



amfAR™

MAKING AIDS HISTORY

INNOVATIONS

FEBRUARY 2015

amfAR HIV Cure Summit

Taking stock of cure research progress

Also Inside:

**amfAR at 30: People,
Passion, Progress**

**Racial Disparities
in HIV: Too Great to
Overcome?**

**Lessons from
the Front Lines**

amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
amfar.org

FEBRUARY 2015

The biannual newsletter of amfAR,
The Foundation for AIDS Research

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The View from the Summit

Taking stock of cure research progress

Leading amfAR-funded cure researchers gathered to report on their progress and to discuss the scientific obstacles that must be overcome to reach an HIV/AIDS cure at the inaugural amfAR HIV Cure Summit.

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When Spider Webs Unite

There's an Ethiopian proverb that graces one of the walls at amfAR's offices: "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." I'm fond of this saying because it aptly describes our current approach to AIDS research. Here's why.

This summer we will award the largest research grants we have ever made: three \$2 million grants payable over four years. These will be awarded to researchers to test the safety and efficacy of potential cures, creating a pathway to the development of a cure that could be implemented in humans. One of the stipulations is that collaboration between institutions is required.

These new Impact Grants will be awarded in addition to our continued funding of collaborative teams of scientists working under the auspices of our five-year-old ARCHE program (amfAR Research Consortium on HIV Eradication). We've found that getting teams of scientists to unite and work together in web-like collaborations, sharing ideas and information, is highly effective at accelerating the pace of research.

Of course, this all requires resources, and to reach our goal we'll need to raise substantial amounts over the next few years. But today we're well positioned to make new investments and boost our ability to influence the course of HIV cure research. Having launched our Countdown to a Cure for AIDS initiative—aimed at developing the scientific basis for a cure for HIV by 2020—in February 2014, by year's end we had raised more than \$16 million in support of the Countdown.

So, in spite of the many complex challenges that lie ahead, I'm optimistic about our prospects for making solid progress in 2015.

If you're a regular reader of *Innovations*, you'll notice that we've moved to a new format, which we hope will do a better job of illustrating all of the work that we do. As always, that work is made possible by gifts large and small from our many generous supporters in the U.S. and around the world. We thank you for your support and hope you'll stay with us as we work to accomplish the mission that was launched by our founders 30 years ago.

amfAR at 30:

People, Passion, Progress

Over the past three decades, amfAR has invested more than \$400 million in AIDS research programs that have paved the way to the possibility of a cure for HIV. From the frantic search for effective treatments in the early days of the epidemic to today's directed search for a cure, countless friends, colleagues, allies, and supporters have contributed to our progress. We honor them all and we pay tribute to a few in these snapshots from amfAR's 30-year history.



In September 1985, Dr. Mathilde Krim and Elizabeth Taylor announced the merger of their two organizations—the New York-based AIDS Medical Foundation and Los Angeles-based National AIDS Research Foundation—and the formation of the **American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)**. Joining Krim and Taylor on amfAR's board were Drs. Michael Gottlieb and Joel Weisman, David Geffen, and Edith Wasserman, among others. (Photo: Star Black)



Kenneth Cole initiated his first AIDS public service campaign in 1985. Titled "For the Future of Our Children," it featured an iconic photograph of leading fashion models by Annie Leibovitz. Cole joined amfAR's board of trustees in 1987, became vice chairman in 2002, and chairman on World AIDS Day 2004.



A collaboration between Dionne Warwick, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, and Gladys Knight resulted in the hit single "That's What Friends Are For." Written by amfAR board members Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager and released in 1985, it raised millions of dollars for amfAR. In 2011, the quartet reunited to perform the song at the amfAR New York Gala. (Photo: Jamie McCarthy/WireImage)



amfAR grantee Dr. Nancy Chang's studies of the protease enzyme in 1986 helped spur the development of a powerful class of anti-HIV drugs called **protease inhibitors**. Approved by the FDA in 1995, they revolutionized the treatment of HIV and contributed to a drastic reduction in AIDS deaths.



Senator Edward M. Kennedy (pictured with Elizabeth Taylor and Senator Orrin Hatch in 1996) was a staunch advocate in the Senate for people living with HIV/AIDS. Through its public policy office, established in 1987, amfAR worked with Kennedy to design and secure the passage of landmark AIDS-related legislation. (Photo: Patsy Lynch)



amfAR established a **Community-Based Clinical Trials (CBCT) Network** in 1989. The program demonstrated that involving the HIV-infected community in clinical research expanded research capacity and expedited the drug approval process.



amfAR Program Officer Terry Beirn, working directly with Senator Ted Kennedy, was instrumental in pushing early AIDS-related legislation through Congress. In 1990, Beirn met with President Bush in the White House Oval Office to advocate the passage of the Ryan White CARE Act.



Elizabeth Hurley, Elton John, Dr. Mathilde Krim, and Sharon Stone pictured at amfAR's Cinema Against AIDS gala during the 1998 Cannes Film Festival. Since Elizabeth Taylor hosted the first event in 1993, **Cinema Against AIDS** has raised more than \$150 million.



In 1994, an NIH-funded trial demonstrated that the antiretroviral drug AZT could significantly reduce the risk of **mother-to-infant HIV transmission** in humans. amfAR grantee Dr. Ruth Ruprecht's early research in animal models helped to make the government's study possible.



At the United Nations on World AIDS Day 1995, **Sharon Stone** announced at a press conference that she had accepted an invitation to serve as chairman of amfAR's Campaign for AIDS Research. Since that time, Stone has traveled the world on behalf of the Foundation, working tirelessly to heighten HIV/AIDS awareness and raise funds in support of amfAR.



amfAR grantee Dr. Nathaniel Landau published research in 1996 demonstrating that HIV requires a protein called **CCR5** to enter and infect cells. CCR5 later became the target for a new group of highly effective anti-HIV drugs and played a critical role in the case of the first person cured of HIV, Timothy Brown—"the Berlin Patient."



