

# Federal Inquiry Finds Misconduct By a Discoverer of the AIDS Virus

By PHILIP J. HILTS,

Published: December 31, 1992

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 30**— After three years of investigations, the Federal Office of Research Integrity today found that Dr. Robert C. Gallo, the American co-discoverer of the cause of AIDS, had committed scientific misconduct. The investigators said he had "falsely reported" a critical fact in the scientific paper of 1984 in which he described isolating the virus that causes AIDS.

The new report said Dr. Gallo had intentionally misled colleagues to gain credit for himself and diminish credit due his French competitors. The report also said that his false statement had "impeded potential AIDS research progress" by diverting scientists from potentially fruitful work with the French researchers.

Dr. Gallo has faced questions about his scientific claims ever since the paper was published in Science magazine in April 1984. Most of his critics argued that Dr. Gallo had tried to take credit for work that French scientists had done and that he may even have taken the virus the French were studying and claimed it as his own. At the time, the virus was difficult to isolate and grow in sufficient quantity for research.

Also charged with misconduct was Dr. Mikulas Popovic, a Czechoslovak immigrant who actually carried out the crucial AIDS experiments under Dr. Gallo. Maintains Innocence

Dr. Gallo said today that he was not guilty and would appeal the decision. "After reviewing everything I and my colleagues have ever published on the discovery of the AIDS virus and the development of the AIDS blood test, the Office of Research Integrity could only take issue with a few trivial mistakes and a single sentence written by me."

The Federal conclusions are "utterly unwarranted," he said. "On a broader level," he added, "this endless and incompetent Government investigation should be of concern to everyone seeking to advance medical knowledge. My laboratory's contributions to the advancement of medical science are undisputed. For the past three years, however, I have spent a substantial amount of my time responding to issues" raised in the investigations.

The Office of Research Integrity was created this year in the Department of Health and Human Services to handle the final review of scientific misconduct cases within agencies like the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The only remaining step for Dr. Gallo is to appeal the case to a judicial board within the department. Little Credit for French

The report said Dr. Gallo intentionally misled scientific colleagues by saying he had grown an AIDS virus in his laboratory for study and that he had not grown or studied a similar French strain of the virus. In fact, Dr. Gallo himself had grown the French virus and used it in furthering his own research, the report said.

While searching for the cause of AIDS, Dr. Gallo had received a sample of a virus being studied by French researchers and had worked extensively with it to extend his own discoveries, the Federal report concluded. Dr. Gallo left little credit for the French scientists in his 1984 paper because he

said he had not been able to grow enough of the French AIDS virus: It "has not been transmitted to a permanently growing cell line for true isolation and therefore has been difficult to obtain in quantity," he wrote.

Dr. Gallo has said that this sentence meant simply that the virus was hard for anyone to grow, not that he himself had failed to grow it. In fact, investigators showed that the French virus had been grown in cell lines in Dr. Gallo's own laboratory, and worked with there.

Referring to the sentence, the new report said, "Dr. Gallo falsely reported the status of L.A.V. research when he wrote the statement, and this constitutes scientific misconduct." L.A.V. refers to the French strain of the AIDS virus. The report went on, "The explanations that Dr. Gallo proffered for the statement are neither credible when the evidence is considered, nor do they vitiate the impropriety of falsely reporting the status of L.A.V. research.

In addition, the report found that Dr. Gallo warranted censure on these four other counts:

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\*Referring to his role as a referee for a different article submitted to a journal by his French competitors, in which he altered several lines to favor his own hypothesis about the AIDS virus, the report said the revisions were "gratuitous, self-serving and improper."

\*As to the many errors in the 1984 paper, which was co-authored with Dr. Popovic, the report concluded, "In light of his role as senior author, Dr. Gallo must bear substantial responsibility for the numerous discrepancies, including four instances of scientific misconduct attributed to Dr. Popovic."

\*On the standards of Dr. Gallo's laboratory record-keeping, the report said, "Especially in light of the groundbreaking nature of this research and its profound public health implications, O.R.I. believes that the careless and unacceptable keeping of research records reflects irresponsible laboratory management that has permanently impaired the ability to trace the important steps taken."

\*Dr. Gallo, the report said, also failed to determine in a timely way the exact origin of some of the crucial cells in which he grew the finicky virus. Like the viruses themselves, the cells were also found to have been borrowed from another scientist without giving him due credit in the paper. Later, Dr. Gallo also refused to share the cells freely with other scientists trying to duplicate the important work, the report said. Inquiries Begun in 1989

The dispute over Dr. Gallo's claims became so linked to national scientific prestige that the Presidents of France and the United States attempted to end the conflict in 1987 when they agreed to a 50-50 split of credit and patent royalties from work with the AIDS virus and the blood test to detect it.

But the issue did not go away, and Federal investigations were begun in 1989, after a reporter, John Crewdson, of The Chicago Tribune wrote a 50,000-word article laying out many of the charges against Dr. Gallo and his laboratory.

An initial Federal inquiry was conducted by the Office of Scientific Integrity at the Institutes of Health. That office examined all of the notes from Dr. Gallo's laboratory on the AIDS research and interviewed scores of people involved in the work. That office's report was turned over to the Office of Research Integrity.

Dr. Gallo has denied any wrongdoing in the most vehement terms. He has also alleged that there is a conspiracy to discredit him and has asked why it is only his laboratory being investigated, and not that of Dr. Luc Montagnier, the French laboratory leader who has largely escaped detailed scrutiny. What's at Stake

In the great public health catastrophe of AIDS, the story of how the virus that causes AIDS was isolated and a test for its presence developed might be of only historical interest were it not for the fierce and unyielding pride of the researchers and the millions of dollars the two Governments receive annually in royalties from the manufacturers of the blood tests.

In a recent plea to the American Government, lawyers for the Institut Pasteur in Paris, where the French work was done, asked the United States to turn over its half of the profits from the blood test -- about \$50 million since 1985.

Dr. Gallo earns about \$100,000 a year from the royalties on the blood test, as does his French counterpart, Dr. Montagnier.

Michael Epstein, a lawyer for the Institut Pasteur, said in a telephone interview today that in light of today's report the French would ask the United States to renegotiate its agreement giving equal credit to each country, so as to assign a larger share to France.

"This ought to move the U.S. Government to action," he said. "Dr. Gallo has always told us that he was never able to grow L.A.V. One of the most important reasons why the Pasteur settled the dispute in 1987 was that Dr. Gallo told us that and said there was no evidence to the contrary. Now even the U.S. Government is saying that he knowingly lied."

The new report reversed the findings by Dr. Bernadine Healy, director of the National Institutes of Health and Dr. Gallo's superior. After receiving the report from the Office of Scientific Integrity, she concluded in September 1991 that Dr. Gallo did a number of things wrong but was not guilty of the most serious charge, that of scientific misconduct.

Investigators at National Institutes of Health and in Congress disagreed, as did a panel of independent scientists.

Chronology: "Years of Scientific Dispute" 1983: French scientists under Luc Montagnier at Pasteur Institute report discovery of a virus that might be the cause of AIDS. 1984: Ignoring French claim, U.S. scientists at National Institute of Health under Dr. Robert C. Gallo announce discovery of such a virus and proof that it causes AIDS. 1985: A blood test for antibodies to the AIDS virus is licensed. The French sue the U.S. Government over credit for the discovery of the virus. 1987: President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac announce an agreement on sharing credit and divide royalties for the blood test. 1989: A Chicago Tribune article suggests that Dr. Gallo improperly took credit for the Montagnier discovery. MARCH 1990: A Tribune report asserts that Dr. Gallo's virus was probably identical to the Pasteur Institute virus. OCTOBER 1990: The National Institutes of Health says it will open a full-scale investigation of the matter by the Office of Scientific Integrity because a preliminary investigation suggested the possibility of misconduct. MAY 1991: Dr. Gallo formally concedes that the viral cultures were probably contaminated by French samples but maintains that he is a co-discoverer. SEPTEMBER 1991: Preliminary report by Office of Scientific Integrity finds evidence of misconduct by Dr. Gallo. Final report holds that he is not guilty of misconduct but deserves censure for permitting lapses and misrepresentations by those under him. MARCH 1992: New investigation of charges of perjury and patent fraud announced by Inspector General of Department of Health and Human Services, the General Accounting Office and a House subcommittee. DEC. 30, 1992: Report of Office of Research Integrity of Department of Health and Human Services says Dr. Gallo grew Dr. Montagnier's virus in his own laboratory and misled colleagues to gain credit for himself. (pg. A20)

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# AIDS Research Chief Awaits Key Report On Propriety Questions

By NATALIE ANGIER

**Published: August 7, 1990**

THROUGHOUT the late spring and summer, Dr. Robert C. Gallo, one of America's most prominent AIDS researchers, has been feeling a withering heat that has nothing to do with the weather.

Since April, the man generally described as a co-discoverer of the AIDS virus has been under intense Federal scrutiny on a series of potentially devastating charges that he and his co-workers at the National Cancer Institute may have either mistakenly or fraudulently claimed as their own the same virus discovered by a competing laboratory in France.

Now a National Institutes of Health panel investigating the affair says it is almost ready to release a report that should resolve the debate about who discovered the AIDS virus.

"I believe that we will be able to come to definitive findings on most of the key issues," said Dr. Suzanne W. Hadley, deputy director of the Office of Scientific Integrity at the health institutes and one of four members on the inquiry panel. "It's good to have that sense of confidence."

## Records of Frenetic Time

Dr. Hadley said that the committee members had pored over about 60 laboratory notebooks from the Gallo lab, totaling many hundreds of pages. In the notebooks are details about crucial experiments performed between mid-1983 and 1984, when the effort to find the cause of AIDS was at its most frenetic. The panel members have devoted dozens of hours to interviewing Dr. Gallo and seven or eight others who were in his lab during the years under question.

Dr. Hadley said that the report could be completed by late August or September. The panel will then present its findings to a committee of 11 scientists recommended by the National Academy of Sciences to oversee the inquiry. Should the larger panel decree the conclusions complete and well documented, the results will be announced to the public.

But not everyone is as sanguine as Dr. Hadley that the ends will be neatly tied up by fall. "As far as our committee goes, there will be no public statements until we have the final report that we believe to be correct, which we don't have yet," said Dr. Frederic Richards, a biochemist at Yale University and chairman of the oversight panel. Nevertheless, Dr. Richards also said he was anxious to put the inquiry behind him. "I hope it will be over before Christmas," he said.

The latest accusations and questions were posed in an article in The Chicago Tribune and then outlined in a series of letters from Representative John D. Dingell, Democrat of Michigan, to Dr. William Raub, acting director of the health institutes. According to the charges, Dr. Gallo never independently found the AIDS virus, as he claimed he did in 1984, but either deliberately stole the virus from a blood sample sent to him by Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris or mistakenly isolated a contaminant from the French samples in his own preparations.

During the time when the labs of Dr. Gallo and Dr. Montagnier were struggling frantically to isolate the AIDS virus, the two groups exchanged blood and tissue samples that presumably contained viral particles, along with antibodies, enzymes and other materials needed to isolate the viruses in a test tube. Later the scientists who had initially cooperated would become arch-adversaries. Fraud Denied Dr. Gallo vehemently insists that the inquiry will vindicate him. He has dismissed as

"slanderous" the notion that he may have knowingly pilfered the virus from his competitor. And while Dr. Gallo has admitted the possibility that some of the experiments in his lab may have been accidentally contaminated, he has said that his team had many other strains of the AIDS virus under study during the crucial months before the announcements by both labs in 1984 that they had found the cause of AIDS.

In other words, said Dr. Gallo, he did not need the French virus to complete his experiments.

But while he has stated his position in broad terms, Dr. Gallo has refused to be interviewed on any particulars until the inquiry is complete.

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A number of other scientists are convinced that Dr. Gallo has done nothing wrong. "It's very clear that Gallo and Montagnier are both good, honest, hard-working scientists," said Dr. Lee Ratner, an assistant professor of medicine and molecular microbiology at Washington University in St. Louis and a former post-doctoral fellow in the Gallo lab. "There is no evidence that any kind of fraud took place. I think the whole affair is somewhat ridiculous from a scientific point of view."

Dr. Howard M. Temin, a Nobel laureate and a virologist at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, argued that it would have been logistically difficult for Dr. Gallo to have gotten away with genuine deception. "He had a large number of people in his lab who are said to have been doing these isolations and characterizations" of the AIDS virus, he said. "Cheating would require all these people getting together and lying about six months' to a year's worth of work."

### **Reputations at Stake**

At stake in the debate are the reputation of Dr. Gallo, long a member of America's scientific elite, and the credibility of his employer, the National Cancer Institute.

Also at issue is who deserves the patent to the AIDS antibody test used to screen blood in blood banks and to detect infection in people. The test is said to have generated millions of dollars for the Federal Government, which owns 50 percent of the patent rights.

