concern for Humanity is supporting an unprecedented effort to gather data on the extent of HIV risk among MSM in that country. And in Ukraine, the MSM Initiative is supporting a pilot program in four prisons to train staff, organize support groups, and expand access to HIV prevention information and counseling.

The community awards process has revealed a far greater need than amfAR is currently able to meet. Last year, the



## Putting Research into Words

### TREAT Asia Investigators Sharpen Scientific Writing Skills

Because English is the scientific world's lingua franca, when researchers around the globe present the results of their work to a journal or at an international conference, they are usually required to use English. Scientific investigators who work with the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD) hail from all corners of Asia, and for them English is usually a second or third language, which means that writing up their research in English can be a challenge.

To help sharpen the English-language scientific writing skills of TREAT Asia investigators and thereby speed the dissemination of their research findings, TREAT Asia hosted an intensive scientific writing workshop in Bangkok, March 20-22. Seventeen research scientists from 12 countries across Asia attended the two-and-a-half-day program, which focused on improving scientific writing from conception to final presentation and on clarifying the expectations of journal editors. Detailed presentations covered how to develop and write abstracts and the standard components of a research paper, as well as how to communicate with journal editors when submitting a manuscript.

"Workshop participants were from different countries and they had different backgrounds," said Dr. Lee Lee Low, a TAHOD co-investigator who attended from Sungai Buloh Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. "Some were highly experienced researchers with established reputations and others were like me—young blood new to the world of



*At the Bangkok scientific writing seminar, from left: Dr. Junyan Han from China, Dr. Sasheela Sri La Si Ponnampalavanar from Malaysia, and Dr. Evy Yuniastuti from Indonesia.*

research and publication. But all of us learned the whole process of writing and developing a research article, from searching for the most appropriate title to publicizing it."

"As antiretroviral therapy is scaling up in this region, it is vital that we better understand changing epidemiology, treatment outcomes, and complications," said Dr. Man-Po Lee, a senior TREAT Asia investigator at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Hong Kong. "Our knowledge in these areas is insufficient, but we can help fill this gap by actively participating in research, defining relevant questions, preparing concept sheets, writing, and editing manuscripts."

One of the primary goals of TREAT Asia is to build AIDS research capacity in Asia in order to strengthen the region's ability to fight the epidemic. Since it began accumulating and analyzing data in 2003, TAHOD has published 11 papers in leading scientific journals, several more are in the works, and more than 20 presentations have been made at major international conferences.

The TREAT Asia writing workshop was funded by the Office of AIDS Research at the U.S. National Institutes of Health. ■



*Reviewers met in Turkey to select MSM awards for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.*

Foundation was able to fund only seven of 83 proposals submitted by organizations in Africa. Round two this year generated another 67 applications, but funding was available for just eight.

In March, reviewers meeting in Turkey evaluated 80 applications for the inaugural round of awards in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, an enormous outpouring of interest in a region

where HIV/AIDS has spread dramatically among MSM. Thanks to support from the Dutch organization Aids Fonds, ten groups have received funding, from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Russia (two awards), Turkey, and Ukraine (two awards).

In order to address the many unanswered research questions that are specific to HIV among MSM, in September amfAR brought together more than 40 of the world's leading experts for a global research consultation in Washington, D.C. Participants drew up a list of research priorities that could help inform the direction of new research on HIV and MSM. The proceedings of the consultation are available online at [www.amfar.org/msmresearch](http://www.amfar.org/msmresearch). ■



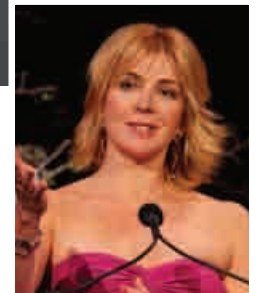
## In Memoriam: Natasha Richardson

amfAR mourns the sudden, tragic loss of talented actor and much loved amfAR Trustee Natasha Richardson on March 18, 2009. A dedicated AIDS advocate, Ms. Richardson generously contributed

her time and resources to amfAR for more than 15 years, joining the board of trustees in 2006. Most recently she was a featured speaker at the Foundation's annual New York Gala fundraiser on February 12. In 1999, she spearheaded Unforgettable: Fashion of the Oscars, an auction of Oscar dresses that raised more than \$1.5 million for AIDS research.