In 2000, amfAR Founding Chairman Dr. Mathilde Krim received the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, the nation's highest civilian honor, in recognition of her leadership and commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS. (Photo: The White House)



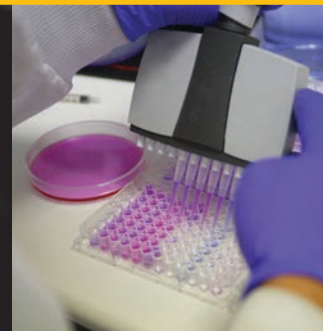
amfAR grantee Dr. Praphan Phanuphak and Elizabeth Taylor during a tour of the Chulalongkorn University Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1989. Dr. Phanuphak has been a principal investigator with amfAR's **TREAT Asia** program since it was launched in 2001. (Photo: The Bangkok Post)



Since 2007, amfAR's **GMT Initiative** has provided financial and technical support to GMT organizations in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen the community response to HIV, including prevention, treatment, and advocacy efforts.



Before her tragic death in 2009, actress and dedicated AIDS activist **Natasha Richardson** generously contributed her time and resources to amfAR over more than 15 years, joining the board of trustees in September 2006. (Photo: Scott Rudd)



Placing the search for a cure for HIV/AIDS firmly at the center of its research efforts, the **amfAR Research Consortium on HIV Eradication (ARCHE)** was formed in 2010. This grant program supports collaborative teams of biomedical researchers exploring strategies for eradicating HIV infection.

C2C
COUNTDOWN TO
A CURE FOR AIDS

Believing that a cure for HIV is finally within reach, in February 2014 amfAR announced it would make \$100 million in new investments over the next six years to develop the scientific foundation for a cure by the end of 2020, through a research initiative called **Countdown to a Cure for AIDS**. "At amfAR, our goal is to put ourselves out of business," says Kevin Robert Frost, amfAR's chief executive officer.

The Data Gap

Report finds that incomplete data imperils global HIV/AIDS response



A new report from amfAR and AVAC outlines the need for a new approach to tracking data to guide the key decisions that shape the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Critical and expensive decisions made with incomplete data are undermining the response—even as the systems for collecting this data continue to improve, the report found.

Data Watch: Closing a Persistent Gap in the AIDS Response outlines corrective steps to sustain and expand the progress made in the past few years in the AIDS response and lays out key areas where better, more complete data is needed, including:

- ◆ What proportion of people with HIV globally who are taking antiretroviral drugs remain connected to a clinical provider and have their virus fully suppressed, enabling them to remain healthy and avoid transmitting HIV to others?
- ◆ What proportion of those communities most impacted by HIV (e.g., young women in Africa, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender individuals, sex workers, and people who inject drugs) do not have access to effective HIV prevention tools due to pervasive stigma or discrimination?
- ◆ Is global AIDS funding focused on those programs that will have the greatest impact in reducing transmission and disease burden worldwide?

Supported in part by the M•A•C AIDS Fund, *Data Watch* documents many cases where data is incomplete or missing, finding that sometimes necessary collection systems are not even in place. For example, in most low- and middle-income countries there is very little tracking of viral load—a measure of the amount of HIV in a person’s bloodstream—among people being treated for HIV. In other cases, the data exists but is incomplete or not being optimally analyzed.

The report also calls for improved transparency and accountability from global AIDS funders like UNAIDS, PEPFAR, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and outlines the corrective steps required to improve the collection, analysis, and reporting of HIV/AIDS information. Filling the gaps will help ensure that global AIDS funding is focused on those programs that will have the greatest impact in reducing transmission and disease burden worldwide.

“Good information is critical for making good decisions, and when resources are limited, data matters even more,” said Greg Millett, amfAR’s vice president and director of public policy. “With global AIDS funding falling far short of what is needed, we must maximize the impact of every dollar. The bottom line is clear: more complete and timely data will help save more lives.”

Data Watch updates amfAR’s and AVAC’s 2012 report *Action Agenda to End AIDS*, which made the case for a more businesslike approach to ending the epidemic and proposed a multi-year plan with concrete strategies, targets, and timelines.

Racial Disparities in HIV: Too Great to Overcome?

A new report finds that significant racial disparities in HIV prevalence among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in the U.S. will likely persist for decades due to an alarmingly high concentration of HIV in black gay men.

Racial disparities in HIV incidence and prevalence have existed since the beginning of the epidemic and remain largely unexplained. Studies show that black men do not engage in more risk-associated behaviors than white men, and are just as, if not more, consistent about condom use and HIV testing.

Reporting in *The Lancet HIV*, researchers from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta and amfAR assessed how existing disparities in HIV prevalence and in the HIV continuum of care explain differences in HIV incidence in MSM. The HIV care continuum has emerged as an important way of identifying gaps along the continuum of HIV services, including testing, diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately, viral suppression.

“Our findings show the substantial challenges that remain ahead in our efforts to reduce and eliminate racial disparities in HIV incidence among black and white MSM here in the U.S.,” said Eli Rosenberg, Ph.D., of Emory University Rollins School of Public Health and lead author of the paper. “There is an urgent need to improve our rates of HIV testing, linkage and retention in care, and prescription of and adherence to

antiretroviral therapy for black men living with HIV.”

The study, funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, showed that healthcare outcomes were worse among black MSM with HIV than their white counterparts. Both groups have similar numbers of new HIV infections per year but the total black MSM population is smaller and the proportion of HIV prevalence is greater, resulting in a significant disparity in HIV incidence between the two populations. In 2010, 32% of all black MSM in the U.S. were living with HIV, compared with only 8% of white MSM.

limited potential to reduce the disparity in rates of new HIV infections in the near future. Because a larger proportion of black MSM are living with HIV, the researchers posit that if black MSM achieved the same degree of HIV care as white MSM, the racial gap in new infection rates would be reduced by 27%.

“We have an opportunity to change the course of the epidemic here in the U.S. by implementing the steps laid out in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy by focusing on the populations at greatest risk and ensuring that all men who have sex with men, especially black MSM, have access to healthcare,” said Greg Millett, amfAR’s

“There is an urgent need to improve our rates of HIV testing, linkage and retention in care, and prescription of and adherence to antiretroviral therapy for black men living with HIV.”