Should Dr. Gallo be found to have committed any sort of misconduct or gross negligence, all patent rights could be yielded to the French Government, which subsidized the Montagnier research.

In the most extreme case, Dr. Gallo could even be drummed out of the cancer institute, where he heads a lab of some 37 scientists, although many experts think this outcome unlikely.

Indeed, so high are the stakes that the people involved in the grueling inquiry refuse to comment on its status in anything but the most general terms. They will not reveal whether their inquiry so far seems to exonerate or condemn Dr. Gallo.

### **'Odball Situation'**

Dr. Richards called the inquiry "something of an oddball situation." Unlike other investigations of possible wrongdoing, he said, "this one has already been tried and decided in the public press."

The debate over the discovery of the AIDS virus began virtually from the moment the finding was announced, but it seemed to have been resolved in 1986, when President Ronald Reagan and President Francois Mitterand of France helped orchestrate an agreement to designate Dr. Gallo and Dr. Montagnier as co-discoverers of the AIDS virus, and to have the two countries split the royalties on the AIDS test.

### **Chicago Newspaper Report**

The latest Federal inquiry was set off by a 50,000-word article by John Crewdson in The Chicago

Tribune in November contending that many questions about Dr. Gallo's role in the AIDS discovery remained unanswered. Although he devoted more than two years to the subject, Mr. Crewdson was unable to find a smoking gun. Nevertheless, he presented such a compellingly written and scientifically detailed narrative that Dr. Gallo seemed guilty of either chicanery or terrible sloppiness merely by implication.

After reading the article, Mr. Dingell, who in recent years had become a crusader against fraud in science, demanded of the National Institutes of Health that some of the problems addressed in the article be opened again to scrutiny.

Among the issues that the two inquiry panels are considering is whether the virus that the Gallo lab claimed to have discovered, known as IIIB, and the virus originally reported by the Montagnier team, designated LAV, are so genetically similar that they must have come from the same patient - a Frenchman whose blood samples had originally been given to Dr. Montagnier.

The two viruses differ by only about 2 percent in their genetic sequences, compared to differences of 6 percent or greater that researchers say they would expect from AIDS viruses that had been isolated from two different patients.

### 'Sibling Sequences'

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"We have cousin sequences, which are distinct isolates from different patients, and we have sibling sequences, which generally are isolates from the same patient," said Dr. Gerald Myers, director of the HIV sequence database and analysis project at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. "LAV and IIIB look like sibling sequences."

But other researchers say recent experiments indicate that viruses taken from different people may not be as varied as originally believed.

Also in question is whether the Gallo researchers had other strains of the AIDS virus taken from many patients growing in culture dishes at the time they were working with the IIIB viral strain.

Mr. Crewdson contends that Dr. Gallo was so eager to prove that the AIDS virus was related to two human leukemia viruses Dr. Gallo had discovered earlier that he was blinded by his obsession and thus neglected to do the experiments to isolate the true AIDS virus. Mr. Crewdson implied that Dr. Gallo, after having wasted months pursuing the wrong quarry, could have been driven in desperation to misuse the French virus for his own experiments, hastily growing the virus in time to lay claim to its discovery.

But if the Gallo researchers had succeeded in propagating their own crop of AIDS viruses, experts say, that would diminish the argument that Dr. Gallo or one of his colleagues might have felt compelled to do something improper with the samples sent to him by Dr. Montagnier. Personality on Trial? The inquiry has provided an endless source of what Dr. Temin described as "marvelous gossip" for the biomedical community, with scientists lining up for or against Dr. Gallo. In fact, many biologists who know Dr. Gallo say that his personality is nearly as much on trial as is his science. They say that Dr. Gallo is the sort of man who invites either passionate devotion or intense dislike, and that because he has alienated a number of his peers, fewer scientists are rallying to his defense than might be the case with a more even-tempered colleague.

"Sometimes his personality is not always working in the best way," said Dr. Max Essex of the Harvard School of Public Health, who has collaborated with Dr. Gallo. "Sometimes it works in a negative way. He loses his temper a lot, and he picks fights with people unnecessarily. A lot of people who don't know him have the impression he's very egotistical."

Those who admire him call him "a genius" and "a true original thinker," without whom the AIDS

research community would be much the poorer. "Subtract him and God knows where we would be," said Dr. Dani Bolognesi, professor in experimental surgery at Duke University Medical Center. Whatever the final judgment, friends and detractors alike say they are anxious for the inquiry to be completed so that the AIDS research community can continue unimpeded with the far more pressing business of finding a cure.

"There's an epidemic out there," said Dr. Temin. "Personally I think that figuring out the best strategy for developing a vaccine is a more important question than whether IIIB and LAV are the same."

Drawing

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# Autopsy of a Medical Breakthrough

By John Horgan

Published: March 3, 2002

SCIENCE FICTIONS

A Scientific Mystery, a Massive Coverup, and the Dark Legacy  
of Robert Gallo.

By John Crewdson.

Illustrated. 670 pp. Boston:

Little, Brown & Company. \$27.95.

Twelve years ago, Robert Gallo was chief of the laboratory for tumor-cell biology at the National Cancer Institute and one of the world's most celebrated scientists. In 1984 Margaret Heckler, secretary of health and human services, had hailed Gallo as the discoverer of the virus that causes AIDS and the inventor of the first test for the virus. Gallo had received virtually every major prize for medical research except the Nobel. Samuel Broder, director of the National Cancer Institute, once put Gallo on a par with such scientific giants as Freud and Einstein.

Then on Nov. 19, 1989, The Chicago Tribune published a 50,000-word article that accused Gallo of taking credit for AIDS-related discoveries achieved at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. Fleshing out rumors that had circulated for years, the newspaper's exposé provoked several federal investigations of Gallo. The article's author, John Crewdson, must have been galled that all of the inquiries ended inconclusively; although Gallo's reputation was tarnished, none of the misconduct charges leveled against him stuck.

In "Science Fictions," Crewdson returns with a vengeance to the Gallo affair in more than 600 excruciatingly detailed pages. Well before AIDS made Gallo famous, Crewdson shows, he had attracted attention not only for his work on cancer-related viruses but also for his ambition and arrogance. When an epidemic of a mysterious wasting disease broke out among gay men in the early 1980's, Gallo quickly guessed that a virus was the cause and dedicated his laboratory's resources to finding it.

In 1983, Gallo nominated a cancer-related virus called HTLV, discovered in his laboratory in 1980, as the most probable cause of AIDS. At the same time, a group led by Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute reported finding a different virus, named LAV, in AIDS victims. Gallo asked Montagnier for samples of LAV, which Montagnier supplied. Crewdson produced evidence that within months, one of Gallo's associates, Mikulas Popovic, cultured LAV in blood cells and found that it was much more common in AIDS victims than HTLV.

Gallo nonetheless publicly disparaged the French team's research, insisting that Montagnier's viral samples could not be grown in culture and hence were virtually useless for research. As late as February 1984, Gallo was still asserting that HTLV or a variant was the "only candidate" for the virus that causes AIDS. A few months later, he announced that he had discovered a variant of HTLV, called HTLV-3B, in patients with AIDS. Other researchers pointed out that HTLV-3B had little in common with HTLV; in fact, HTLV-3B turned out to be strikingly similar to LAV, the French virus Gallo slighted.

There were several possible interpretations of this situation. The simplest was that Gallo

independently discovered the same virus the French had. By the mid-1980's, however, researchers established that the AIDS virus mutates so rapidly that specimens extracted from different patients will always have diverged genetically. Some researchers said the viruses described by Gallo and Montagnier were so similar they must have come from the same patient or the same laboratory flask.

Gallo initially denied that his virus and the French virus were the same. When that position became untenable, he suggested that the French laboratory had misappropriated his virus, not vice versa; after all, he had supplied the French with samples of his virus in the summer of 1984. But Montagnier's group had described LAV in print a year before they received samples of HTLV-3B from Gallo. Also, Popovic, who had supposedly isolated HTLV-3B, was vague about its origins. Popovic eventually said he had extracted the virus from a "pool" of blood from many patients, a procedure frowned upon by other virologists.

Meanwhile, both the Pasteur Institute and Gallo's team applied for patents for a test that could detect the virus. After the Patent and Trademark Office awarded the patent to Gallo's group in May 1985, the Pasteur Institute sued, contending it had discovered the virus used in the Gallo test. When the French produced supporting records, Gallo retorted that their "meticulous and apparently premeditated documentation" showed they cared more about "patents and notoriety" than about good science. He also kept churning out revised versions of his own discovery of the AIDS virus, contending in one paper that he had isolated it as early as 1982.

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*John Horgan is the author of "The Undiscovered Mind" and the forthcoming "Ends of Mysticism."*

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The dispute eventually reached President Ronald Reagan and the French prime minister, Jacques Chirac, who in March 1987 declared a truce by agreeing that the Americans and the French would share the patent for the AIDS blood test. Somehow, Gallo's bluster had convinced some American officials and prominent journalists that, at the least, he deserved credit for independently discovering the cause of AIDS and developing a test for the virus.

In 1989, however, the National Institutes of Health started looking into Crewdson's assertion in his newspaper that Gallo's "discovery" was "either an accident or a theft." Over the next three years, different committees of the institute accused both Gallo and Popovic of scientific misconduct. The charges were dropped in November 1993 because of pressure from high-ranking government officials, according to Crewdson. He says American officials had a financial motive for backing Gallo: by the end of 1986, his blood test was making \$4 million a year in royalties for the Department of Health and Human Services.

On July 11, 1994, that department finally acknowledged that "a virus provided by the Institut Pasteur was used by National Institutes of Health scientists who invented the American H.I.V. test kit in 1984." It promised the French \$6 million in restitution. That is as close as the United States has come to an apology for its decade-long defense of Gallo. That year Gallo left the National Institutes of Health for a position at the University of Maryland, but he continued to receive \$100,000 annually in royalties for his patented blood test.

Gallo and his advocates have portrayed him as a flawed, but great, scientist trying to seek truth and save lives while others tormented him with legalistic quibbles. But the Office of Research Integrity asserted in 1993 that Gallo "seriously hindered progress in AIDS research" by slighting the French discoveries for so long. His steps to deny the French the United States patent for the blood test, Crewdson suggests, also had dire consequences. Various studies showed that, at least through 1986, Gallo's test was inferior to the Pasteur version; some Americans were infected with AIDS after receiving blood certified as safe by Gallo's test. These infections might have been prevented if the French had been granted the United States patent -- and the share of the blood-testing market -- they

deserved.

"Science Fictions" has one significant flaw. Crewdson was apparently determined to let the facts speak for themselves -- and they do, particularly as summarized in a timeline at the beginning of the book. But Crewdson's narrative would have benefited if he had stepped back more often from the minutiae of his case to provide perspective and analysis. He faults American officials, scientists and journalists for helping Gallo to perpetuate his "fictions." But Crewdson's narrative is so complex -- crammed with such an array of human and viral characters -- that readers may sympathize with those who hesitated to condemn Gallo.

On the last page, Crewdson says only Gallo can answer "the most compelling question" raised by this story: "Had he somehow convinced himself that all the lies were true? Or had he known better all along?" I wish Crewdson had tried harder to arrive at an answer, perhaps by providing more analysis of Gallo's personality. At various points he quotes sources suggesting that Gallo was mentally disturbed. Crewdson, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1981 as a reporter for The New York Times, should have made some effort to evaluate these innuendoes rather than simply repeating them.

This issue bears on a larger one: was Gallo's behavior so extreme as to be anomalous, or was it to some extent encouraged by what Crewdson calls a "hypercompetitive" scientific culture? If the latter, what can be done to reduce the likelihood of such corrosive incidents? If "Science Fictions" forces scientists to address these difficult questions -- and it should -- it will have served its purpose.

Drawing (Dusan Petricic)

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*John Horgan is the author of "The Undiscovered Mind" and the forthcoming "Ends of Mysticism."*

## The AIDS Epidemic: 1981-1987

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### 1981: Unusual Outbreaks

June 5

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's newsletter Morbidity and Mortality Weekly (MMWR) makes a reference to five cases of an unusual pneumonia in Los Angeles.

July 3

#### [Rare Cancer Seen in 41 Homosexuals](#)

The C.D.C.'s MMWR publishes its first description of a outbreak of 41 cases of Karposi's Sarcoma, a rare skin cancer.

August 29

#### [2 Fatal Diseases Focus of Inquiry](#)

Two rare diseases have struck more than 100 homosexual men in the United States in recent months, killing almost half of them, and a medical study group has been formed to find out why.

December 10

Researchers report in The New England Journal of Medicine that harmless viruses and bacteria can often cause fatal illnesses in homosexual men.

By the end of 1981: 121 deaths

[1981 Article Index](#)

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### 1982: Anxiety, Confusion 447 deaths

May 11

#### [New Homosexual Disorder Worries Officials](#)

A serious disorder of the immune system that has been known to doctors for less than a year - a disorder that appears to affect primarily male homosexuals - has now afflicted at least 335 people.