"Natasha was an eloquent and persuasive spokesperson for amfAR," said Chairman of the Board Kenneth Cole. "Her unique combination of passion, grace, and intelligence made her the perfect ambassador for the fight against AIDS."

To read more about Ms. Richardson's involvement with amfAR or to make a donation in her memory, please visit our website, [www.amfar.org](http://www.amfar.org).



*Natasha Richardson's involvement with amfAR began in 1996 when she hosted the Foundation's World AIDS Day program at the UN (left). Other events she supported included Cinema Against AIDS Cannes in 1997, where she appeared with her mother, Vanessa Redgrave, and Lauren Bacall (top); Two x Two for AIDS and Art in Dallas, 2006, with amfAR Chairman of the Board Kenneth Cole (above left); and the 2009 New York Gala (above right).*

(Photos: page 1, Getty Images; page 8, Robin Platzer for amfAR, Gamma Press Agency, Steve Foxall Photography, and Jemal Countess/WireImage)

### GLOBAL

## A Human Rights Struggle at the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic MSM Activist Wages a Personal Battle

For Hua Boonyapisompan, fighting for human rights is central to her work on HIV/AIDS among men who have sex with men (MSM)—but it is also a deeply personal battle. As a transgender person, she has often felt the lash of stigma and discrimination because of her identity. In fact, her experience with stigma led her to a career as an activist.

Hua's personal struggles have inspired her in her role as MSM program coordinator for amfAR's TREAT Asia program. "The basic problems of sexual minorities in Asia are the same

everywhere: stigma and a lack of human rights," she explains.

At TREAT Asia, Hua works with the Purple Sky Network, a network of MSM groups in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, for which TREAT Asia serves as regional coordinating secretariat. With Hua's help, advocacy

will be one of the Purple Sky Network's highest priorities during the next two years. Supported by a grant from the Levi Strauss Foundation through amfAR's MSM Initiative and the Health Policy Initiative, the Purple Sky Network is expanding its MSM advocacy work to address the myriad challenges faced by MSM groups. This summer, the network is launching a new database called PRISM, which will help member groups track their activities and advocate for funding to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

Hua believes that the information gathered in the database will be an important tool in convincing donors and governments to address the spread of HIV among MSM in the region. She also hopes that her advocacy work will help broaden understanding of MSM as a community and an identity. "When you work in this field, you meet so many people at all levels of society," she explains. "The term 'MSM' covers a wide range of people. It's important to listen to them and find out what they need." For Hua, the importance of the work she does with HIV and MSM comes down to this—the personal stories that lie at the heart of human rights. ■



*Hua Boonyapisompan in TREAT Asia's Bangkok office.*



## President Bill Clinton Joins the Stars at Cinema Against AIDS Cannes

Stars gathered in Cap d'Antibes, France, in support of amfAR's lifesaving research at the 16th Cinema Against AIDS benefit gala, held May 21 during the Cannes Film Festival. President Bill Clinton was the evening's honored guest and attended alongside event leadership Sharon Stone, Harvey Weinstein, Michel Litvak, Vin Roberti, Carine Roitfeld, Donatella Versace, Michelle Yeoh, Satjiv S. Chahil, Dennis Davidson, Milutin Gatsby, Caroline Gruosi-Scheufele, and amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole.

**Special thanks: Presenting Sponsors Bold Films, Palisades Tartan, and The Weinstein Company; Co-Sponsors Chopard, Hewlett-Packard Company, and Luxury Limited Edition; French Vogue; and Jamie Niven.**

(Photos: Jeff Vespa and Tony Barson, WireImage; François Durand/Getty Images)



amfAR Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone led the live auction, which featured President Clinton's autographed saxophone. Stone also presented a heartfelt tribute to the late amfAR trustee Natasha Richardson.



In his keynote address, President Bill Clinton emphasized the urgent need for AIDS research and described the lives of children living with HIV in Cambodia.



Josh Hartnett with event chair Michel Litvak



Cast members from Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds* participated in the live auction.



Event chair and amfAR Ambassador Michelle Yeoh



Annie Lennox gave a moving performance that included "Talking to an Angel," which she sang in memory of the late Natasha Richardson.



Longtime amfAR supporter Harvey Weinstein convinced *Twilight* heartthrob Robert Pattinson to donate a kiss on the cheek to the daughter of the highest bidder.