Disparities were also noted at all stages of the HIV care continuum (Figure 1). Only 33% of HIV-positive black MSM were retained in care compared with 51% of white MSM, and only 16% of black MSM were virally suppressed, compared with 34% of whites.

The modeling analysis found that optimizing HIV testing and retention in care will only have

vice president and director of public policy, and one of the co-authors of the study. “We must also scale up programs for medications that prevent HIV infection at reduced or no cost for uninfected black gay men, while continuing to invest in research toward a cure and a vaccine. Otherwise, these disparities in HIV incidence among MSM will persist.”

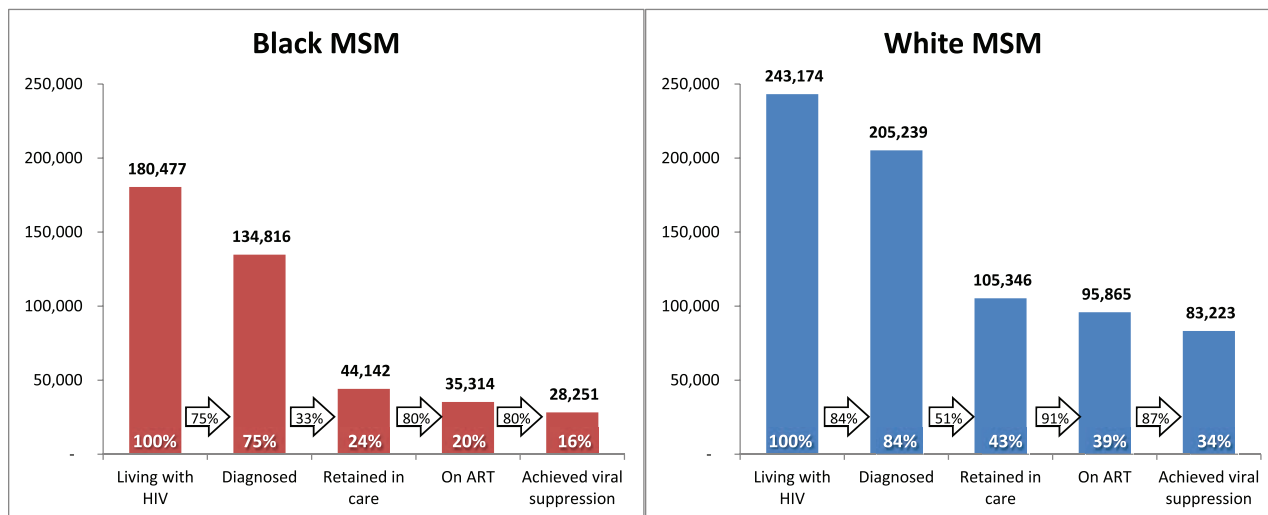


Figure 1: Estimated HIV care continuum for black and white MSM in the USA during 2009/2010. (Rosenberg ES, Millett GA, et al. *Lancet HIV*, 2014; 1(3):e112-e118.)

amfAR Intensifies Cure Research Investments

Reflecting its increased commitment to the pursuit of a cure for HIV, in 2014 amfAR awarded four rounds of cure-focused research grants totaling more than \$6 million.

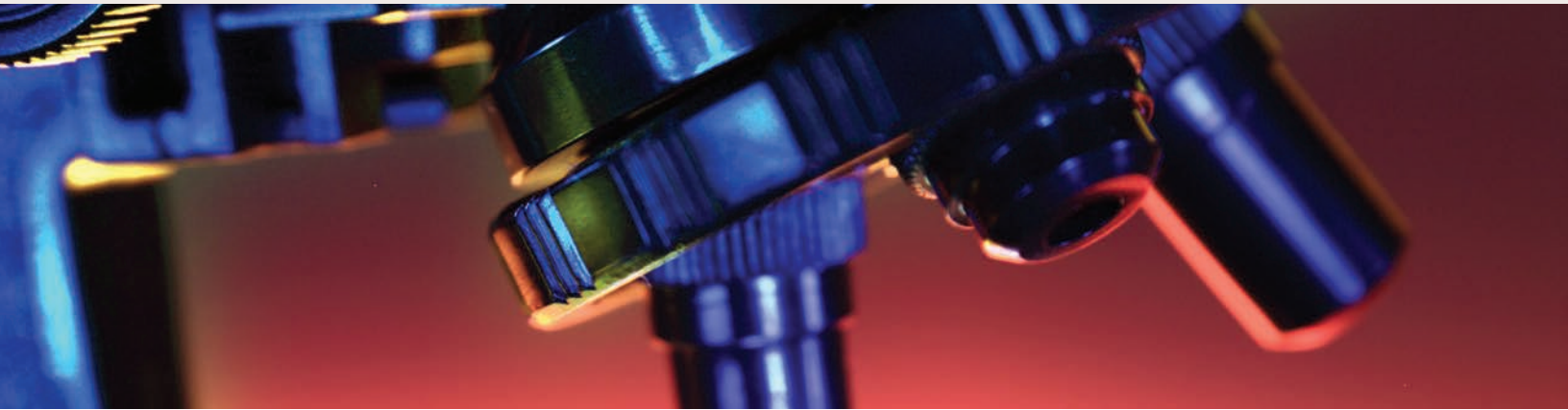
Three of the four rounds of grants were awarded to 16 teams of scientists working collaboratively under the auspices of the amfAR Research Consortium on HIV Eradication (ARCHE). Since its inception in 2010, ARCHE funding has supported the work of 86 research teams pursuing cure-focused studies at 51 institutions

on five continents. The remaining awards constituted a single round of targeted grants to 12 research teams in the United States, Canada, Spain, and Australia.

The new grants will enable researchers to explore various innovative strategies for curing HIV, including pharmacologic, immunologic, and genetic approaches to eliminating the reservoirs of HIV-infected cells that persist in the body and are undetectable by the immune system or standard anti-HIV drugs.