June 18

#### [Clue Found on Homosexuals' Precancer Syndrome](#)

Federal epidemiologists investigating a serious disorder of the body's immune system that has mostly afflicted male homosexuals reported new evidence yesterday suggesting that the outbreak is linked to an infectious agent.

July 8

#### [Five States Report Disorders in Haitians' Immune System](#)

Federal health officials say that state health authorities have reported a total of 34 cases of a serious

### The AIDS

### Epidemic

- [1981-1987](#)
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AIDS in Africa](#)

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immune disorder among Haitians.

August 8

[A Disease's Spread Provokes Anxiety](#)

The New York Times reports about the growing anxiety among gay men.

December 10

[Infant Who Received Transfusion Dies of Immune Deficiency Illness](#)

The C.D.C. reports that an infant died of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) after receiving multiple transfusions.

[1982 Article Index](#)

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**1983: The Odyssey of a New Disease**

**1,476 deaths**

February 6

[A New Disease's Deadly Odyssey](#)

The New York Times Magazine reports on the birth of a new disease.

May 1

[Rare Virus May Have Link With Immunological Illness](#)

The C.D.C. reports that HTLV, a rare virus, may have some connection with AIDS.

May 19

[Research Traces AIDS in 6 of 7 Female Partners](#)

The New England Journal of Medicine reports that researchers have found that AIDS may be transmitted from males to females.

June 5

[House Panel in Dispute Over AIDS Research Data](#)

New York Congressman Ted Weiss charges that a "serious lack of cooperation" from the C.D.C. is impeding his committee's investigation of AIDS. Weiss and other congressmen call the Government response to AIDS belated and inadequate.

October 11

[The Doctor's World: In Pursuit of the Cause of AIDS](#)

Dr. Lawrence Altman explores the search for the cause of AIDS in his column.

November 20

[New Theory Given for Cause of AIDS](#)

Dr. Joseph A. Sonnabend tells an international gathering that there is no one specific cause of the syndrome. Dr. Antony Fauci, of the National Institutes of Health, counters by saying the evidence supporting a single infectious agent "hits you like a mack truck."

[1983 Article Index](#)

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Don Hogan Charles/The New York Times

June 15, 1983:

Dr. Kenneth Wein, left, the clinical director of GMHC, discussed a critical client case with Mel Rosen, the center's executive director.

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**1984: Widening Views**

**3,454 deaths**

January 4

[New Cases Widen Views About AIDS](#)

New evidence is reported suggesting AIDS can be spread heterosexually and transmitted even before a person shows outward signs of the disease.

March 1

[New-Found Virus Shown to Cause AIDS-Like Illness in Lab Monkeys](#)

Scientists report isolating a virus that causes an AIDS-like illness in monkeys.

March 27

[U.S. Medical Study Singles Out a Man Who Carried AIDS](#)

A C.D.C. report lends more credibility to the cause of AIDS being an infectious agent. It traces 40 of the first cases to one man, called "Patient 0."

April 24

[New U.S. Report Names Virus That May Cause AIDS](#)

American researchers headed by Dr. Robert Gallo announce that they have isolated the cause of AIDS and call the virus HTLV-3. American health officials say they believe the American and French viruses will turn out to be one in the same.

June 25

[For People With AIDS, Housing Is Hard to Find](#)

The New York Times reports on the housing crisis that some AIDS patients find themselves in.

October 21

[In City, AIDS Affecting Drug Users More Often](#)

New York City Health Commissioner Dr. David J. Sencer releases data showing that IV drug users are, proportionally, more affected by AIDS.

December 12

[Lab Worker Gets Immune Disorder](#)

Federal health officials begin investigating the case of a lab worker who contracted AIDS.

[1984 Article Index](#)

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**1985: Expanding Networks**

**6,854 deaths**

February 21

[AIDS and Its Victims: Support Network Grows](#)

The Times reports on the growing support networks available to AIDS patients.

March 3

[AIDS Blood Test to Be Available in 2 to 6 Weeks](#)

Federal officials license Abbott Industries to produce the first commercially available blood test kit. The kits would be provided to blood banks within six weeks.

April 23

[The Doctor's World: AIDS Data Pour in as Studies Proliferate](#)

The Times explores the scene after an international conference on AIDS drew researchers from 30 countries, providing a wealth of data on the unfolding pandemic.

May 2

[Poverty-Scarred Town Now Stricken by AIDS](#)

Statistics reveal that Belle Glade, Florida, a poverty-mocked community has an AIDS-incidence of 1,500 people per 100,000 population. By contrast, in New York City, with half the United States's caseload, the rate was 369 per 100,000 population.

July 25

[Spokesman Admits Hudson Has AIDS](#) A spokesperson for Rock Hudson announces the screen star

is ill with AIDS.

August 1

[Blood Supply Called Free of AIDS](#)

Federal health officials declare that the Nation's blood supply is free of the virus that causes AIDS.

August 31

[Pentagon to Test All New Recruits for Possible Signs of AIDS Virus](#)

The Pentagon says it will screen all new recruits for signs of the AIDS virus. Those testing positive for the antibodies of HTLV-III will be rejected for service.

September 13

[Communion-Cup Fear Addressed](#)

The Episcopal Bishop of California refuses to order a ban on the use of a communal communion wine cup, saying he is confident that AIDS is not spread by the rite.

September 20

[U.S. Counters Public Fears AIDS](#)

The three top federal health officials handling AIDS call a news conference to say the "epidemic of fear" is absolutely unnecessary.

October 2

[Rock Hudson, Screen Idol, Dies at 59](#)

Rock Hudson, screen idol, dies.

October 4

[Panel Disagrees Over AIDS Risk for Public](#)

A Harvard University panel on AIDS questions the Government's stance on the blood supply and risk to the general population.

November 14

[U.S. to Advise Against Screening for AIDS Virus](#)

Saying that there is no evidence that the disease spreads via casual contact, Federal health officials recommend against screening workers for AIDS.

November 24

[Blood Transfusion Practices Cited in African AIDS](#)

Scientists studying the reasons behind the high African rates of AIDS place part of the blame on transfusion practices on the continent.

December 15

[37% in Poll Say AIDS Altered Their Attitude to Homosexuals](#)

A Gallup poll shows that one-third of Americans are less favorably disposed toward homosexuals as a result of AIDS.

December 19

[Saliva Discounted as an AIDS Threat](#)

A report in The New England Journal of Medicine discounts saliva as a source of transmission of the virus.

December 23

[City, in Shift, to Make Blood Test for AIDS Virus More Widely Available](#)



Ruby Washington/The New York Times

August 4, 1985:

Dr. Arye Rubinstein examined a child with AIDS at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx.



Sara Krulwich/The New York Times

November 20, 1985:

Patrick McCalister with Dr. Kenneth Hynes at NYU Medical Center. "I knew it was a possibility but I never thought it would happen," said Patrick McCalister, a 24-year-old AIDS victim. "I'm going to die; I know that."

Relaxing the most restrictive testing policy in the nation, New York City officials say they will allow hospitals to administer blood tests.

[1985 Article Index](#)

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## **1986 Spreading Rapidly 11,932 deaths**

January 14

### [AIDS in the Future: Experts Say Deaths Will Climb Sharply](#)

Scientists say that while AIDS will probably not spread to the population at large, it will kill far more people than generally recognized.

March 7

### [How Women May Transmit AIDS to Men Is Suggested by Research](#)

Scientists from Boston and San Francisco report that the virus that causes AIDS is found in the vaginal and cervical secretions of 21 women in a study.

April 6

### [New Fear on Drug Use and AIDS](#)

Federal health officials warn that the epidemic among IV drug users is spreading rapidly outside of New York and California.

May 29

### [Onset of AIDS After Transfusion Found to Lag Average of 5 Years](#)

A Federal study finds that the onset of AIDS after a transfusion is five years.

June 13

### [Tenfold Increase in AIDS Death Toll Is Expected by '91](#)

The Government predicts that there will be a tenfold increase in the number of deaths from AIDS by 1991.

August 9

[U.S. Files First AIDS Discrimination Charge](#) The Federal Government files the first discrimination suit against an employer that had fired an employee because he had AIDS.

October 23

### [Surgeon General Urges Frank Talk to Young on AIDS](#)

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop urges parents and educators to be extremely frank when explaining AIDS to children.

October 30

### [Federal Efforts on AIDS Criticized as Gravely Weak](#)

The National Academy of Sciences criticizes the Federal Government's response to AIDS as gravely weak and calls for \$2 billion a year to avert a "medical catastrophe."

November 1

### [City Schools to Show New Videotape on AIDS](#)

After a six-month delay, the New York City Public Schools decide to show a videotape about AIDS to 11th graders.

## **Video**

- [Sex, Drugs & AIDS](#)

December 15

### [Brazil Called Lax in AIDS Treatment](#)

The World Health Organization calls Brazil's reaction to the AIDS crisis there as slow and inadequate.

December 17

[Job Corp Planning to Screen Its Trainees for AIDS Virus](#)

All Job Corps staff, trainees and students will be tested for the AIDS virus.

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**1987 The End of the Beginning**

**16,908 deaths**

February 1

[Insurers Are Pressing for AIDS Testing](#)

Health insurers continue to push for AIDS tests as an eligibility for insurance. Some states say they will block this move.

February 15

[Fact, Theory and Myth on the Spread of AIDS](#)

The Times reports on the facts and myths of AIDS transmission.

March 8

[Vermont Prisons Give Inmates Condoms on Request](#)

State prison authorities in Vermont announce that inmates can get condoms on demand from infirmaries.

March 22

[Countries Moving in Battle Against AIDS](#)

The World Health Organization releases figures showing the spread of AIDS around the world.

April 19

[A Doctor's Perspective on Growing AIDS Caseload](#)

The Times takes a look at one doctor's growing AIDS caseload.

May 10

[Inherited Factor May Play a Role in Risk of AIDS](#)

British researchers report that they have found evidence that genetic differences make some people more susceptible to infection with the AIDS virus.

July 24

[Reagon Names 12 to Panel on AIDS](#)

President Reagan names 12 members of a national commission on AIDS and pledges to send the deadly disease "the way of smallpox and polio."

August 2

[High AIDS Rate Spurring Efforts For Minorities](#)

The Federal Government announces measures to combat the spread of AIDS in minority communities.

September 17

[The Papal Visit: AIDS Issue at Fore as Pope Visits San Francisco](#)

The Pope visits San Francisco, where AIDS activists plan protests.

October 5

[Denying AIDS Its Sting: A Quilt of Life](#)

The Times reports on the Names Project, the foundation behind the National AIDS Memorial Quilt.

October 14

[Rights of Citizens and Society Raise Legal Muddle on AIDS](#)

New York City's top health official urges that public health officials should warn the sexual partners of AIDS patients.

October 28

[Boy's 1969 Death Suggests AIDS Invaded U.S. Several Times](#)

New evidence suggests that AIDS arrived in the United States earlier than previously believed.

November 13

[A.M.A. Rules That Doctors Are Obligated to Treat AIDS](#)

The American Medical Association rules that doctors are obligated to provide treatment for people with AIDS.

November 19

[15% of People With AIDS Survive 5 Years](#)

Research finds that 15% of AIDS patients survive at least five years from the date of their diagnosis.

December 3

[U.S. to Test for AIDS in 30 Cities; Household Sampling Put Off](#)

Federal health officials announce that blood samples will be collected in 30 major cities in an effort to determine how far and fast the AIDS virus is spreading.

December 21

[Doctors Stretch Rules on AIDS Drugs](#)

Defying official recommendations, a growing number of doctors who treat carriers of the AIDS virus are prescribing a powerful, potentially toxic drug even before the patients develop serious signs of disease.

December 30

[Editorial: AIDS: The End of the Beginning](#)

A New York Times editorial focuses on the AIDS epidemic.

[1987 Article Index](#)

[1988 to 1990](#)

## **The AIDS Epidemic: 1988-1990**

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### **1988: A Host of Questions 20,786 deaths**

January 5

[AIDS Research on New Drugs Bypasses Addicts And Women](#)

Experts are becoming more critical of AIDS drugs trials, saying they are bypassing key segments of the population, namely women and nonwhites.

January 12

[A Solitary Dissenter Disputes Cause of AIDS](#)

A provocative argument that the wrong cause has been cited as the cause of AIDS is almost universally rejected by AIDS scientists, but it is gaining attention in the gay press.

March 8

[Sex Researchers Defend AIDS Book Against Wide Criticism](#)

Defending themselves against a chorus of criticism about their methods and conclusions, the authors of a new book on AIDS charged that Government

health officials had understated the threat posed by AIDS to the general population.

April 22

[Researchers List Odds of Getting AIDS in Heterosexual Intercourse](#)

The chance of catching the AIDS virus from a single act of heterosexual intercourse with an infected partner is 1 in 500 if no condom is used, according to a published report.

