# Documenting "A Disaster for Society": AIDS and the Office of NIH History



Michele Lyons, Curator, NIH Stetten Museum
National Institutes of Health
MeMA/ALHHS Meeting, April 2015, New Haven

"I made the decision that we would have to switch over to research on this disease [AIDS] because, as every month went by, I became more convinced that we were dealing with something that was going to be a disaster for society."

- Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

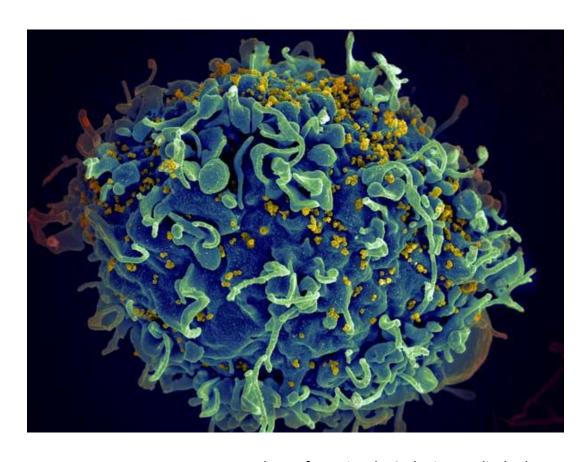


Photo of HIV virus by Seth Pincus, Elizabeth Fischer and Austin Athman, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health

## AIDS

#### MEMORANDUM

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

#### National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Volume 1, Number 1

August 1983

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#### INTRODUCTION

This is the first issue of the AIDS Memorandum. This Memorandum is being published by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to provide a centralized forum for the rapid but informal dissemination of new clinical and experimental findings on AIDS. It is also intended that, in the Memorandum, novel ideas about the disease can be aired among members of the wide scientific audience concerned with this syndrome. To date, despite the diversity of approaches to research and treatment which have been taken by immunologists, epidemiologists, oncologists, virologists, parasitologists, internists, molecular biologists and others, AIDS remains a mysterious, devastating, lethal disease.

The AIDS Memorandum is modeled on other scientific memoranda, such as the Hepatitis, Leprosy, and Interferon Scientific Memoranda. The formats used for all memoranda include certain specific features which distinguish them from the standard journals with which every researcher is familiar. Because AIDS is a uniquely political disease, the format and the ground rules (see Page 2) devised specifically for the AIDS Memorandum consider, in addition, how proper use and accurate representation of information printed in the Memorandum can be guaranteed such that the professional interests of contributors will be protected.

The AIDS Memorandum will print preliminary data, negative findings, single case reports, and other types of material not ready or, in some cases, suitable for publication in formal journals. The expeditious sharing of these types of data may serve an important role in the eventual development of regimens for successful disease control. Material



Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr. and Jane Stetten cut the ribbon on the museum's first exhibit, May 1987.

#### MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SURVICES -

10 Acting Director, DET, HOL

ex/10 October 13, 1951

22.000 . Head, Family Studies Section

(ES. 1985, ECCP. NO.

#00:000: Kanosi's Sarcore Staffes

The recent MC1-CEC workshop or Lapusi's surrows was very stimulating. I was very impressed, in particular by the data presented by the MTU group. The interdisciplinary approach that they have developed is exceptional, and the amount of data they have eccumulated, given the short time they have been at it, is impressive. As funding is being developed by MCI for further studies of this may discusse, I think it is very important that we demand of greatees that they (I) enroll patients on a common protocol. (2) systematically study patients, employing virologic, immerciage the harmonically study patients, employing virologic, immerciage to the UCC case-central study. It would be advantageous if centers from one geographic area that sight be competing for a lighted another of cases band together to may sight the potential for ethologic study. Thus, a case-sentium of universities could blend their talents in a comprehensive ethilogic and therapoutic program.

As I mentioned to you, Dr. Jim Howdort has pulled together some fascinating cots on a group of climically unaffected howeveral men. His results and interpretations are attached for your internation. Since these are enpublished and one-liminary data, they should be held in confidence.