“Our job is to explore as many routes as possible to get to a broadly applicable cure, and that means equipping scientists around the world with the resources they need to help us achieve our goal,” said Rowena Johnston, Ph.D., amfAR’s vice president and director of research.

To date, amfAR has invested more than \$22 million in 132 cure-focused research grants.



Investing in the Future Leaders of AIDS Research

Mathilde Krim Fellowships continue tradition of funding young talent and ideas with breakthrough potential

In a grant-making environment that tends to favor established scientists, the bright young stars of AIDS research face intense competition for funding. In support of the next generation of research leaders, amfAR awarded an eighth round of Mathilde Krim Fellowships in Basic Research—totaling nearly \$600,000—in October 2014.

“At a time when federal research dollars are shrinking, we want to ensure that the next generation of AIDS researchers are provided with the resources necessary to pursue unique ideas that could help save lives and ultimately eliminate HIV,” said amfAR Chief Executive Officer Kevin Robert Frost.

The four fellowship recipients, who were awarded approximately \$150,000 each, will investigate the interactions, both helpful and harmful, between HIV and the body’s natural immune defenses.

Dr. Stylianos Bournazos of the Rockefeller University in New York will study a range of antibody functions that could inform future vaccine design. Drs. David Schwefel of MRC National Institute for Medical Research in London and Spyridon Stavrou of the University of Pennsylvania will focus on antiviral defenses within cells called restriction factors, which HIV has evolved to overcome, thus protecting itself from destruction. Finally, Dr. Henning Hofmann of New York University will study the harmful overactivity of the immune system often caused by HIV infec-

tion, which can increase the risk of heart disease and other conditions.

“These studies will shed crucial light on how the immune system and other components of the body’s defenses interact with the virus,” said Dr. Rowena Johnston, amfAR’s vice president and director of research. “We have made strides in HIV research as a result of discoveries made by past Krim Fellows, and we are confident this new group of researchers will generate findings that have the potential to benefit all people living with HIV.”

Since 2008, the Krim Fellowships have provided a steady source of funding—nearly \$5.3 million—for young scientists to advance their bold new ideas in HIV/AIDS research.

Meet the Cure Council

amfAR is changing the way it funds research by moving to a more directed investment strategy that engages collaborative teams of researchers in the key scientific challenges standing in the way of an HIV cure. To ensure that investments are made in the most promising areas, research supported and driven by the Countdown to a Cure initiative will be guided by the eminent scientists on the Cure Council.



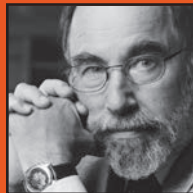
COUNTDOWN TO
A CURE FOR AIDS

Countdown to a Cure for AIDS is amfAR's bold new research initiative aimed at developing the scientific basis for a cure for HIV by 2020. In support of the Countdown, launched in February 2014, amfAR plans to strategically invest \$100 million in cure research over the next six years.

David Baltimore, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology, California Institute of Technology

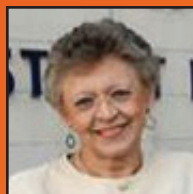
In 1975, at the age of 37, Dr. Baltimore shared the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Howard Temin and Renato Dulbecco. The citation reads, "for their discoveries concerning the interaction between tumor viruses and the genetic material of the cell." At the time, Dr. Baltimore's greatest contribution to virology was his discovery of reverse transcriptase, which is essential for the reproduction of retroviruses such as HIV.



Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Ph.D.

Director of the Regulation of Retroviral Infections Division, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France

In 2008, Dr. Barré-Sinoussi was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, together with her former mentor, Luc Montagnier, for their discovery of HIV. She served as president of the International AIDS Society from 2012 to 2014 and is chair of the Towards an HIV Cure project, an initiative of the International AIDS Society.



Myron (Mike) Cohen, M.D.

J. Herbert Bate Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, and Public Health; Director, Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases; Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases; Director, Center for Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina

The author of more than 500 publications, Dr. Cohen has written extensively about the prevention of HIV infection. The HIV Prevention Trials Network 052 study (HPTN 052), led by Dr. Cohen, was named the 2011 Breakthrough of the Year by the journal *Science*. The study demonstrated that treating HIV-positive people early can lead to a 96% reduction in HIV transmission to their sex partners.



Beatrice Hahn, M.D.

Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

In 2002, *Discover* magazine named Dr. Hahn one of "The 50 Most Important Women in Science." Her laboratory has had a longstanding interest in elucidating the origins and evolution of human and simian immunodeficiency viruses, and in studying HIV/SIV gene function and disease mechanisms from an evolutionary perspective. She is recognized for deciphering the primate origins of human immunodeficiency viruses types 1 and 2 (HIV-1 and HIV-2).



Richard Jefferys

Basic Science, Vaccines, and Cure Project Coordinator at Treatment Action Group (TAG)

A highly respected voice in AIDS research, Richard Jefferys has more than 20 years' experience in the field of HIV treatment access, clinical trials, and vaccine and cure research. Since joining Treatment Action Group (TAG) in late 2001, Richard has worked for TAG's Michael Palm Basic Science, Vaccines, and Cure Project. He also writes on the pathogenesis and immunology of HIV infection for a range of publications.



Carl June, M.D.

Professor in Immunology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. June's pioneering research involves immunotherapy for cancer, chronic infections, and HIV. Using gene therapy and stem cell transplantation in cancer, specifically chronic lymphocytic leukemia and acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Dr. June has treated cancers that were previously unresponsive to treatment. In September 2011, *The New York Times* described his work as "a turning point in the long struggle to develop effective gene therapies against cancer."



For Countdown updates, cure research news, or to get involved, visit www.curecountdown.org

The View from the Summit

Taking stock of cure research progress



Left to right: Panel moderator Dr. Jeffrey Laurence with Drs. Eric Arts, Jerome Zack, and Lars Østergaard

“The research is no longer a problem of discovery, but one of technology,” said amfAR Chief Executive Officer Kevin Robert Frost during his opening remarks at the first annual amfAR HIV Cure Summit at the New York Academy of Sciences, November 17, 2014. “We have to develop the technology to overcome the challenges that stand in the way of a cure for HIV.”