May 30

[Runaways of 42d Street: AIDS Begins Its Scourge](#)

The number of teen-agers with acquired immune deficiency syndrome is small. In New York City, only 41 cases have been diagnosed. But for the teen-agers of Times Square -- living at a crossroads of illegal drugs and \$5 sex -- the odds grow worse each day.

June 7

[The Evolving Biology of AIDS: Scavenger Cell Looms Large](#)

Scientists studying white blood cells are beginning to find answers to puzzling questions about how the AIDS virus invades the body and causes disease.

July 1

[A.M.A. Urges Breach of Privacy to Warn Potential AIDS Victims](#)

The American Medical Association urges doctors to break confidentiality and warn the sexual partners of people being treated for AIDS.

September 22

[Federal Policy Against Discrimination Is Sought for AIDS Victims](#)

Critics urge the Federal Government to adopt a policy banning the discrimination of people with AIDS.

October 13

[Panel Warns of Increase in AIDS Cases](#)

New York City's AIDS planning agency calls for a major overhaul and rapid expansion of medical and social services.

November 22

[F.D.A. Approves First Drug for an AIDS-Related Cancer](#)

The Federal Drug Administration approves the first drug to treat Karposi's Sarcoma.

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The New York Times

May 30, 1988

Robert, a teen-ager who died of AIDS, was one of the 7 percent of teens infected with HIV, according to a study of the problem.

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**1989: Going Public**  
**27,408 deaths**

January 9

[Police Guard AIDS Home for Toddlers](#)

New York City Police Officers are stationed outside an AIDS home for toddlers after two bomb threats are phoned in.



Sara Krulwich/The New York Times

February 7

[F.D.A. Allows Wider Use of Drug to Prevent Pneumonia in AIDS Patients](#)

The F.D.A. announces it will allow wider use of the experimental drug pentamidine, used to treat the pneumonia, *Pneumocystis carinii*.

January 29, 1989

David Brewster stubbornly refused to quit smoking. A friend, Michael Bolleri, wiped up ashes that had fallen on the bed. At left, Tom Grothe, a hospice nurse. San Francisco's Coming Home Hospice provided for inpatient care, as well as visiting nurses.

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March 11

[Unlikely AIDS Sufferer's Message: Even You Can Get It](#)

Alison Gertz, a wealthy 23-year-old woman, continues her program of AIDS awareness, warning heterosexuals that they, too, can get the disease.

**Video**

- [Ali Gertz: In Her Own Words](#)

June 6

[Health Chief Urges Listing People With the AIDS Virus](#)

Dr. Stephen Joseph, New York City's Health Commissioner, tells an AIDS conference that people with AIDS should be reported confidentially to health authorities.

June 27

[4 Cases Found Of Rare Strain of AIDS Virus](#)

Researchers in New York report finding four cases of a rare AIDS strain.

July 9

[U.S. Is Urging Vast Effort to Treat Million People Infected With AIDS Virus](#)

Federal health authorities call for a new effort to find and treat all the estimated 1 million people infected with the AIDS virus.

August 4

[Strong Evidence Discovered That AZT Holds Off AIDS](#)

New research indicates that AZT holds off the onset of AIDS in people showing mild immune system damage.

September 15

[AIDS Treatment Costs Put at \\$5 Billion a Year](#)

Health experts estimate that the cost of treating people with AIDS could cost \$5 billion a year.

October 8

[AIDS Is Spreading in Teen-Agers, A New Trend Alarming to Experts](#)

New data show that AIDS is spreading rapidly among certain groups of teenagers.

December 17

[Plan for AIDS Testing in Prison Raises Questions](#)

A New Jersey Department of Corrections plan for voluntary AIDS testing in prisons raises a host of questions.

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**1990: Being Outrun  
31,120 deaths**

January 4

[Forecast of AIDS Cases Is Cut by 10%](#)

The C.D.C. revises its estimates, saying that 179,000 to 208,000 new cases will be reported through the end of 1992.

February 11

[AIDS and the Fashion World: Industry Fears for Its Health](#)

The fashion industry, hit hard by AIDS, fears for its survival.

February 25

[AIDS Patients' Silent Companion Is Often Suicide, or Thoughts of It](#)

People with AIDS talk about their suicidal thoughts.

March 13

[Salk Team Expands AIDS Vaccine Study](#)

Dr. Jonas Salk and his research team announce they are expanding their experimental vaccine research.

April 9

[Ryan White Dies of AIDS at 18; His Struggle Helped Pierce Myths](#)

Ryan White, a symbol of AIDS discrimination, dies at age 18.

May 1

[Antibodies Seem to Protect Fetus From AIDS](#)

Researchers report that antibodies seem to protect a fetus from AIDS.

June 2

[AIDS Vaccine Test Protects 2 Chimps From Deadly Virus](#)

Scientists say they have developed an experimental vaccine that protects chimps from infection with the AIDS virus.

June 26

[3,000 Papers at AIDS Gathering Point to Gains and Frustration](#)

The Sixth International AIDS Conference draws to a close. Experts say that gains in knowledge about the illness are being outrun by the spread of the

virus.

July 9

[Fear of AIDS With Rape: How a Case Was Affected](#)

Prosecutors offer an admitted rapist a reduced sentence in exchange for an AIDS test requested by his victim.



Barton Silver/The New York Times

July 16

[A 'Manhattan Project' for AIDS](#)

Larry Kramer, author and activist, calls for a "Manhattan Project" to battle AIDS.

July 8, 1990

In one month, January to February, the hospital at the University of Stony Brook treated 30 children with AIDS. Above, a young patient was cared for by a volunteer.

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August 22

[Panel Issues Broad Attack on U.S. Response to AIDS](#)

The Federal Government's top AIDS panel issues a three-part report assailing the Government's handling of the crisis.

September 6

[Despite Advice, Few Are Taking Drugs for AIDS](#)

Experts warn that many people infected with AIDS are not taking tests or life-prolonging drugs.

October 2

[AIDS Research Finds 13 Vulnerable Spots in Virus Life Cycle](#)

Biologists report that they have identified 13 points of weakness in the life cycle of the AIDS virus.

November 14

[News of AIDS Therapy Gain Delayed 5 Months by Agency](#)

Findings that treatment with steroids could halve the death rate from *Pneumocystis carinii* were delayed five months so the researchers could publish their findings in medical journals.

December 13

[Cut Down as They Grow Up: AIDS Stalks Gay Teen-Agers](#)

Health officials warn that more aggressive education is needed to halt the spread of the AIDS virus in gay teens.

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[1991-1993](#)

**The AIDS Epidemic:  
1991-1993**

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## **1991: Battling Roadblocks**

January 6

### [As Ireland Battles AIDS, the Church Is Called a Roadblock](#)

This nation is playing out the tragic drama of AIDS, and tradition, Roman Catholic orthodoxy and ignorance are among the grim protagonists, advocates in the fight against the disease say.

January 18

### [AIDS-Infected Doctors and Dentists Are Urged to Warn Patients or Quit](#)

America's leading medical and dental associations said that doctors and dentists infected with the AIDS virus should warn their patients about their condition or give up surgery.



Jim Estrin/The New York Times

January 24, 1991

Hundreds of demonstrators flooded Grand Central Terminal during the height of rush hour. They demanded more research money for AIDS.

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February 1

### [Growth of AIDS Virus Is Slowed in Study](#)

Growth of the AIDS virus in laboratory experiments was significantly suppressed by the addition of an amino acid that plays an essential role in the body's system for fighting infection, researchers say.

February 15

### [Federal Study Questions Ability of AZT to Delay AIDS Symptoms](#)

A new Federal study has raised troubling questions about who will be helped by the AIDS drug AZT.

March 4

### [Life Salvaged, Now Savored: Living Longer With AIDS](#)

Interviews with several people who have endured AIDS for up to seven years indicate that they can also lead normal and productive lives, some with relatively few bouts of sickness.

March 28

### [Children With a Secret \(Spelled AIDS\)](#)

Students and their parents grapple with the decision to notify educators about infection with the AIDS virus.

April 5

### [U.S. Drafts Guidelines For Doctors With AIDS](#)

In a draft of proposed new Federal guidelines, the Centers for Disease Control says doctors and dentists infected with the AIDS virus should get permission from local panels of experts before continuing to perform certain operations and invasive procedures.

May 5

### [The Nation: Testing for AIDS: The Questions Go Beyond the Clinical](#)

Recent proposals for mandatory testing of doctors or hospital patients for the AIDS virus have raised questions of civil rights and of the very nature of the patient-doctor relationship.

May 18

### [3 Die of AIDS After Getting Organs From a Man Infected With the Virus](#)

Three people have died of AIDS after receiving organ transplants from a Virginia man.

June 3

### [10 Years of AIDS Battle: Hopes for Success Dim](#)

The age of AIDS officially began 10 years ago, on June 5, 1981, when the Centers for Disease Control published a short, dry report on an outbreak of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia among five gay men in Los Angeles.

June 18

### [W.H.O. Says 40 Million Will Be Infected With AIDS Virus by 2000](#)

Although rates of AIDS infection appear to be slowing in industrialized countries, they are rising rapidly in many developing countries. In those areas, AIDS is likely to become the leading killer of adults in their most productive years by the turn of the century.

July 8

### [Blood Center's Painful Job: Telling Donors Test Results](#)

Every Friday, the New York Blood Center mails a stack of bad news. The letter is terse: "It is important for you to come in to the blood center to discuss the test result since it indicates a finding of importance to your health."

July 20

### [U.S. Panel Backs Sale of Experimental AIDS Drug](#)

In a decision that sets new standards for drug approval, an advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration recommended that an AIDS drug be approved for marketing even though it has not been thoroughly tested in clinical trials.

August 8

### [AIDS Definition Is Widened To Include Blood Cell Count](#)

The Federal Centers for Disease Control has revised its definition of AIDS, and the change could add tens of thousands of people infected with the virus to the ranks of those considered to have the disease.

August 29

### [Study Shows Passing AIDS in Breast Milk Is Easier Than Thought](#)

Mothers can transmit AIDS to their infants through breast milk at a far higher rate than previously believed, researchers have found.

September 10

[Study Sees Moves on HIV Infection Backfiring](#)

Far from encouraging HIV-infected health care workers to come forward, new Federal guidelines and proposed practice limitations will drive those infected with the virus that causes AIDS to hide their condition, a new survey suggests.

October 15

[Unexpected Defiance Greets AIDS Guidelines](#)

The Federal guidelines to protect against health care workers' transmitting the AIDS virus to patients are in deep trouble because of growing doubts about their scientific basis.

November 8

[Magic Johnson Ends His Career, Saying He Has AIDS Infection](#)

Magic Johnson, one of the most popular and accomplished players in basketball history, said that he had been infected by the virus that causes AIDS and that he would retire immediately from the Los Angeles Lakers.

November 24

[The Changing Profile of Patients With AIDS](#)

Mirroring and in some cases surpassing a national trend, AIDS in Westchester is increasingly a disease of families.

December 9

[Kimberly Bergalis Is Dead at 23; Symbol of Debate Over AIDS Tests](#)

Kimberly Bergalis, who stirred a national debate over AIDS testing when she became the first known case of a patient contracting the virus from a health care worker, dies at her home in Fort Pierce, Fla. She was 23 years old.

December 25

[Hit Hard by the AIDS Virus, Hemophiliacs Angrily Speak Out](#)

Afraid of discrimination, ashamed of and horrified by AIDS, people with hemophilia have largely hidden the devastation within their ranks. H.I.V. has infected almost every hemophiliac born before 1985.

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**1992: Gut Level Reactions**

January 16

[Boy Is Raped and Neighbors Ponder the Horror](#)

Parents and neighbors learned that an 11-year-old boy was abducted and raped at 8 A.M. on Tuesday on West 77th Street and that a man with H.I.V. had been charged.

February 4

[Athletes With H.I.V. Ruled Eligible for Games](#)

The International Olympic Committee moved to quell controversy by ruling that athletes with H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS, are eligible to compete.

February 10

[Agencies Hindered in Effort to Widen Definitions of AIDS](#)

Two Federal agencies that are proposing to change the definition of AIDS and the criteria for AIDS-related disability benefits are being hampered by widespread criticism of their plans.

March 17

[How AIDS Smolders: Immune System Studies Follow the Tracks of H.I.V.](#)

Ever since the virus that causes AIDS was discovered, scientists have puzzled over a central mystery of the disease. How can this virus smolder in the immune system for as long as 10 years before it finally destroys a person's ability to fight infections?

April 9

[An Emotional Ashe Says That He Has AIDS](#)

Arthur Ashe, the former United States Open and Wimbledon champion and a pioneer in sports and social issues, says that he contracted AIDS.

April 21

[Speeded Approval of AIDS Drug Is Termed Justified by Test Data](#)

New data suggest that the Food and Drug Administration did the right thing last July when it voted to allow limited use of a new AIDS drug, even though it had not yet been fully tested.