## Vienna's Life Ball Raises Funds for TREAT Asia

*Desperate Housewives* star Eva Longoria Parker joined amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost and Vice President of Public Information Joshua Lamont to represent the Foundation at the 17th annual Life Ball, held in Vienna on May 16. The elaborate celebration—which raised nearly \$700,000 for amfAR's TREAT Asia program—included a moving film presentation about New Hope for Cambodian Children, a participating site in TREAT Asia's Pediatric Network.



**Special thanks: Gery Kezslar and Maria Maager**  
(Photo: Andreas Kolarik)

## San Francisco Gala

amfAR supporters gathered on November 15, 2008, for the tenth annual San Francisco Fall Gala, which raised \$400,000 for amfAR.

**Special thanks: Wells Fargo, the chefs of the Bacchus Management Group, and the Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco.**

(Photos: Drew Altizer Photography)



Multi-platinum recording artist Taylor Dayne



Honoree Dita Von Teese spoke about educating young women about safe sex.



Event chairs Tim Hanlon, Stephen Brady, Julie Candice, Lance Holman, Lisa Sardegna, and David Carrillo



amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole, Award of Courage recipients Dr. Mervyn Silverman and Dita Von Teese, and host B.D. Wong



The acclaimed dance company Pilobolus performed at the Last Look after-party.



Jim Hodges, recipient of amfAR's Award of Excellence for Artistic Contributions to the Fight Against AIDS

## TWO x TWO Turns Ten

The tenth annual TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art celebration raised more than \$4 million for amfAR and the Dallas Museum of Art on October 25, 2008.



Stanley Tucci, an honorary chair, with amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole



Hosts Howard and Cindy Rachofsky (far left and far right) with Bonnie Pitman, director of the Dallas Museum of Art, and Sigourney Weaver

**Special thanks: Sponsors Sotheby's, Harry Winston, Aston Martin of Dallas, Bombardier Flexjet, Forty Five Ten, Mandarin Oriental, Joule Hotel, Moët Hennessy U.S., Museum Tower, Neiman Marcus, Park Cities Hilton, Dr. Craig Schwimmer/The Snoring Center, U.S. Risk, Waldman Bros/Chubb; and Jamie Niven of Sotheby's North and South America**

(Photos: Steve Foxall Photography and Lisa Stewart)

## Cinema Against AIDS Rome

Held in conjunction with the Rome Film Festival, the second annual Cinema Against AIDS Rome raised more than \$600,000 for amfAR's programs on October 24, 2008.

**Special thanks: BMW Group Italia, Campari, Missoni, Studios SRL, Vanity Fair, and the Luxury Collection.**

(Photos: Daniel Venturilli and Elisabetta Villa, WireImage)



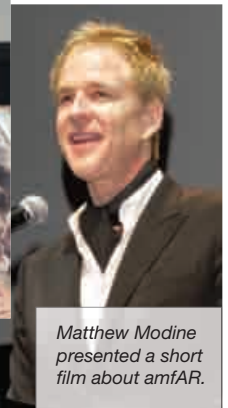
Broadway star Cheyenne Jackson gave a soulful performance of Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come."



Alan Cumming, emcee of the live auction, with Gael Garcia Bernal and Margherita Missoni



amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost and Mena Suvari

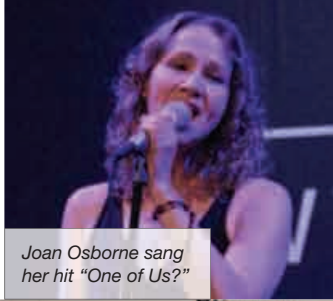


Matthew Modine presented a short film about amfAR.

## amfAR New York Gala

Held on February 12 at the opening of Fashion Week, the New York Gala raised more than \$830,000 for amfAR's programs.

**Special thanks: Cipriani, Cartier, Lorraine Schwartz Diamonds, Louis Vuitton, Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, Jamie Niven of Sotheby's North and South America, and Stanley Tucci.**  
(Photos: Jemal Countess/WireImage and Michael Loccisano/Getty Images)



Joan Osborne sang her hit "One of Us?"



amfAR trustee Natasha Richardson (See page 8 for a tribute to Ms. Richardson.)