The summit, a public forum, brought leading amfAR-funded HIV cure researchers together to report on their progress and to discuss the complex and formidable scientific challenges that continue to stand in the way of a cure.

Introduced by amfAR Vice President and Director of Research Dr. Rowena Johnston, four scientists each addressed one of the four pillars of HIV cure research: charting the locations of latent HIV reservoirs; understanding how these pockets of virus are established and maintained; recording the amount of virus they contain; and finding a way to eliminate them.

Tackling HIV Reservoirs

Dr. Paula Cannon of the University of Southern California discussed her efforts to determine whether reservoirs form in the brain. She is using genetically engineered mice to look at brain cells called microglia, which differ from the T cell viral reservoirs found in the rest of the body.

Understanding reservoirs in the brain and the mechanisms that enable them to persist will be critically important to devising a cure that can clear virus from the entire body.

Dr. Eileen Scully of Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital reported on her investigation of sex-based differences in reservoir size and the potential for these differences to affect the way HIV might be cured.

Dr. Timothy Henrich of Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston talked about the need to develop more sensitive techniques for detecting and recording the amount of virus in the reservoirs. Accurately measuring the amount of virus in the body is central to determining the efficacy of future cure strategies and, ultimately, confirming if an individual is free of HIV.

And Dr. Steven Deeks of the University of California, San Francisco, discussed how researchers are attempting to eliminate viral reservoirs with methods including “shock and kill,” which involves reactivating the virus so it can be destroyed; vaccines and other immune-based strategies; and gene and cell therapy.



The summit included a screening of the documentary *The Battle of amfAR*, followed by a question-and-answer session with Kevin Robert Frost (right) and the film’s executive producer, amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole.

Keeping Pace

“Curing HIV is ambitious and it’s not going to be easy, but I think it’s feasible,” said Deeks. He emphasized it will require a multidisciplinary effort from academia, industry, and government, as well as long-term, nimble funding from organizations such as amfAR that can keep pace with the rapidly moving field of cure research.

In an afternoon panel discussion, Drs. Lars Østergaard of Aarhus University Hospital in Denmark, Eric Arts of Western University, London, Ontario, and Jerome Zack of the University of California, Los Angeles, further discussed the pharmacologic, immunologic, and genetic approaches to curing HIV. The panel was moderated by amfAR’s senior scientific consultant, Dr. Jeffrey Laurence.

“Curing HIV is going to be one of the greatest challenges that mankind faces,” said Dr. Johnston. “There is no single researcher or laboratory that can do this. We absolutely need to set up teams of researchers to work together, and then of course provide the funds.”

To view videos of the research presentations, go to www.curecountdown.org

‘Curing #HIV is an ambitious but feasible goal.’
#amfARCureSummit - @trentonstraube



Sexual and Reproductive Health of HIV-Positive Women in Asia



Despite the fact that most governments have signed on to international frameworks agreeing to protect and promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women, these basic human rights have not been fully realized for many women living with HIV (WLHIV), particularly in Asia.

A policy brief produced by amfAR’s TREAT Asia program, *Sexual and Reproductive Health of HIV Positive Women in Asia: A Policy Framework for the Future*, seeks to illuminate the stigma and discrimination that women frequently encounter. The brief will help inform policy makers, community advocates, and healthcare providers about the rights violations WLHIV face, the negative impact this has on HIV prevention and treatment, and how stakeholders can work together to protect the sexual and reproductive health rights of WLHIV.

You can download the policy brief at www.amfar.org/women-in-asia.

Key Facts:

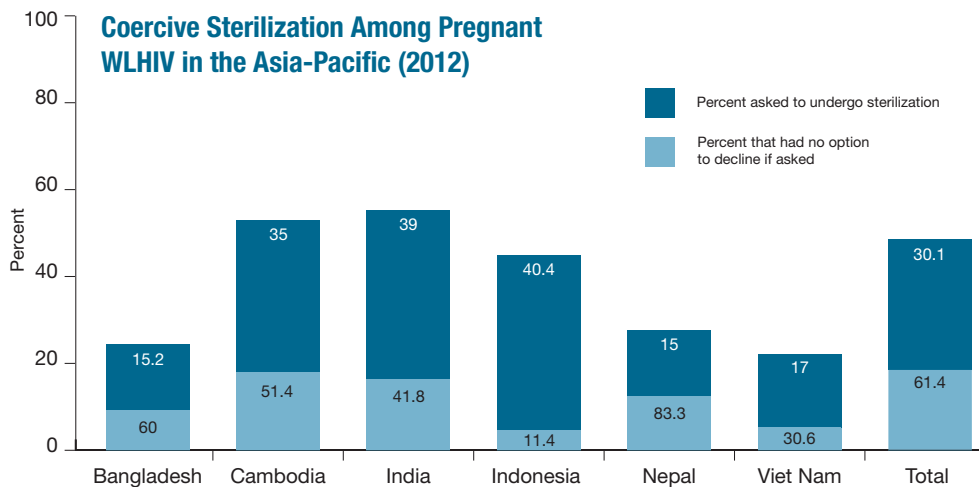
- ◆ In 2013, only 26% of HIV-positive pregnant women in Southeast Asia received treatment to prevent transmission of HIV to their infants, compared to 68% in sub-Saharan Africa.

- ◆ 30% reported having been advised to have a sterilization procedure by their healthcare professional—and many stated that they did not feel they had the right to refuse the recommendation.
- ◆ 22% reported that they had been coerced into having an abortion.

Priority Recommendations:

- ◆ Government and health authorities need to incorporate international standards for women’s sexual and reproductive rights into national HIV programs, integrate HIV services with reproductive and maternal healthcare services, and ensure WLHIV are engaged in the development of all programs that address their needs.
- ◆ Providers should be encouraged to create stigma- and discrimination-free healthcare environments and support efforts to educate WLHIV about their sexual and reproductive health options.
- ◆ Civil society can combat stigma by conducting widespread outreach to educate health workers and their communities about reproductive health, interventions to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, and the rights of WLHIV.