Angel Franco/The New York Times

May 1

[H.I.V. Incidence Rises Among Black Mothers](#)

In another sign of the devastating effects of AIDS on blacks, New York State health officials release new evidence that the rate of H.I.V. infection has risen among black women having babies in New York City since 1988, while it has dropped among white and Hispanic mothers.

April 8, 1992

Arthur Ashe and his wife, Jeanne, spoke at a press conference announcing that he had HIV.

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May 18

[H.I.V.-Infected Puerto Ricans Seek Help in New York City](#)

While Puerto Ricans have traveled to New York for economic reasons for decades, those who are H.I.V.-positive have been coming more recently to fight a killer disease and, when faced with defeat, return home to die.

June 7

[School Where Facts of AIDS Are the Facts of Life](#)

Within the spare halls of Manhattan's Louis D. Brandeis High School, AIDS is not an academic idea like Manifest Destiny or the theory of evolution.

Three teachers there have died of the disease and so have many relatives of students.

July 31

[Courtroom Anguish as France Tries 4 Over Tainted Blood](#)

In a packed courtroom at the Palace of Justice, legal arguments were pushed aside this week as bereaved parents, spouses and the hemophiliac patients themselves recounted how blood transfusions tainted with H.I.V. had ended many lives and still threatened others.

August 16

[Republicans Face an AIDS Test](#)

AIDS is not a Republican disease. To be sure, plenty of Republicans have died of AIDS, and plenty more are sick. But the party has never been comfortable talking about the disease. The epidemic was more than five years old before President Ronald Reagan uttered the "A" word publicly.

September 26

[Magic Johnson Quits Panel on AIDS](#)

Magic Johnson resigns from the National Commission on AIDS, contending in a letter to President Bush that the Administration had "utterly ignored" the commission's recommendations and "dropped the ball" on AIDS.

October 9

[Nonvirulent H.I.V. Strain Found in Infected Group](#)

Scientists have found five people who were infected with the virus that causes AIDS by blood transfusions from one donor and then did not develop any evidence of illness 7 to 10 years later, suggesting that it was a nonvirulent strain.

October 26

[Scientists Assail Congress on Bill For Money to Test an AIDS Drug](#)

The Federal Government's top scientists are angrily protesting a recent decision by Congress to bypass medical researchers and approve \$20 million for human trials of an experimental AIDS vaccine.

November 8

[Japan Confronts Sudden Rise in AIDS](#)

With the number of AIDS cases here suddenly rising at a startling rate, the Japanese Government has begun to admit that this country is as vulnerable as any other to the disease.

November 28

[Some Legal Experts See Intolerance as H.I.V. and Sex Are Linked to Crime](#)

The prospect of dying in a Louisiana prison made Salvatore Gamberella's hands shake and his voice tremble. He is only 28 years old, and at most his crime will cost him 20 years in jail. But it will likely be a life sentence nonetheless: Gamberella has H.I.V.

December 20

[Covering AIDS and Living It: A Reporter's Testimony](#)

Two years ago tomorrow, I collapsed at my desk in the newsroom of The

New York Times, writhed on the floor in a seizure and entered the world of AIDS. I had been, as far as I knew, absolutely healthy, and it took the doctors a few weeks to reach their diagnosis: full-blown AIDS.

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## **1993: New Challenges**

January 1

### [New H.I.V. Strains Resist AIDS Drug](#)

In increasing numbers of patients infected with H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS, it is showing early resistance to AZT, the drug most commonly used against it, and researchers say there is an urgent need to develop new drugs to combat the epidemic.

January 25

### [AIDS in Latin America -- A Special Report: In Deception and Denial, an Epidemic Looms](#)

Flourishing amid sexual promiscuity, hypocrisy and haphazard prevention, Latin America's AIDS epidemic is on its way to surpassing that of the United States, health officials say.

February 18

### [Drug Mixture Halts H.I.V. in Lab, Doctors Say in a Cautious Report](#)

A medical student has found what Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston says "may be the Achilles' heel of H.I.V.," the virus that causes AIDS, and has developed a novel drug strategy that eliminates the virus from human cells grown in the test tube.

March 21

### [She Has AIDS: She Has a Mission](#)

"I am a recovering addict, and I have AIDS," Vivian Torres often says from the start, both in her public appearances as a community activist and in quieter conversations as an AIDS counselor.

March 31

### [Suspected Early Hiding Place Of AIDS Virus Is Confirmed](#)

Scientists have confirmed their suspicion that the virus that causes AIDS hides in a patient's lymph nodes and similar tissue during an infection.

#### **Video**

- [Understanding the Disease](#)

April 6

### [AIDS Study Casts Doubt on Value Of Hastened Drug Approval in U.S.](#)

A European study that found no benefit from early treatment of the virus that causes AIDS with the drug AZT has also cast doubt on the validity of certain tests that the United States Government has approved in the last few years.

May 10

[Hemophiliacs Demand Answers as AIDS Toll Rises](#)

Until recently, the closest Michael J. Druck had ever come to a public protest was filing a complaint with New York City about a noisy neighbor. But two months ago the 31-year-old rare-coin dealer found himself wrestling with two hotel security guards in Manhattan as he picketed a dinner honoring prominent hemophilia doctors.

June 15

[Conference Ends With Little Hope for AIDS Cure](#)

Only an eternal optimist would have left the ninth international AIDS meeting here last week believing that new drugs will be available anytime soon to save the lives of the 14 million people now infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

June 29

[Government Panel on H.I.V Finds The Prospect for Treatment Bleak](#)

Experts were predicting only recently that AIDS would by now have come to be controlled like diabetes and many other chronic diseases. Instead, the latest studies show evidence of serious limitations in the three drugs so far licensed for use against H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS.

July 22

[Flaw Is Discovered In Crucial Research On AIDS Treatment](#)

Three months into a national trial of a combination of three drugs that experts have called the best hope for treating AIDS, new laboratory findings have cast serious doubt on the validity of the scientific premise of the studies.

July 29

[Australian Study Says AZT Slows Progression to Full-Blown AIDS](#)

A report concludes that the drug AZT significantly slows the progression toward full-blown AIDS, appearing to contradict recent studies showing that people with H.I.V. gained scant benefit by taking the medication early in the course of their infection.

September 14

[Gyor Journal: AIDS in Hungary: A Threat That Seems Unreal](#)

Not far from the women, who say work is good on this stretch of road and who can be seen negotiating with potential customers through car windows, AIDS prevention billboards with bold illustrations of condoms have recently been put up by the government.

October 1

[Giving Addicts Clean Needles Cuts Spread of AIDS, U.S. Study Finds](#)

The Federal Government's first comprehensive study of whether giving clean needles to addicts can help prevent the spread of AIDS has concluded that it does and that the Government should finance a significant expansion of such programs.

November 2

[New Strategy Backed For Fighting AIDS](#)

Outside the United States and Western Europe, the overwhelming majority of H.I.V. infections are transmitted through heterosexual sex. But although men can protect themselves from infection by using condoms, women who are sexually active have no similar means.

November 13

[Prospects for AIDS Vaccine Dim As New Tests Show Wide Failures](#)

In a setback for researchers, a wide collection of promising experimental AIDS vaccines has failed miserably in tests of whether they could protect against strains of the AIDS virus isolated from infected people.

December 4

[In 2 Young Patients, Rare Transmission of H.I.V. Is Detected](#)

Scientists have detected two cases in which the AIDS virus has been transmitted from one child and one adolescent to others but apparently not by the usual routes. The most likely cause is believed to be that infected blood from one entered the other through a cut or disease that broke the skin.

December 21

[Modest Advances Seen With 2 AIDS Drugs](#)

Researchers reported modest gains in drug therapy against two common and serious complications of AIDS at a scientific meeting in Washington last week. The complications are infections caused by a variety of fungi and a potentially blinding eye infection caused by cytomegalovirus.

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[1994 to 1997](#)

## **The AIDS Epidemic: 1994-1997**

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### **1994: Losing Ground? 49,311 deaths**

January 6

[OPED: Losing Ground Against AIDS](#)

News reports in recent months suggest that we are entering a new phase of the AIDS epidemic in which the effectiveness of our prevention efforts will determine how successful we are in fighting the disease.

February 4

[New Test Forecasts Progress of AIDS](#)

A blood test has predicted progression from H.I.V. infection to AIDS earlier than standard measures in a pilot study, a team of researchers in New York City is reporting.

February 21

[In Major Finding, Drug Curbs H.I.V. Infection in Newborns](#)

A federally financed study has found that the drug AZT drastically reduces transmission of H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS, from infected mothers to their newborns, Government health officials

said.

March 11

[AIDS Cases Increase Among Heterosexuals](#)

In a development that reflects the changing demographic face of the AIDS epidemic in this country, heterosexual transmission accounted for the largest proportionate increase in AIDS cases reported last year.

April 13

[H.I.V. Patients Living Longer, Study Reports](#)

People infected with the virus that causes AIDS are living about a year longer now than they were in the early stages of the epidemic, a study in San Francisco has found.

April 29

[Report Sees Rise in AIDS for Children](#)

A rising number of infant and childhood deaths from AIDS is beginning to set back years of hard-won improvements in childhood survival rates in the third world, the Census Bureau said in a report.

May 3

[Theory Tested on Why Body's Defenses Go Haywire in AIDS](#)

As the virus that causes AIDS slowly and brutally disassembles the body's immune system, it causes confounding turmoil at every node of the defense network. Some immune cells overreact to the infection, while others fail to respond when called.

May 12

[Saying Strategy to Find Cure for AIDS Has Gone Awry, Researchers Seek Redirection](#)

A new consensus has emerged among many leading scientists that the nation's \$1.3 billion AIDS research program is on the wrong track.

June 28

[The Doctor's World: Panel Decision a New Setback in Search for an AIDS Vaccine](#)

Ten years ago Margaret M. Heckler, who was then Secretary of Health and Human Services, predicted an AIDS vaccine would be available by 1986. Although the deadline passed, the effort continued. But this month work on the two experimental vaccines furthest along in development received a serious setback.

July 5

[The Doctor's World: AIDS Mystery That Won't Go Away: Did a Dentist Infect 6 Patients?](#)

Controversy over an investigation that linked transmission of the AIDS virus from an infected Florida dentist to six of his patients has flared up again.

August 17

[High H.I.V. Levels Raise Risk to Newborns, 2 Studies Show](#)

In findings that bear directly on the question of how to prevent mother-to-infant transmission of the AIDS virus, two new studies from scientists in New York State show that the likelihood of infecting offspring rises with the amount of the virus in a pregnant woman's blood.

September 9

[Blacks Far More Likely Than Whites to Have AIDS, Agency Says](#)

Black women are nearly 15 times more likely than white women to have AIDS, while black men are five times more likely than white men to have the disease, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

October 24

[Fighting Words: Shapers of Teachers' Guidelines Are Hostile and Exhausted](#)

Drafting the latest teaching guide about AIDS in the New York City schools has been a bit like trench warfare, with Louise Phillips and Erica Zurer as the opposing field commanders.

November 3

[Discovery That AIDS Can Be Prevented in Babies Raises Debate on Mandatory Testing](#)

A finding that it is possible to prevent most cases of AIDS in babies has opened a heated debate over mandatory AIDS testing.

November 29

[The Doctor's World: After Setback, First Large AIDS Vaccine Trials Are Planned](#)

The World Health Organization is moving ahead with plans for the first large trials of the two most widely tested experimental AIDS vaccines.

December 28

[Women With H.I.V. Found to Die Faster Than Men](#)

Women who are infected with the virus that causes AIDS die faster than men with the infection, a large study has found.

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**1995: The Leading Killer**

**49, 897 deaths**

January 12

[New AIDS Findings on Why Drugs Fail](#)

New findings about how the AIDS virus behaves in the body help explain why all drugs tried until now have been ineffective.

January 31

[AIDS Is Now the Leading Killer of Americans From 25 to 44](#)

AIDS has become the leading cause of death among all Americans aged 25 to 44, new Federal data show.

February 2

[Combination of Drugs Appears to Slow AIDS Virus, Studies Say](#)

A new combination of drugs seems to suppress the AIDS virus more effectively and for longer than existing combinations of drugs, preliminary results of four American and European studies show.

February 7

[Protein in Saliva Found to Block AIDS Virus in Test Tube Study](#)

A small protein in human saliva blocks the AIDS virus from infecting human cells in the test tube, Federal scientists reported at a meeting here last week.

February 21

[Immature Immune Cells May Sustain Brunt of H.I.V. Attack](#)

As exhaustively studied as AIDS is by thousands of researchers around the world, the mysteries surrounding this most insidious of diseases are so great that there is always room for another radical new paradigm to explain its features.

March 30

[Baby Is Said to Have Cast Off H.I.V., but Some Are Skeptical](#)

Scientists report that a child infected with the AIDS virus at birth successfully cast off the infection by the age of 1, but some other experts doubt that the case has been fully proved.