If any of our group can be of assistance in caveloping stratectes (Air has already been advising COC), please feet free to call upon us-

oc: Er. J. F. Fraumeti, Jr. Er. J. J. Goodert Er. M. B. Groene Er. V. Dokys Harris Complete Control

ALDO HISTORY GROUP BEMSLATTER Spring 1996

#### Syring Meeting in Buffulo

The AIDS History Group will hold a funch workshop on Saturday, II May 1996, from 12 15 p.m. no 2 p.m., during the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Buttalo, New York. The session titled "Gral History, Archival Gollections, and Contemporary Mastery. The America of AIDS" will be charied by Victoria S. Ander. Three papers will be presented: Room Chandler and Cally Smith Haghes, "Archival Collections and Gral History: An Enriching Interaction": Barbara Smith Iruta, "The New Jercey AIDS Gral History Dioject and AIDS Collection", Caroline Hammasay, "The NIH AIDS Cost Instory Project: Bockmenting the NIH Response to AIDS (1988–1991) "

A short ABC business meeting will follow the precentations and discussion. Please bring one suggestion for a documentary project that should be undertaken but has not yet been started. Persens who can't attend should send suggestions to wherdenghelix nih gaw. We look forward to seeing you in Suffalo.

#### San Francisco Bay Area Oral History Project

The San Francisco Bay Area AIDS Oral History Project, spontored by the University of California at Berkeley and San Francisco and conducted by Selly Smith Hughes, is an ongoing series of interviews documenting the biomedical response to the San Francisco AIDS epidemic. The project collaborates closely with the BCSF Library's RIDS History Project which surveys and collects regional AIDS-related documents. The first phase of the oral history project consists of two to ten hour interviews with 17 university and health department physicians and scientists. Volumes one and two of the interviews are available at ICB or for purchase at cost. Phase 2 of the project consists of two to six hour intermees with corses associated with AUD; activities as DOSE, San Francisco Comercal Fospital, and the Wisining Murce. Association. Phase 3, begon in March 1996, will consist of interviews with H. III providing with private HIV practices. The forms of the first am phases is 1981-1984. Phase 2 will move forward in sime acinclude discussion of community-based clinical acidis and other more recent developments. For information about purchasing volumes, contact:

The Regional Gral History Office (18 Library University of California Jacksley, CA 94770

#### **AIDS and the Historian**

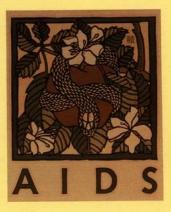
"Should we try to anticipate the questions that future scholars will want to ask and to formulate collection strategies on the basis of speculation?"

p. 34

"Should AIDS historians distance themselves from current events so as to be purely objective, or be responsive to current events so as to present a comprehensive view?" p. 32

The conference was sponsored by the AAHM AIDS History Group, ONH, NHLBI, NIDR, NLM, and UCSF.

## AIDS and the Historian



Proceedings of a Conference at the National Institutes of Health 20-21 March 1989

Edited by

Victoria A. Harden and Guenter B. Risse

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service National Institutes of Health

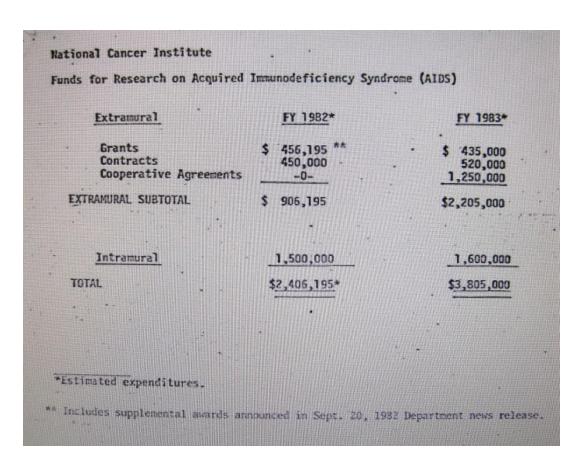


NIH Publication No. 91-1584

March 199

"Last month, Dr. Edward N. Brandt Jr., assistant secretary for health, directed the Public Health Service to increase activities related to AIDS. The supplemental money provided for 10 NCI-supported investigators is in addition to that included for current NCI research as well as \$2.205 million in FY '93 funds set aside for research in this area."