- ◆ 11% of WLHIV surveyed in the Asia-Pacific reported having been denied health services because of their HIV status, and 42% reported experiencing difficulty finding an obstetrician who would care for them.
- ◆ 57% stated that they had been counseled not to have children by their healthcare professional, and 39% said they had not been informed of their reproductive options, despite the fact that proper treatment reduces the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to 5% or less.



Lessons from the Front Lines

New report examines the pioneering response of community groups working to combat HIV among transgender individuals



Members of Transgender and Intersex Africa, one of the organizations profiled in the report, celebrate pride in Soweto, South Africa.

Globally, the prevalence of HIV among transgender individuals is more than double that among men who have sex with men (MSM), and approximately 49 times higher than among the general population. Too often, however, countries do not have HIV programs tailored to reach transgender individuals or to meet their specific health needs, leaving them with little access to healthcare.

Since 2007, amfAR's GMT Initiative has provided technical and financial support to community organizations working to combat HIV among transgender individuals (and gay men and other MSM) in low- and middle-income countries. In a new report titled *Lessons from the Front Lines: Trans Health and Rights*, produced in collaboration with Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE), amfAR examines the

Thanks for sharing this! It's really important work for a very underserved population. - @ourvirallives



challenges faced by 10 of its grantee partners and assesses their progress.

Many of the featured organizations are led by transgender individuals and are doing pioneering work in their respective countries. The report examines their efforts to gather data on the transgender population, expand access to health services, and advocate for the rights of transgender individuals. It concludes with recommendations for working with governments and effecting policy change.

The report, available in both English and Spanish, can be accessed at www.amfar.org/frontlines



Generics in Jeopardy?

India's generic drug manufacturers produce more than 80% of the antiretroviral medicines (ARVs) used to treat people living with HIV worldwide. So there is real anxiety that free trade agreements currently being negotiated could undermine the patent provisions that enable generic manufacturers to keep ARVs affordable.

These free trade agreements "have to be opposed by community and civil society groups, and other voices

must also be raised to ensure that access to medicines continues to be a reality for developing countries," said Anand Grover, one of India's leading HIV/AIDS and human rights advocates and project director of the Lawyer's Collective HIV/AIDS Unit in New Delhi. amfAR spoke with Grover, who was also a UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health from 2008 to 2014, in a wide-ranging interview that can be found at www.amfar.org/india-discrimination.

New Grants Support Implementation Science Research

\$2.6 million awarded to identify innovative HIV service delivery models for gay men, other men who have sex with men, and transgender individuals



Despite encouraging declines in the number of new HIV infections among the general population in many countries, rates of infection among gay men, other men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender individuals—collectively known as “GMT”—are unchanged or continue to climb in many settings. According to UNAIDS, gay men and other MSM are estimated to be 19 times more likely to be infected with HIV than the general population, and transgender women, 49 times more likely. Underserved and at higher risk of HIV, these key affected populations are often denied access to HIV services due to barriers such as stigma, discrimination, and poverty.

In an effort to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on GMT, amfAR has awarded substantial new research grants to study the impact of innovative HIV service delivery models for GMT in low- and middle-income countries.

The awards, totaling more than \$2.6 million over three years, will support three major studies aimed at determining the most effective ways of identifying those who are HIV positive, putting them on treatment, and ensuring that they remain on treatment so that their virus is fully suppressed. Identifying gaps in the continuum of HIV care—the so-called treatment cascade—and improving access to effective HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care services is essential for controlling and ultimately diminishing the epidemic among GMT.

“Research has shown that targeted interventions such as early diagnosis of HIV and suppression of viral load are critical to changing the course of the epidemic among GMT,” said Kevin Robert Frost, amfAR’s chief executive officer. “Through implementation science research, we want to determine conclusively which interventions work best for different populations so that these strategies can be put into practice, scaled up, replicated, and start to make a real impact.”

In one study, a team of researchers led by Dr. Chris Beyrer of Johns Hopkins University will assess the effectiveness of promising interventions for GMT

in Myanmar, where increased HIV testing and treatment opportunities are becoming available. The researchers will test the effectiveness of HIV self-testing done in the privacy of one’s home, point-of-care CD4 testing, and the use of “peer navigators” familiar with the local health system.

In Lima, Peru, Dr. Javier Lama of Asociación Civil Impacta Salud y Educación and his team aim to improve the continuum of care among transgender women by using an innovative model that integrates HIV prevention and treatment services with transgender-affirming medical care.

And in Bangkok, Thailand, Dr. Nittaya Phanuphak and her team at the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre aim to show how innovative technologies such as GMT-targeted websites using online counseling and support can be utilized to increase rates of HIV testing and referrals to prevention and treatment programs.

Since 2007, amfAR’s GMT Initiative has provided financial and technical support to local GMT organizations in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen the community response to HIV. Recently, larger and more sustainable donors such as PEPFAR and the Global Fund have increased their support to community organizations working to reduce the spread and impact of HIV among GMT.

After an intensive review of programmatic options to achieve maximum impact and optimize the use of available resources, amfAR made a strategic decision to focus future support on research that can have a direct impact on alleviating the epidemic among key affected populations.

“Our ultimate goal is to improve HIV-related health outcomes for gay men, other men who have sex with men, and transgender individuals worldwide,” said Kent Klindera, director of amfAR’s GMT Initiative.