April 4

[Earliest AIDS Case Is Called Into Doubt](#)

What was believed to be the earliest known case of AIDS, dating to 1959, may not have been AIDS after all, new scientific evidence shows.

April 25



Reuters

December 3, 1994

Elizabeth Glazer, shown above addressing the 1992 democratic Convention, died at the age of 47. Glazer was an outspoken AIDS activist.

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### [Blindness With AIDS Prevented by Drug](#)

A new treatment that involves injecting tiny amounts of an antiviral drug directly into the eye appears to control an infection that blinds many AIDS patients.

May 29

### [Troops Infected With H.I.V. Facing Unexpected Fear of Losing Their Jobs](#)

Ever since learning in 1988 that he had been infected with the AIDS virus, a 31-year-old petty officer based in Southern California has comforted himself that he would be taken care of, because the Navy always takes care of its own. Now that is in doubt.

June 16

### [Milder H.I.V. May Be Key to AIDS Vaccine](#)

Infection with a relatively mild type of the AIDS virus seems to protect some people against infection with a more virulent type of the virus.

July 16

### [Early Treatment for H.I.V. Doesn't Prolong Survival, Study Finds](#)

Treatment of H.I.V. infection before it causes symptoms may delay its progression to AIDS but does not prolong survival, a new study has found.

September 17

### [Experts to Review AZT Role as the Chief Drug for H.I.V.](#)

After years of recommending AZT as the first-line drug for treating the virus that causes AIDS, Federal health officials are considering a change because of surprising results with other drugs.

October 16

### [Patients Pay High Price in Cuba's War on AIDS](#)

Almost a decade after Cuba became the first country in the world to quarantine people infected with H.I.V., the measure of control it has gained over the outbreak is the envy of many other nations.

November 24

### [Researchers Offer Clue to How AIDS Virus Survives Prolonged Attack by Immune System](#)

Researchers have discovered an important clue to one of the fundamental mysteries of AIDS, the ability of the virus to persist in the body for years while under vigorous attack by the immune system.

December 3

### [U.N. Fields Odd Allies as It Wages AIDS Battle](#)

The director of a new program to strengthen the work of the United Nations in battling the spread of AIDS has an odd assortment of allies: a prostitutes' union in Calcutta, the Thai Army and a grass-roots group in Uganda.



Suzanne DeChillo/The New York Times

November 21, 1995

Calixto Hemenway, a boy with AIDS, was shown with his mother in their Harlem apartment.

December 26

### [Newfound Foes of AIDS Virus Can Be Culprits In Other Diseases](#)

When AIDS researchers discovered a new natural defense against the human immunodeficiency virus this month, they stumbled on a paradox.

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## **1996: Cycle of Destruction**

**37, 359 deaths**

January 7

### [Making It Work: 'Asians Are Not Immune'](#)

As an outreach worker with the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on H.I.V. and AIDS, Ms. Li has made it her mission to convince Asians that the disease is a real threat.

January 17

[Washington AIDS Case Highlights a Rare Cause](#)

Washington State's top educator, Judith Billings, said that she was suffering from AIDS after trying to become pregnant through artificial insemination with donor sperm.

January 27

[President Plans to Sign Bill to Cut Troops With H.I.V.](#)

President Clinton plans to approve a military budget bill that requires the Pentagon to discharge troops infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

February 6

[The Doctor's World: New AIDS Therapies Arise, but Who Can Afford the Bill?](#)

Shortly after AIDS was first recognized in 1981, activists demanded: give us new therapies. Now the latest worry of activists and many others concerned about the costs of health care is: who can afford them?

February 16

[AIDS Deaths Continue to Rise in 25-44 Age Group, U.S. Says](#)

AIDS has become the third leading cause of death among American women 25 to 44 years of age, and the leading cause among white men in that age group.

March 14

[Panel Offers Sharp Criticism of AIDS Research Projects](#)

The Government's AIDS research program is uncoordinated, lacks focus and needs a major overhaul to attract new scientific talent and spur novel and imaginative ideas, a Government-appointed panel said in a report.

May 10

[Scientists Find Elusive Protein, H.I.V.'s Guide](#)

Scientists reported finding a protein that is needed to admit the AIDS virus into human immune system cells, beginning a deadly cycle of destruction.

May 15

[F.D.A. Approves Home AIDS Test; Marketing Is to Begin in June](#)

The Food and Drug Administration approved the first home screening test for H.I.V.

June 11

[Blood, Money and AIDS: Hemophiliacs Are Split; Liability Cases Bogged Down in Disputes](#)

An estimated 6,000 to 10,000 hemophiliacs nationwide, became infected with H.I.V. after receiving a tainted clotting substance made by companies in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

July 12

[Scientists Display Substantial Gains in AIDS Treatment](#)

Results from several studies showed that whether people were infected for weeks or years combinations of new and older drugs suppressed the virus below the limits of detection for long periods of time.

August 10

[A Discovery Energizes AIDS Researchers](#)

A number of AIDS researchers have taken initial steps to try to develop drugs, or even a vaccine, based on the discovery that a mutant gene can protect some people from infection with the AIDS virus.

September 27

[New Studies Offer Powerful and Puzzling Evidence on Immunity to AIDS](#)

Scientists have long suspected that some people might be immune to the AIDS virus. But now they

are accumulating powerful, direct evidence of the extent and strength of such immunity. And many researchers are stunned.

October 27

### [Going the Distance Against AIDS](#)

At 28, Jim Howley was told he had AIDS. By 30, he had drawn up his will and chosen the music to be played at his funeral. That was five years ago.

November 28

### [U.N. Reports 3 Million New H.I.V. Cases Worldwide for '96](#)

More than three million people, mostly under age 25, have become newly infected with the AIDS virus this year, officials of the World Health Organization said.

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The Associated Press

October 11, 1996

The National AIDS Memorial Quilt was unfurled on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

[Click here for a slideshow.](#)

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## **1997: Clearing the Way 20,945 deaths**

January 4

### [Clearing the Way for an AIDS Vaccine](#)

After a Government-appointed panel criticized its foundering AIDS vaccine effort, the National Institutes of Health last month called a brilliant microbiologist and Nobel laureate, Dr. David Baltimore, to the rescue.

February 1

### [B12 Deficiency May Hasten Onset of AIDS, Study Finds](#)

Men who are infected with the virus that causes AIDS appear to progress to the full-blown disease much more quickly if they are deficient in vitamin B12.

February 28

### [U.S. Reporting Sharp Decrease in AIDS Deaths](#)

For the first time since the AIDS epidemic began in 1981, the number of deaths from the disease has dropped "substantially" across the country.

March 16

### [As More Cases Arise in People Over 50, a Silent Group Slowly Gets Help](#)

Wrinkled faces do not appear on billboards promoting safe sex. Researchers have not investigated the interaction of AIDS drugs with those for high blood pressure and other ailments of aging. AIDS and older people is not a popular topic with the Gay Men's Health Crisis or the American Association of Retired Persons.

April 19

### [Scientists Find a Key Weapon Used by H.I.V.](#)

Scientists have discovered the precise mechanism by which H.I.V., the AIDS virus, penetrates the membrane of the cells it infects.

May 18

### [AIDS Onrush Sends Russia to the Edge of an Epidemic](#)

Russia stands on the precipice of an AIDS epidemic every bit as explosive as the one that swept through Europe and the United States 15 years ago.

June 10

### ['Morning After' Treatment for H.I.V.](#)

Now that H.I.V. has joined the roster of endemic sexually transmitted agents in the United States,

doctors are cautiously beginning to use the powerful new drugs intended to treat established infections as "morning after" pills to forestall H.I.V. transmission after risky sexual encounters.

July 15

[AIDS Deaths Drop 19% in U.S., in Part From Newer Treatments](#)

AIDS deaths continue to decline in the United States and the trend is expected to go on, Federal health officials said.

August 21

[Progress on AIDS Brings Movement for Less Secrecy](#)

The cloak of privacy that has long set AIDS apart from other infectious diseases is beginning to be pierced.

September 19

[U.S. Says AIDS Cases Fell in '96, Ending 16-Year Rise](#)

The number AIDS cases diagnosed in the United States dropped last year for the first time in the 16-year history of the epidemic.

October 14

[AIDS Drugs Elude the Grasp of Many of the Poor](#)

The little white slips of paper are precious; they are prescriptions for powerful new AIDS medications that once miraculously revived Luis Figueroa. But there is a problem with the prescriptions. Figueroa cannot afford to fill them, and the government cannot afford to fill them for him.

November 13

[Tracking a Deadly Secret; How a Lone Investigator Brought Together the Hidden Strands of an H.I.V. Outbreak](#)

Nushawn J. Williams has been accused of infecting at least nine women and girls with H.I.V., in one of the most notorious outbreaks in the 16 years that AIDS has been known.

December 12

[OPED: Gay Culture, Redefined](#)

The facts: enough gay men are once again having enough unsafe sex that the rates of H.I.V. infection, gonorrhea and syphilis are returning to frightening heights.

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Death Statistics: *The Centers for Disease Control*

[1998-1999](#)

## **The AIDS Epidemic: 1998-1999**

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**1998: Pushing Back  
16,432 deaths**

January 13

[AIDS Group Urges New York to Start Reporting of H.I.V.](#)

The Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's leading AIDS service agency, is reversing its position and calling for New York doctors to report H.I.V.-positive people to the State Health Department.

February 4

[Study of H.I.V. Family Tree Pushes Back Origins](#)

An analysis of a blood sample preserved since 1959 from the oldest documented case of infection with the AIDS virus called H.I.V.-1 shows that the first such infections probably occurred in people in the late 1940's or early 1950's.

March 27

[Disease Control Agency Urges Wider Use of H.I.V. Blood Tests](#)

Concerned that an estimated 250,000 Americans do not know they are infected with the AIDS virus, Federal health officials urge wider use of blood tests.

April 14

[The Doctor's World: AIDS Research Yields Clues Linking Viruses and Cancer](#)

When AIDS was first recognized in New York in 1981, it was not as a viral infection but as Kaposi's sarcoma, a rare type of cancer.

May 26

[Scientists See a Mysterious Similarity In a Pair of Deadly Plagues](#)

In a provocative report, scientists at the National Cancer Institute say they have found that a genetic mutation that protects against the AIDS virus.

June 4

[F.D.A. Authorizes First Full Testing for H.I.V. Vaccine](#)

The F.D.A. has given a California company approval to conduct the world's first full-scale test of a vaccine to prevent infection with the AIDS virus.

July 5

[AIDS Meeting Ends With Little Hope of Breakthrough](#)

A series of reports about new problems with anti-AIDS drugs and setbacks in vaccine trials left many participants thinking that their best hope against the epidemic was the strategy they had since it began: prevention.

July 26

[AIDS Brings a Shift on Breast-Feeding](#)

Countering decades of promoting "breast is best" for infant nutrition, the United Nations is issuing recommendations intended to discourage women infected with the AIDS virus from breast-feeding.

August 19

[In 1997, AIDS-Related Deaths In Prison Fell to 14-Year Low](#)

The number of AIDS-related deaths among New York State's prison population hit a 14-year low last year.

September 25

[Wave of Laws Aimed at People With H.I.V.](#)

Reflecting a growing frustration and fear about AIDS, legislators around the country are passing an increasing number of laws intended to protect the public.

October 29

[2 Studies Dash Hope of Reducing Complex Regimen of AIDS Drugs](#)

Two new studies have undercut scientists' hopes that people infected with H.I.V. could avoid a lifelong regimen of taking a drug "cocktail."

November 24

[Dismaying Experts, H.I.V. Infections Soar](#)

AIDS virus infections worldwide have risen 10 percent over the past year, showing a disturbing lack of progress in prevention, the United Nations AIDS Program in Geneva said.

December 4

[For Unlucky Few, Gene Spurs AIDS Stampede](#)

Scientists have discovered why some people who are infected with the AIDS virus have a rapid downhill course, becoming gravely ill and dying within a few years.

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**1999: New Directions, New Frustrations**

February 16

[Study Finds H.I.V. Infection Is High for Young Gay Men](#)

The first large-scale study of H.I.V. infection among young gay men in New York City has found that large numbers have become infected with the virus in the last two years.

February 18

[Two Reports Criticize Prisons on H.I.V. Policy](#)

Despite a decade of scathing reports and government audits, the New York State Department of Correctional Services has failed to provide adequate H.I.V. prevention and health services.

April 20

[After 17 Healthy Years, Hope of 'Safe' H.I.V. Dies](#)

The ultimate dream of AIDS researchers is to find a nonvirulent strain of H.I.V. and turn it into a safe, effective vaccine.

May 29

[San Francisco Again Debates Over Bathhouses](#)

In a city still in an official state of health emergency after 26,000 reported cases of AIDS and 17,800 deaths, a movement is growing to allow the reopening of bathhouses where men can meet and have sex in private cubicles.