Department of Health and Human Services Press Release, September 20, 1982



"Most people think HIV is only a problem in big cities. Unfortunately, I was one of those people." One in 250 Americans is infected with HIV. 1-800-342-AIDS AMERICA

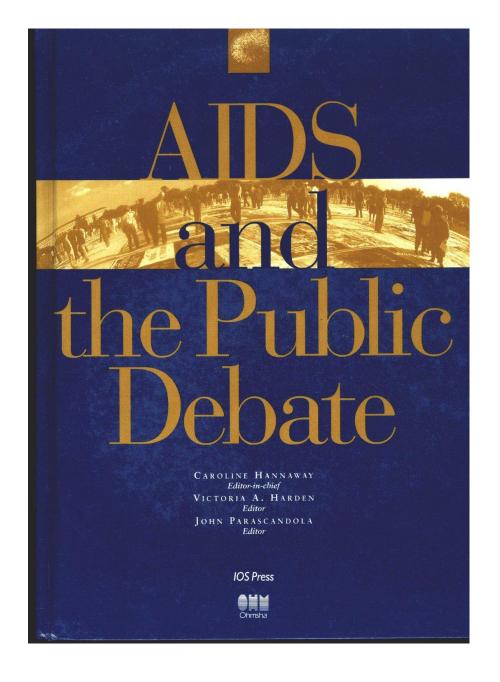
From the NLM AIDS Poster Collection: http://ihm.nlm.nih.gov/luna/servlet/view/all/what/Posters/



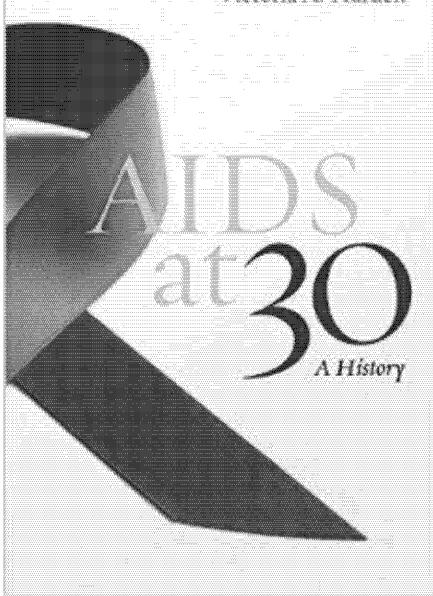
Drs. Victoria Harden (ONH), Donald Lindberg (NLM), and C. Everett Koop at the "AIDS and the Public Debate" conference sponsored by pharmaceutical companies Merck, Hoffmann-LaRoche, SmithKline Beecham, and Upjohn. NLM and NMHM provided space and support, as did William and Audrey Hefland.

The introduction to AIDS and the Public Debate noted: "AIDS has had a history of little more than a decade, but its impact on society has been so significant and its effects so diverse that it is not too early to begin to analyze the ways in which this disease has shaped our world and our reactions to it."

Harden's chapter can be found at <a href="http://history.nih.gov/NIHInOwn">http://history.nih.gov/NIHInOwn</a>
<a href="http://www.mistory.nih.gov/NIHInOwn">Words/docs/page 34.html</a>



Victoria A. Harden





http://history.nih.gov/NIHInOwnWords/index.html

**Transcripts of Oral Histories** 

**Timelines** 

**Document Archive** 

Image Archive

Links



Dr. Anthony Fauci's Carl Zeiss Inc. Universal Microscope 0433

## Abbott Laboratories Human T-Lymphotropic Virus Type III EIA Kit





## Coulter Corp. Antibody to HIV Type 1 p24 Antigen (Murine Monoclonal) ELISA Test System





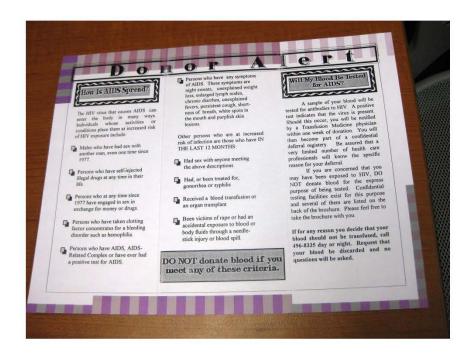
### Burroughs Wellcome Retrovir (Zidovudine) Capsule Bottle