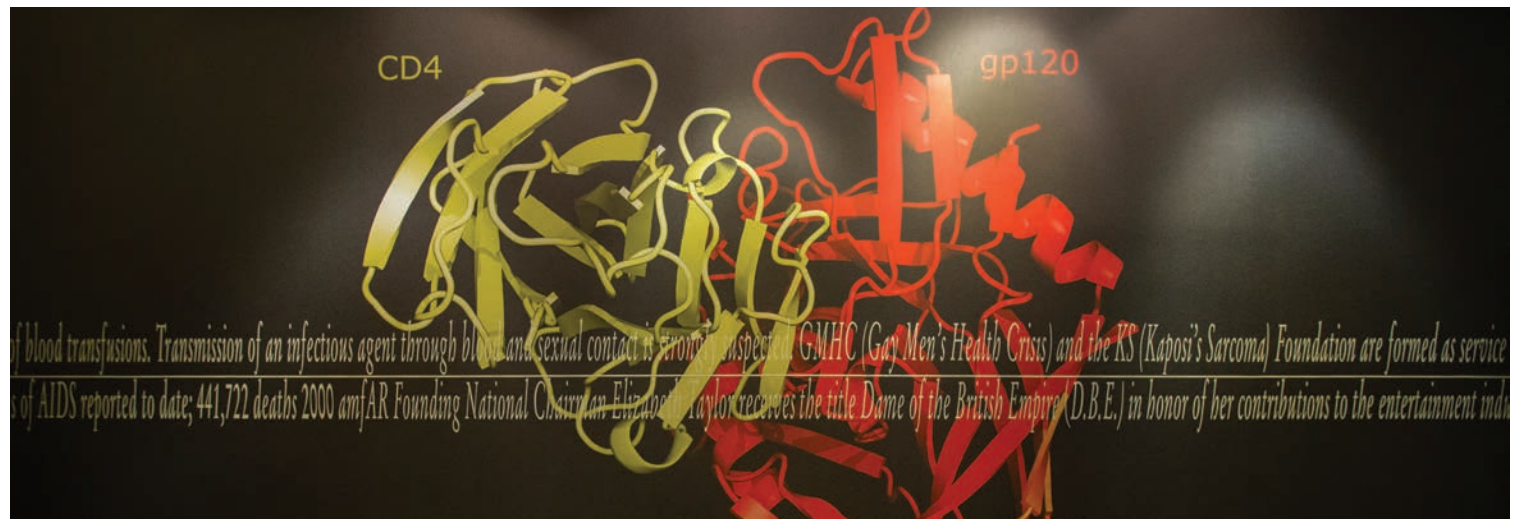
Etc.

Joseph Kosuth Donates New Installation

Renowned conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth returned to amfAR's New York offices in 2014 to update an art installation originally created and donated to the Foundation by Mr. Kosuth in 1999. Using texts and archival photographs organized along a timeline that highlights amfAR's programmatic achievements as well as key events and personalities that have shaped the fight against AIDS, the work is a visual and narrative history of both the organization and the AIDS epidemic.

Titled "Guests and Foreigners: Corporal Histories," the installation runs throughout the hallways, lobby, and boardroom, where giant murals depict the human immunodeficiency virus—HIV. The work also acknowledges amfAR's generous donors and pays tribute to staff and board members and leading public figures who have been lost to the disease.

"Mr. Kosuth's work is a powerful and deeply moving reflection of the enormity of the AIDS epidemic," said amfAR Chief Executive Officer Kevin Robert Frost. "We are extremely grateful to him for donating his creative genius to us in this extraordinary way for a second time."



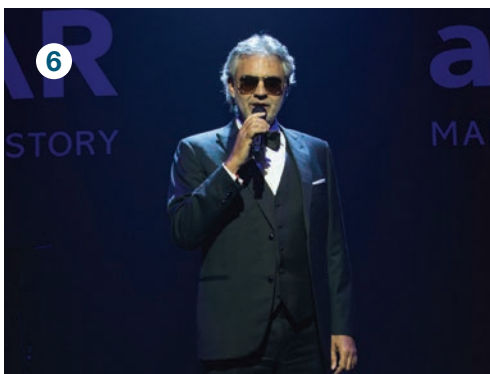
Joseph Kosuth is one of the pioneers of Conceptual art and installation art, initiating language-based works in the 1960s. His nearly 50-year inquiry into the relations of language to art has taken the form of installations, museum exhibitions, public commissions, and publications throughout Europe, the Americas, and Asia. He has generously supported amfAR and the fight against AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic.



Cinema Against AIDS

A jaw-dropping gilded woolly mammoth skeleton in a colossal steel vitrine took center stage at the 21st annual Cinema Against AIDS gala in Cap d'Antibes, France, May 22, during the Cannes International Film Festival. Titled "Gone but not Forgotten," the Damien Hirst creation was the highest grossing live auction lot in amfAR's history, fetching \$15 million and contributing to a record-breaking \$35 million raised by the end of an unforgettable evening. The event also featured a stunning all-red fashion show curated by Carine Roitfeld and performances by Andrea Bocelli, Aloe Blacc, Lana Del Rey, and Robin Thicke.

Special thanks: *Worldview Entertainment, Bold Films, BVLGARI, Mercedes-Benz, The Weinstein Company, and Moët & Chandon*



Incredible night in Cannes, @amfar raised over 35 million dollars! As always, @sharonstone was exquisite and inspiring. - @DitaVonTeese



1. "Gone but not Forgotten" by Damien Hirst (Photo: Harry Bee/The 88) 2. amfAR Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone (Photo: Kevin Tachman) 3. Marion Cotillard and Leonardo DiCaprio (Photo: WireImage) 4. "The Red Collection" fashion show (Photo: Kevin Tachman) 5. John Travolta and Kelly Preston (Photo: Kevin Tachman) 6. Famed Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli (Photo: Kevin Tachman) 7. Robin Thicke closed the night with his smash hit "Blurred Lines." (Photo: Kevin Tachman)



Inspiration Gala New York

Josh Duhamel hosted the fifth annual Inspiration Gala New York at The Plaza on June 10. amfAR honored Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway, HBO, and Calvin Klein Collection for their exceptional contributions to the fight against AIDS. The black-tie benefit, which also featured a gala dinner, a live auction of luxury goods, and a menswear runway show, culminated in a riveting performance by legendary British rock band New Order. The event raised more than \$1.2 million for amfAR's lifesaving AIDS research initiatives.