June 6

[For Subjects in Cornell's Haiti Study, Free AIDS Care Has a Price](#)

Many Haitians who visit the clinic are both patients and subjects of U.S.-financed medical research, and circumstances that are bad for their health are sometimes best for research results.

June 8

[Researchers Seek Volunteers to Test a New AIDS Vaccine](#)

Newark and New Jersey have begun casting their nets for test subjects for the world's first full-scale clinical trials of an AIDS vaccine.

June 28

[Study Says Gay Men Reducing Levels of Risky Sexual Behavior](#)

Gay men in New York City have significantly reduced their levels of risky sexual behavior, and the number of men infected with the AIDS virus has dropped sharply over the last 15 years, city health officials said in issuing findings on Sunday from the largest survey ever of gay men's sexual health.

July 13

[In Africa, a Deadly Silence About AIDS Is Lifting](#)

Earlier this year, AIDS became the leading killer in Africa, a mere 18 years after the infection was first recognized. But if political and religious leaders had responded with effective public health programs much earlier, they might have prevented hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of deaths.

July 15

[New Therapy Reduces AIDS Passed to Fetuses](#)

In an advance that promises to significantly reduce the incidence of AIDS in children in developing countries, American and Ugandan scientists have found a simple new way to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the AIDS virus that also is less costly and markedly more effective than the standard therapy in the third world.

July 24

[Condoms for Women Gain Approval Among Africans](#)

The female condom, seldom used in the West, is catching on in South Africa and in many parts of the developing world, slowly becoming an important new weapon in the fight against the AIDS epidemic.

July 29

[Drifter Says He Had Sex With Up to 300](#)

Nushawn J. Williams, the drifter from Brooklyn who officials say may have infected more than a dozen young women and girls in upstate New York with the virus that causes AIDS, now says that he may have had sex with as many as 300 women.

August 31

[Focusing on Prevention in Fight Against AIDS](#)

Death rates from AIDS in the United States slowed again in 1998. But the rates are no longer falling as rapidly as they did from 1995 to 1997, after the introduction of combination drug therapy, health officials said Monday at a meeting in Atlanta.

September 1

[Much More AIDS in Prisons Than in General Population](#)

The prevalence of AIDS among prisoners in the United States is five times that of the general population, and the rates for some other sexually transmitted diseases are even higher.

September 7

[AIDS Outbreak Feared for U.S. Tribes](#)

Some health experts say they fear that AIDS is about to explode among the 500 tribes in the United States. Last year on the Navajo reservation, for instance, AIDS cases grew by 25 percent to the current 101 cases, health officials said.

September 9

[Makers of AIDS Drugs Struggle to Keep Up With Market](#)

As the profile of those who have AIDS broadens -- until the mid-90's, it was overwhelmingly gay urban men but is now increasingly women, Hispanic people and blacks -- drug companies are scrambling to introduce AIDS drugs to new types of patients.

October 19

[New Tack: Halt H.I.V. Soon After Exposure](#)

Frustrated by the continued spread of H.I.V., a growing number of AIDS doctors are trying out an experimental treatment: an application of drugs meant to abort infection in a person who was recently exposed to the virus through unsafe sex.

October 20

[Court Rejects Giuliani's Policy on AIDS Benefits](#)

New York's highest court ruled on Tuesday that the administration of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani had created illegal obstacles for people with H.I.V. or AIDS to obtain public assistance.

November 24

[More African Women Have AIDS Than Men](#)

AIDS has long been considered primarily a men's disease. But on Tuesday the United Nations reported for the first time that more women than men were infected with the AIDS virus in Africa, the site of the vast majority of such infections in the world.

November 30

[New Book Challenges Theories of AIDS Origins](#)

Is AIDS a disaster inadvertently brought on by humans that arose from early testing of a polio vaccine in Africa in the 1950's? This provocative theory seemed far-fetched when it first came to public attention in an article in Rolling Stone in 1992.

December 17

[Shift in Money and Message as Minorities Take On AIDS](#)

The changing ethnic composition in people with AIDS reflects the broad, fundamental shift in the role of minorities in policy making and fund-raising to fight AIDS across the country. The executive offices and boards of broad-based AIDS organizations look increasingly diverse.

December 28

[Vending Machines Enlisted in AIDS Fight](#)

Endeavors to make preventive tools available to those that might be reluctant to seek them out in clinics or doctors' offices has the support of

two studies in the December issue of The American Journal of Public Health.

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## **The AIDS Epidemic: 2000**

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### **2000: New Century, Old Foe**

January 3

#### [Clinton Opposes Court Appeal of Prison Case](#)

The Clinton administration has urged the Supreme Court not to hear an appeal in a discrimination case brought on behalf of hundreds of H.I.V.-positive prisoners in the Alabama prison system.

January 11

#### [Gore Presides Over Security Council Debate on AIDS](#)

Vice President Al Gore, presiding over an unusual Security Council session called to debate the AIDS crisis in Africa, said today that the United States would add \$150 million to next year's budget to help combat that and other infectious diseases in the poorest countries.

January 14

#### [AIDS Surges in Black and Hispanic Men](#)

For the first time since AIDS was discovered nearly 20 years ago, AIDS was diagnosed in more black and Hispanic gay men than in white gays in 1998, Federal health officials reported.

January 19

#### [Justices Allow Segregation of Inmates With H.I.V.](#)

The Supreme Court left intact a lower court's ruling permitting Alabama prisons to segregate hundreds of H.I.V.-positive inmates and keep them from educational programs and even from religious services where they might mix with other prisoners.

January 31

#### [Study Finds Low H.I.V. Levels May Restrict Spread of Virus](#)

A study suggests that people with very low levels of H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS, in their blood are unlikely to spread the virus to others.

February 1

#### [Estrogen Offers Hope Against H.I.V.](#)

Estrogen strongly protected against infection by the simian AIDS virus in experiments with female monkeys, offering hope that it might be used to protect against the human AIDS virus in women, researchers have reported here at a meeting on the disease.

February 2

[AIDS Virus Originated Around 1930, Study Says](#)

Using a new statistical method and one of the world's most powerful computers, scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory said today that they had traced the origin of the AIDS epidemic to around 1930, nearly 30 years before the earliest known infection in humans.

February 3

[A New AIDS Mystery: Prostitutes Who Have Remained Immune](#)

One of the mysteries of the AIDS epidemic is that a small number of female prostitutes in Africa seem resistant to the virus that causes the disease even though they often have sex with infected men.

February 8

[Promise and Peril of New Drugs for AIDS](#)

In less than four years, the euphoria over the success of new drug combinations to treat AIDS has yielded to the sobering challenge of dealing with the drugs' complications and failures.

March 1

[Harare Journal: Zimbabwe's Sad Lack: Land to Bury AIDS Victims](#)

This struggling country has been short of a lot of things lately. Fuel to fill up its cars. Foreign currency to pay for its imports. And now, space to bury its dead.

March 6

[Patents: Human Gene Patented as Potential Fighter Against AIDS](#)

Finding a cure for people infected with the AIDS virus is an ambitious goal, but even more far-reaching may be the drive to create a vaccine that would keep people from getting the disease in the first place.

March 19

[South Africa in a Furor Over Advice About AIDS](#)

President Thabo Mbeki's decision to seek advice from two Americans who argue that H.I.V. does not cause AIDS has raised fears that South Africa's already soaring infection rate will climb still further.

March 21

[An Improbable Theory on AIDS Is Put to the Test](#)

Scientists in the United States and Europe are gearing up to test samples of an experimental polio vaccine stored for more than 40 years to determine whether it might have inadvertently been the spark that ignited the worldwide AIDS epidemic.

April 2

[In an AIDS Study, the Devil Is in the Details](#)

Imagine a medical study in which researchers are tracking the progress of H.I.V. in 415 heterosexual American couples. One of the partners is already infected. The doctors do not tell the uninfected partner that the other has the virus.

April 6

### [Simple Antibiotic Urged for Africans With H.I.V.](#)

The 23 million Africans infected with the virus that causes AIDS should be given regular doses of a common and affordable antibiotic to ward off fatal secondary infections, the World Health Organization and the United Nations AIDS program said.

April 24

### [Heroin Carries AIDS to a Region in Siberia](#)

Perhaps nowhere else in Russia have H.I.V. infections grown as explosively as in Irkutsk, a run-down river town just north of Mongolia, where heroin -- and the needle sharing that comes with it -- has proven the deadly catalyst in the AIDS epidemic.

May 7

### [Mbeki Details Quest to Grasp South Africa's AIDS Disaster](#)

For months, President Thabo Mbeki says, he pored through medical journals, consulted with scientists and struggled to understand the epidemiology of the AIDS epidemic that is ravaging his country.

May 11

### [U.S. to Study Vaccine's Ability to Suppress H.I.V. Levels](#)

The National Institutes of Health is set to begin its first full-scale tests of a vaccine for people already infected with the AIDS virus, the vaccine's manufacturer said.

May 12

### [Companies to Cut Cost of AIDS Drugs for Poor Nations](#)

Five pharmaceutical companies offered today to negotiate steep cuts in the price of AIDS drugs for Africa and other poor regions afflicted by the disease.

May 14

### [A President Misapprehends a Killer](#)

Mr. Mbeki is the only African leader to have questioned the consensus theory on AIDS. He has, moreover, an embattled history with the disease, having first become embroiled in the scientific debate three years ago, when Mr. Mandela's cabinet backed research into Virodene, a supposed cure developed locally that turned out to be carcinogenic.

May 21

### [Mbeki's Visit to U.S. Puts AIDS Activists in a Quandary](#)

President Thabo Mbeki is embarking on his first state visit to the United States since succeeding Nelson Mandela as president last year, and activists and those who treat AIDS are wondering how to greet him.

June 11

### [South Africa in Quandary: Should Gays Donate Blood?](#)

South Africa finds itself trying to reconcile human rights with the dangers of spreading the AIDS virus in the face of a challenge to its practice of disqualifying gay men from giving blood.

June 23

### [AIDS Is Moving Into Rural Areas, U.N. Study Says](#)

The global AIDS epidemic, long thought of as an urban phenomenon, is shifting strongly to rural areas in the third world, a report from Unaid and the Food and Agricultural Organization said.

June 25

### [The New Landscape of AIDS](#)

Antiviral drugs -- mainly the protease inhibitors introduced in the mid-90's -- have proved to be more effective than doctors and AIDS patients like Lee Chew, right, had dared to hope. And while they are expensive, they are also widely available, thanks to clinics and government subsidies.

June 28

### [U.N. Warning AIDS Imperils Africa's Youth](#)

About half of all 15-year-olds in the African countries worst affected by AIDS will eventually die of the disease even if the rates drop substantially in the next few years, the United Nations reported.

July 1

### [H.I.V. Cases Jump in San Francisco](#)

A small but sharp rise in new infections with the virus that causes AIDS has been detected among gay men in San Francisco over the last three years, San Francisco health officials said yesterday.

July 2

### [Writing the Bill for Global AIDS](#)

Overseas experts say that the way Americans see the AIDS epidemic is a luxury that reflects American thinking: any germ can be killed if it is hammered long enough with a big enough wad of dollars. But AIDS in the third world, they say, is really a welfare and education issue rather than a medical one.

July 7

### [A Call for Fair Access to Future AIDS Vaccine](#)

Though a vaccine to prevent AIDS is years away, steps should be taken now to enable a vaccine to be distributed widely in the third world as soon as it becomes available, a leading group in the vaccine effort said.

July 8

### [Report Dims Hope for AIDS Therapy](#)

A United Nations-sponsored study of AIDS infection among infants has dashed the hopes of scientists who thought they had found a simple way to prevent mothers from giving their infants the AIDS virus during breast-feeding.

July 9

### [In Effort to Save Lives, South Africa Creates Anti-AIDS Campaign That Mince No Words](#)

"My boyfriend just wants sex," "The Naked Truth," and "Oral sex." And underneath: "Talk about it." These and similar messages have sprung up in recent months on billboards along South Africa's main highways, on trains, near schools and in cities and rural areas as part of a campaign to encourage

young people to talk freely about sex and the risks of teenage pregnancy, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

July 10

[Amid Controversy, South Africa Opens World AIDS Forum](#)

Opening the first international conference on AIDS held in a developing country, President Thabo Mbeki singled out extreme poverty, rather than the disease ravaging his country and continent, as the leading killer both here and across Africa.

July 11

[South Africa Faults Critics of Its President on AIDS Stance](#)

Striking a defiant and combative tone, the South African government today lashed out at its increasingly vocal critics at the 13th International AIDS Conference, saying there was no need for President Thabo Mbeki to affirm that the human immunodeficiency virus, H.I.V., causes AIDS.

July 11

[Mystery Factor Is Pondered at AIDS Talk: Circumcision](#)

Scientists meeting here debated today what to do about a puzzling but potentially important finding about AIDS: that circumcised men are much less likely to become infected than uncircumcised men.