Howard and Cindy Rachofsky, Donna Karan, and Liza Minnelli received Awards of Courage.



amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole with rising star Renee Olstead

## Cinema Against AIDS Dubai

The second annual Cinema Against AIDS Dubai, held on December 12, raised \$1.8 million for amfAR.

**Special thanks: Dubai Pearl, Dubai International Film Festival, and Cartier.**  
(Photos: Gareth Cartermole and Andrew Walker, WireImage)



Salma Hayek opened the live auction.



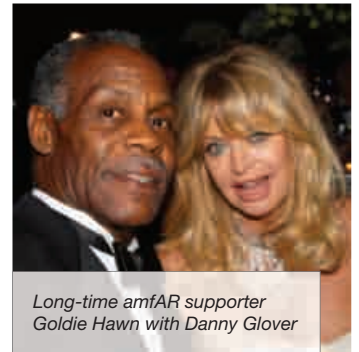
Abdul Majid Al Fahim, chairman of Dubai Pearl, donated \$250,000, which his top executives then matched.



Laura Linney



amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost with amfAR trustee Harry Belafonte



Long-time amfAR supporter Goldie Hawn with Danny Glover

## Trek amfAR in Asia

The Trek amfAR fundraising event, December 12, 2008–January 8, 2009, took hikers along Thailand's Old Elephant Trail to learn firsthand about the AIDS crisis in Asia.

**Special thanks: Across the Divide, Nikki's Place, Violet Home, and chairs Rainer Facklam and Michael Walsh.**



Rainer Facklam and other trekkers visited children at Nikki's Place, an HIV orphanage.



Trekkers Pierce Roberts, Gina Masullo, Heidi Parker, Kenneth Lyons, Shamyla Shah, and Michael Walsh

# Adopt-A-Scientist

**Take a peek inside the lab to see what makes real scientists tick.**



Visit **Adopt-a-Scientist.com** to meet six scientists working in amfAR's vital research program. These dedicated scientists put in long hours to accelerate the pace of AIDS research and bring us ever closer to a cure.

Learn how their studies are contributing crucial new knowledge to the fight against AIDS, discover what inspired them to become AIDS researchers—and even learn what they keep in their lab coat pockets!

Then go ahead and “adopt” the scientist of your choice. amfAR will send you your own certificate of adoption and periodic email updates on the progress of your chosen scientist’s research.

Your support will help amfAR advance the science that is our best hope of conquering the global AIDS epidemic. **So visit Adopt-a-Scientist today, and become a “brainiac benefactor”!**



*For more information, visit [www.amfar.org](http://www.amfar.org).*

**November 6**  
San Francisco Fall Gala  
San Francisco, California  
Contact Timothy Stahl at (212) 806-1636

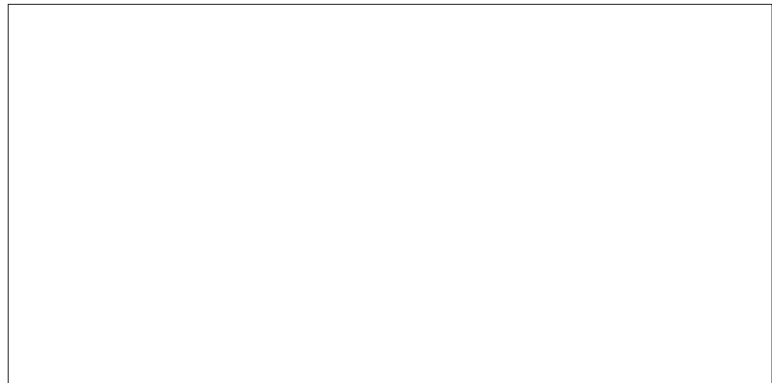
**October 19-25**  
TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art  
Dallas, Texas  
Contact David Yu at (212) 806-1615

**September 28**  
amfAR Milano  
Milan, Italy  
Contact Cassandra Dawes at (212) 806-1753

**September 15**  
Cinema Against AIDS Toronto  
Toronto, Canada  
Contact Timothy Stahl at (212) 806-1636

**September 13**  
Bucks County Cabaret  
Bucks County, Pennsylvania  
Contact David Yu at (212) 806-1615

## Calendar



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

- amfAR Holds Landmark AIDS Conference
- The Imperative of a National AIDS Strategy
- Fighting AIDS in Eastern Europe

INSIDE

# INNOVATIONS

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AIDS RESEARCH