#### **Blood Donor Alert Information**

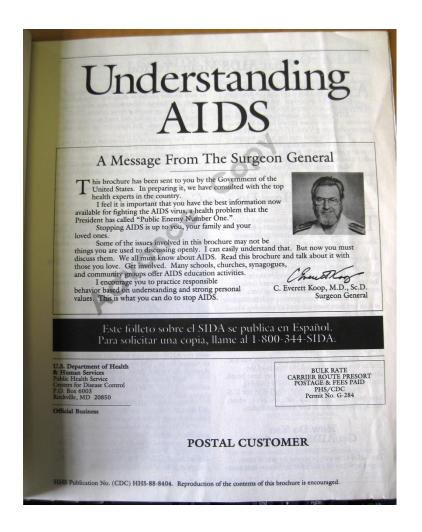
1983 1993

HIGH RISK GROUPS Recently, the medical community has noted the occurrence of a very serious disease known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The Center for Disease Control has documented an increasing number of cases of this disease throughout the As the name indicates, the disease seems to disrupt the patient's immune system, that is, impairs their ability to fight off disease. Very little is known about the disease about its causes - except that it is known to be fatal and that currently specific treatment is unknown. In the past, you have helped us to help others through your plasma donation efforts. We are now faced with a situation in which only you can help us insure a safe product to those whose lives depend on it. Because of our goal of reducing the possibility that this disease might be transmitted through our products, we are now asking for your commitment also. Until the cause of this disease is determined, we are asking people TO NOT DONATE BLOOD OR PLASMA who are a part of any of the following groups: 1. Persons with signs and symptoms suggestive of "AIDS" 2. Sexually active homosexual men with multiple partners 3. Sexually active bisexual males (one having sex with both sexes) with multiple partners. 4. Haitian entrants into country last (3) years 5. Present and past abusers of intravenous drugs Sexual partners of individuals at increased risk of "AIDS" Please inform the medical historian if you are a part of these groups. Our physician is also available to answer any questions which you might have concerning AIDS. Thank you for your cooperation. I hereby certify that I have read and understand this document and to the best of my knowledge I am not a part of any HIGH RISK GROUP. 29 May 93 WITNESS WITNESS



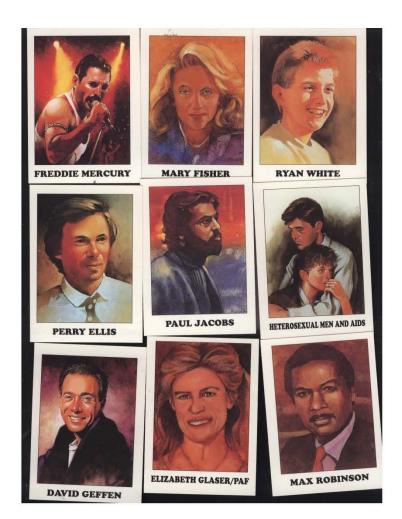
"I can say more people came out of the woodwork wanting to sign that letter than I thought were working at HHS."

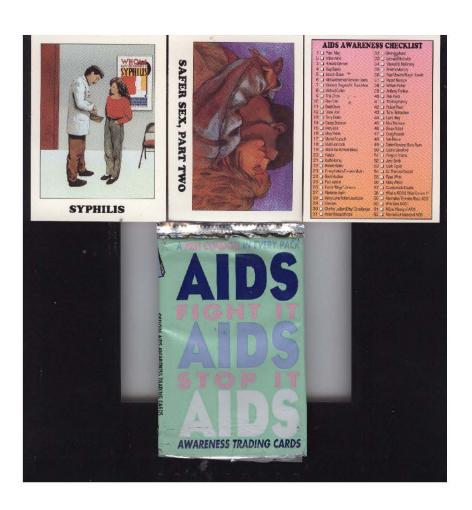
Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, AIDS and the Public Debate p. 15



## Eclipse Enterprises AIDS Awareness Trading Cards with Condom, 1992 Artists Charles Hiscock and Greg Loudon

A complete set had 110 cards.





### May 21, 1990 ACT-UP "Storm the NIH" Demonstration





## 25 Years of AIDS Research



25 Years of AIDS Research: June 5, 2006 <a href="http://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?Live=5028&bhcp=1">http://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?Live=5028&bhcp=1</a>

### 'AIDS in New York: The First Five Years' at New York Historical Society



### What have we learned?

Don't assume someone is collecting the history of a particular crisis in your institution.

Don't wait to collect.

Use and make contacts.

Collect all sides of the story.

Don't forget the science!