July 12

[New Therapy Strategies Pushed as AIDS Drugs' Promise Fades](#)

As the widely publicized hopes of a cure for AIDS have vanished and the limitations of standard drug therapy have become increasingly apparent, scientists are urgently seeking new strategies to make better use of therapies they have, researchers said.

July 13

[Hopes for Anti-H.I.V. Treatment Dashed](#)

Women at high risk of contracting the virus that causes AIDS should not use the widely sold spermicide, nonoxynol-9, because it may increase the risk of H.I.V. rather than protect against it, the United Nations warned.

July 14

[AIDS Studies on Infants Appear to Conflict](#)

A simple drug regimen may help protect babies from infection by the AIDS virus, research reported at the international AIDS conference found.

July 15

[Focus on AIDS Epidemic, Mandela Says](#)

Closing the 13th International Aids Conference, Nelson Mandela urged scientists to move beyond their concerns about South Africa's president and to focus on combating the epidemic that is raging across the African continent.

July 16

[Hopes for Anti-H.I.V. Treatment Dashed](#)

When the former South African president Nelson Mandela issued his forceful call for action to stop the AIDS epidemic that is ravaging his

country and much of the continent, it was a great relief to the 12,500 participants at the 13th international AIDS conference.

July 19

[U.S. Offers Africa Billions to Fight AIDS](#)

The United States plans to offer sub-Saharan African nations \$1 billion in loans annually to finance the purchase of American AIDS drugs and medical services.

August 2

[Scientists Warn of Inaction as AIDS Spreads in China](#)

With the AIDS virus skipping silently through China, a number of the country's leading medical experts have begun to complain that the government has done little to determine the extent of the problem.

August 7

[Barriers Hindering the Education of Asian-Americans About AIDS](#)

The diversity of cultures and languages among Asian-Americans may cause headaches for schoolteachers and census takers, but rarely does it affect matters of life and death. One glaring exception is in the prevention and treatment of H.I.V. and AIDS.

August 14

[AIDS Cuts Swath Through Africa's Teachers](#)

Six teachers a week in the Ivory Coast, a nation of 15 million people die of AIDS, a 1998 government study found, and officials believe the number has only gone up since then.

August 22

[Battling AIDS in Africa by Empowering Women](#)

For the past seven years, Dr. Nancy Padian has commuted between San Francisco and Harare -- some 10,000 miles -- to help Zimbabwean health workers gain some measure of control over the AIDS epidemic tearing through their nation in southern Africa.

August 22

[Loans to Buy AIDS Drugs Are Rejected by Africans](#)

The United States' offer of \$1 billion in annual loans to finance the purchase of anti-AIDS drugs in sub-Saharan Africa has been rejected by South Africa, one of the countries most devastated by the disease, health officials say.

September 1

[British Begin Human Testing of H.I.V. Vaccine](#)

Researchers began clinical trials with a vaccine aimed at an African strain of H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS.

September 8

[Advocates Say City Is Failing in Efforts to Shelter the Homeless With AIDS](#)

Dozens of people with AIDS have been turned away from emergency housing despite a November court order that requires the city to provide such shelter, homeless people and their advocates told a City Council hearing.

September 12

[Tests Fail to Support Theory on AIDS and Role of Chimpanzees and Vaccine](#)

Tests have failed to support a theory that the worldwide AIDS epidemic was touched off because an experimental oral polio vaccine used in Africa more than 40 years ago was made from chimpanzee tissue.

September 13

[Caribbean, Badly Hurt, Is Promised Help on AIDS](#)

With the Caribbean facing the highest rate of H.I.V. infection outside of sub-Saharan Africa, international donors and banks have pledged at least \$120 million to support a regional strategy to combat the disease, they announced.

September 28

[Report Harshly Criticizes the Government's Policy on AIDS](#)

Saying that more effective AIDS prevention could avert thousands of new infections each year in this country, the nation's leading science organization sharply criticized the Clinton administration today for what it said was a failure to develop a comprehensive and effective plan to combat the disease.

October 17

[South African Retreats From AIDS Debate](#)

South Africa's President, Thabo Mbeki, who has confounded much of the world by challenging prevailing scientific thinking on AIDS, is stepping out of the messy debate he touched off earlier this year, the government's chief spokesman said.

October 20

[Vaccine Controls AIDS Virus in Early Tests on Monkeys](#)

Using a new kind of vaccine, researchers report that they have been able to control a particularly lethal strain of AIDS virus in monkeys. The vaccine, made of DNA, did not prevent the animals from becoming infected, but it did prevent them from becoming ill.

October 28

[In Rural China, a Steep Price of Poverty: Dying of AIDS](#)

Against a backdrop of hostility and denial, a retired doctor is waging a lonely campaign to raise awareness and offer hope in China's remote villages where countless farmers are silently dying of AIDS.

November 1

[Company Tried to Bar Report That H.I.V. Vaccine Failed](#)

A California company tried to block the publication of a scientific paper that showed its H.I.V. vaccine was not effective, and it has asked for damages of more than \$7 million from the universities and researchers who published the findings.

November 14

[For Burmese, Repression, AIDS and Denial](#)

Burma, ruled by a hermit dictatorship that ignores virtually every human right, has plunged into widespread poverty, disease and drug abuse.

November 25

[AIDS Infections Rise Globally, but Sub-Saharan Cases Stabilize](#)

An estimated 5.3 million people, including 600,000 children under age 15, became infected with the virus that causes AIDS this year, the World Health Organization said.

November 29

[Guggenheim to Show Video Series on Early Days of AIDS](#)

Thousands of hours of videotapes of the AIDS epidemic -- including perspectives on the ebbing of young lives and correctives to the widespread misinformation about the illness -- have been collected at the Guggenheim Museum.

December 2

[South Africa to Distribute \\$50 Million in Donated AIDS Drugs](#)

After months of official indecision over how to confront the epidemic ravaging South Africa, the government announced today that it would make critical drugs available to people who have H.I.V. or AIDS.

December 19

[Speaking Out to Make AIDS an Issue of Color](#)

Working for more than a decade on AIDS research, policy, treatment and prevention issues, Mr. Phill Wilson, 44, has observed from close range how silence and denial fueled the spread of AIDS among African-Americans.

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## **The AIDS Epidemic: 2001**

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### **2001: A Lifeline Lost**

January 7

[Romania's AIDS Children: A Lifeline Lost](#)

Thousands of the Romanian children who contracted the virus that causes AIDS from needless blood transfusions a decade ago are still alive, but hundreds are now at risk of dying rapidly because they can no longer get the medicine they need.

January 17

[When Gene Sequencing Becomes a Fact of Life](#)

Visible Genetics has developed a test to sequence genes of the virus that causes AIDS, providing information to help doctors choose which of the 15 or so available drugs will work best against a particular patient's infection.

January 28

[Look at Brazil](#)

Patent laws are malleable. Patients are educable. Drug companies are vincible. The world's AIDS crisis is solvable.

January 30

### [The AIDS Questions That Linger](#)

When scientists meet in Chicago to present hundreds of papers about H.I.V. and other retroviruses, the gains reported are likely to be incremental in narrow aspects of research, not major breakthroughs.

February 4

### [U.S. Panel Seeks Changes in Treatment of AIDS Virus](#)

Altering a long-held policy, federal health officials are now recommending that treatment for the AIDS virus be delayed as long as possible for people without symptoms.

February 5

### [New Ideas Sought to Help AIDS Orphans](#)

AIDS has orphaned 12 million children in Africa, and new plans are desperately needed to cope with the millions more that are expected to be orphaned in coming years, a leading epidemiologist told the opening session of an AIDS meeting in Chicago.

February 6

### [Study in 6 Cities Finds H.I.V. in 30% of Young Black Gays](#)

Thirty percent of young gay black men are infected with the AIDS virus, according to a study of six large cities in the United States, federal researchers said.

February 7

### [Mutation That Slows H.I.V. May Play a Role in Hepatitis C](#)

Five years ago, scientists discovered that some people had a genetic mutation in their cells that could either protect them against infection from the AIDS virus or significantly slow the course of AIDS.

February 8

### [Study Reports Drug-Resistant Strains Have Increased to 14 Percent Among New H.I.V. Cases](#)

Drug-resistant strains of the AIDS virus have risen to a worrisome 14 percent among newly infected people, according to a study of nine cities in the United States and Canada.

February 9

### [Newly Discovered Molecule Is a Clue to the Spread of AIDS](#)

Researchers expressed hope, at the end of a major AIDS meeting, that a recently discovered molecule might eventually lead to new ways to prevent the infection.

February 13

### [To Combat the Wily H.I.V., Newer and Safer Drugs Are Necessary](#)

An arsenal of 15 drugs would seem ample to treat a disease successfully. Nevertheless, H.I.V. is so wily that the drugs are still failing thousands of infected people, including many who have taken each of the 15 at one time or another.

February 18

### [AIDS Drug: Giving the Gift of Life in South Africa](#)

After months of criticism, the South African government has quietly begun offering anti-AIDS medication to pregnant women to help prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus to the newborn.

February 26

### [In India and Africa, Women's Low Status Worsens Their Risk of AIDS](#)

The poverty and powerlessness of women in Africa and Asia are combining to make them increasingly vulnerable to AIDS, which some research groups are now calling a women's disease.

March 5

### [Access to AIDS Drugs at Issue in South African Trial](#)

In a case that opens this week in Johannesburg, international pharmaceutical companies are challenging a South African law aimed at easing access to AIDS drugs.

March 6

### [Trial in AIDS Drug Lawsuit Opens in Pretoria](#)

Thousands protested against the international pharmaceutical industry as it opened its effort to overturn a South African law aimed easing access to AIDS drugs.

March 15

### [Maker Yielding Patent in Africa for AIDS Drug](#)

Bristol-Myers Squibb said that it would no longer try to stop generic-drug makers from selling low-cost versions of one of its H.I.V. drugs in Africa, making it the second drug company in a week to greatly change its policies in the face of the AIDS epidemic.

March 20

### [A Molecular Offspring, Off to Join the AIDS Wars](#)

Dr. William Prusoff has the same half-proud air that any ordinary parent might sport when an offspring becomes successful. The fact that Dr. Prusoff's offspring happens to be a molecule — the AIDS drug stavudine, or d4T — changes things not at all.

March 29

### [AIDS Obstacles Overwhelm a Small South African Town](#)

In Hlabisa, South Africa, cheaper H.I.V. drugs are still too costly to provide to the poor in public hospitals, even though South Africa is better off than most countries in Africa.

March 31

### [Maker Agrees to Cut Price of 2 AIDS Drugs in Brazil](#)

Merck has agreed to cut the price of two AIDS medicines in Brazil, bowing to pressure from that country's government, which was threatening to develop generic copies of one of the drugs.

April 1

### [Cheaper AIDS Drugs Pose More Dangers in Africa](#)

American foundations and African experts say that unless public health systems are strengthened in poor countries, the benefits of more AIDS drugs at lower prices could be undone by ineffective distribution or misuse, leading to the development of new strains of drug-resistant viruses.

April 3

### [AIDS Education Is Aimed 'Down Low'](#)

With rising H.I.V. infection rates among African-Americans, educators have become worried that prevention messages are missing the mark.

April 9

### [Gay Republican Will Run White House AIDS Office](#)

Scott Evertz, a leader among gay Republicans in Wisconsin, will be named director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, senior White House officials said.

April 19

### [AIDS-Drug Deal Expected in South Africa Suit](#)

The drug industry's case against South Africa was postponed today after lawyers on both sides said they were close to settling a lawsuit that has prevented the government from importing and producing cheaper anti-AIDS drugs and other medicines.

April 21

### [Despite Legal Victory, South Africa Hesitates on AIDS Drugs](#)

With the Champagne consumed and the celebration over, advocates for AIDS patients looked to the future.

April 24

### [Generic Medicine for AIDS Raises New Set of Concerns](#)

Experts are divided over whether drug manufacture in developing countries is really the best way to ease the AIDS crisis.

April 24

[Lifting the Curtain on the Real Costs of Making AIDS Drugs](#)

About a dozen foreign drug manufacturers, working in the shadows to make copycat versions of patented AIDS medicines, are shedding new light on how little these medicines cost to make.

April 30

[Experts Say That Cheaper Drug Treatments Alone Are Not Enough](#)

Having won big price cuts for AIDS drugs sold in poor countries, groups in the fight against the epidemic are now pressing for a far broader line of attack, costing billions of dollars at a time when traditional sources of financial aid have been shrinking.

May 3

[Brazil's AIDS Chief Denounces Bush Position on Drug Patents](#)

The director of Brazil's AIDS program accused the Bush administration today of toughening America's stance toward Brazil's manufacture of generic AIDS drugs and of dragging AIDS policies into trade negotiations.

May 8

[Free AIDS Care Brings Hope to Botswana](#)

Botswana's bountiful diamonds have made it rich enough to mount a wide-ranging effort to save its most precious industry and its people from the AIDS epidemic.

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