Special thanks: M•A•C Viva Glam, Microsoft, Calvin Klein Collection, HBO, FIJI Water, The Plaza, Gloria Ferrer, and Delta Air Lines (Photos: Kevin Tachman)



1. The Inspiration New York Men's Fashion Show 2. Josh Duhamel 3. New Order treated the crowd to an unforgettable set that included their hits "Bizarre Love Triangle" and "Blue Monday." 4. Event Chair Matt Bomer and Fergie 5. Sarah Jessica Parker and amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole on the red carpet. 6. amfAR CEO Kevin Robert Frost 7. amfAR Trustee Dr. Mervyn Silverman presented the Award of Inspiration to Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway. 8. Designers Francisco Costa and Italo Zucchelli accepted the Award of Inspiration on behalf of Calvin Klein Collection.



generationCURE: Solstice

On June 24, amfAR's generationCURE held its third annual Solstice celebration at STK Rooftop in New York City. More than 200 young professionals attended the summer event, which raised more than \$50,000.

Special thanks: Barefoot Wine and Bubby, The ONE Group, Voya Financial, and AriZona Beverages (Photo: Getty Images)



amfAR Milano

Longtime amfAR supporter Heidi Klum hosted the sixth annual amfAR Milano event, September 21, during Milan Fashion Week. Moncler Chairman and Creative Director Remo Ruffini was honored with amfAR's Award of Courage in recognition of his outstanding personal commitment to the fight against AIDS. The award was presented by editor-in-chief of *Vogue Italia* and previous Award of Courage recipient Franca Sozzani. Grace Jones capped the evening with an electrifying performance that included a hula-hooping rendition of "Slave to the Rhythm." The event raised more than \$1.4 million.

Special thanks: BVLGARI, Mercedes-Benz, Le Baron, Vionnet, and Moët Hennessy (Photos: Kevin Tachman)



1. Coco Rocha 2. Honoree Remo Ruffini with Heidi Klum 3. Vogue Italia editor-in-chief Franca Sozzani and Rosario Dawson 4. Grace Jones 5. Bella Thorne 6. amfAR Global Fundraising Ambassador Milutin Gatsby and Carolina Parsons 7. Jeremy Piven arrives on the red carpet.



So proud to support @amfAR and their mission to end HIV/AIDS at their 6th #amfARMilano event on 9/20. - @CocoRocha



Bloomingdale's

In August, Bloomingdale's pledged a \$75,000 donation to amfAR as part of its semi-annual Fashionable Fundraiser. During the two-day event, shoppers were invited to "cycle for a cure" by hopping on a stationary bike and pedaling in a nationwide virtual race to support the fight against AIDS. Along with the opportunity to win a number of fantastic prizes, customers enjoyed special offers and savings on merchandise purchased in stores and online.



TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art

Howard and Cindy Rachofsky graciously hosted the 16th edition of TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art in Dallas, October 25, raising a record \$7 million for amfAR and the Dallas Museum of Art. Longtime TWO x TWO supporter John Benjamin Hickey emceed the black-tie gala dinner and auction, which featured a spirited performance by Grammy Award-winning superstar CeeLo Green. The highlight of the auction was the sale of a piece by TWO x TWO's featured artist Wade Guyton for a record-breaking \$2.6 million. Guyton received amfAR's Award of Excellence for Artistic Contributions to the Fight Against AIDS at a brunch the following day.

Special thanks: Audi of America, Tory Burch Timepieces, Kiehl's Since 1851, Sotheby's, Dom Pérignon, NorthPark Center, U.S. Risk, Waldman Bros./Chubb, Moët Hennessy USA, Todd Events, U.S. Trust, Aston Martin of Dallas, Citi Private Bank, Company of Trinity Forest Golfers, The Joule Hotel, Displays Fine Art Services, Unified Fine Arts, Cassandra Fine Catering, Lombardi Family Concepts, Dakota's Restaurant, Belvedere Vodka, Farfetch, and FDLUXE (Photos: Kevin Tachman)



1. The Rachofsky House 2. Five-time Grammy Award-winner CeeLo Green performed. 3. Howard and Cindy Rachofsky 4. TWO x TWO emcee John Benjamin Hickey 5. Wade Guyton 6. Kiehl's President Chris Salgado and Allison Janney



Kiehl's LifeRide for amfAR

The fifth annual Kiehl's LifeRide for amfAR rumbled across the Upper Midwest and Northeastern United States in August. The 11-day, 1500-mile motorcycle ride began in Milwaukee and concluded in New York City with a multi-event finale, including a dedication ceremony for The AIDS Memorial Quilt and a block party hosted by Mary J. Blige. Celebrity LifeRiders, including Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Gilles Marini, Tyson Beckford, Vanessa Marcil, Katee Sackhoff, and Teddy Sears, helped Kiehl's raise over \$170,000 for amfAR.

Special thanks: Harley-Davidson Authorized Rentals, FIJI Water, DreamWorks Studios, Marilyn & Jeffrey Katzenberg, Levi's, and Schott NYC

United for a Brilliant Future!

International fine jeweler and watchmaker **Harry Winston, Inc.**, has joined forces with amfAR in a venture that represents the single largest corporate partnership in the Foundation's 30-year history. Harry Winston will serve as the presenting sponsor for amfAR's 27 gala events taking place across the globe over the next three years and will become a leading supporter of amfAR's Countdown to a Cure for AIDS initiative. Through a wide range of generous contributions including in-kind donations and direct financial support, Harry Winston will help advance amfAR's efforts to end the global AIDS epidemic through innovative research.



Of her world-famous jewelry collection, the Harry Winston-cut Krupp Diamond ring (pictured) was said to be amfAR Founding International Chairman Dame Elizabeth Taylor's favorite piece. (Elizabeth Taylor, Malibu, 1991; Photograph by Herb Ritts)

Upcoming Events

- February 11 amfAR New York Gala, New York City
- March 14 amfAR Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- April 9 Inspiration Gala São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- May 21 Cinema Against AIDS, Cap d'Antibes, France

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!



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