

Document 1041

[21041001]

Federal health officials are expected today to approve a program granting long-deferred access to the drug AZT for children with acquired immune deficiency syndrome .

[21041003]

The clearance by the Food and Drug Administration comes after two years of restricted access for the youngest victims of AIDS to the only antiviral drug yet cleared to treat the fatal disease .

[21041006]

Adults with AIDS have had access to AZT since FDA approved the drug 's usage for adults in March 1987 .

[21041007]

But despite more than two years of research showing AZT can relieve dementia and other symptoms in children , the drug still lacks federal approval for use in the youngest patients .

[21041008]

As a result , many youngsters have been unable to obtain the drug and , for the few exceptions , insurance carriers wo n't cover its cost of \$ 6,400 a year .

[21041009]

So far , AIDS has stricken 1,859 children under age 13 , with many times that number believed to carry the infection without symptoms .

[21041010]

To date , 1,013 of those children have died , according to the federal Centers for Disease Control .

[21041011]

Mothers of young AIDS patients expressed somber satisfaction .

[21041012]

" Thank goodness it 's happening .

[21041013]

It should have happened sooner , " said Elizabeth Glaser , a Los Angeles mother and activist who contracted the AIDS virus through a blood transfusion , and transmitted it to two of her children .

[21041014]

One of them , a daughter Ariel , died a year ago at age seven after her parents unsuccessfully pleaded for the drug .

[21041015]

" I could get AZT , " says Mrs. Glaser , who bears her infection without any symptoms .

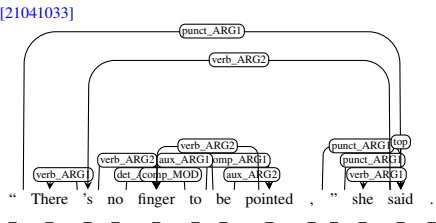
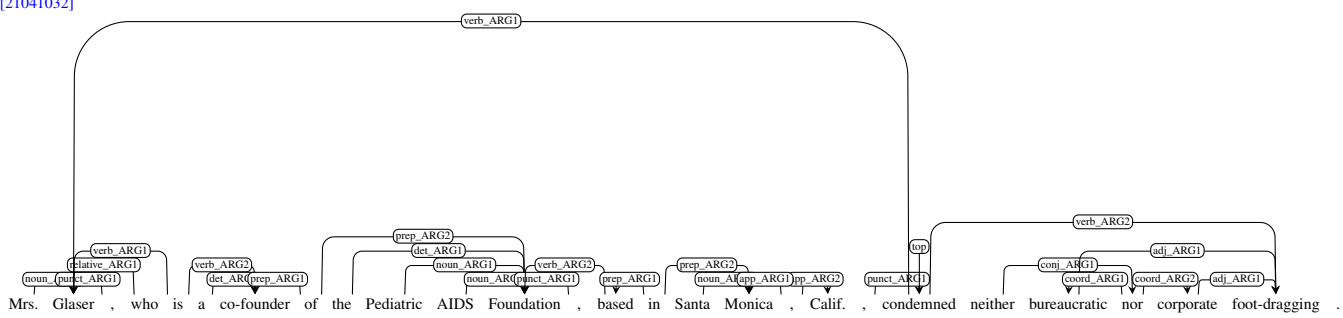
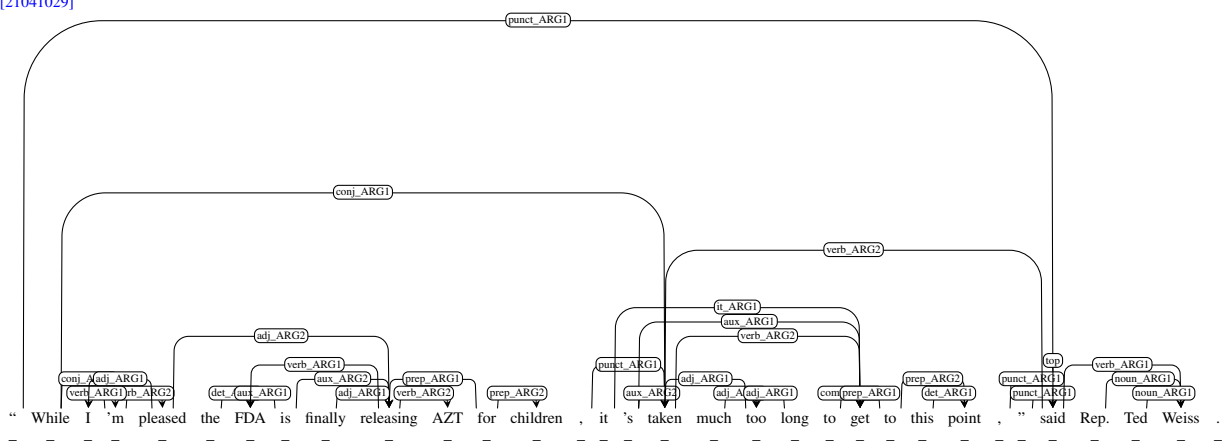
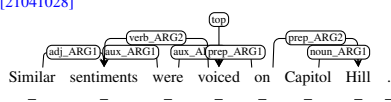
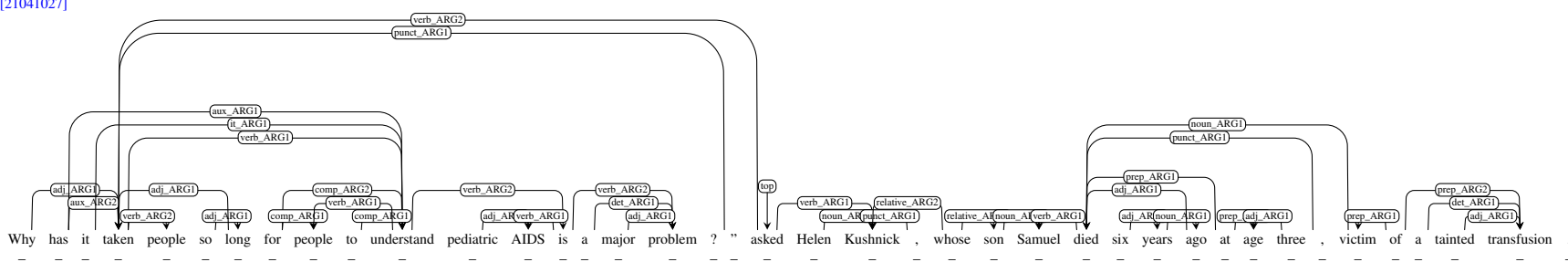
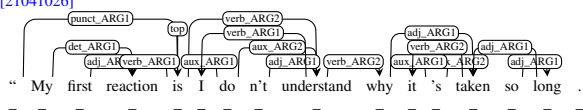
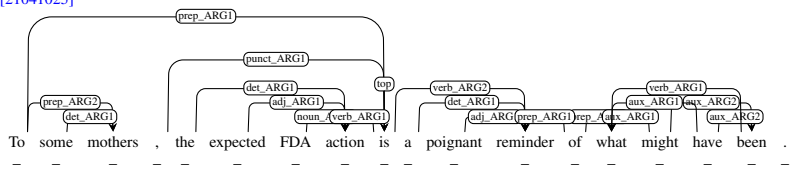
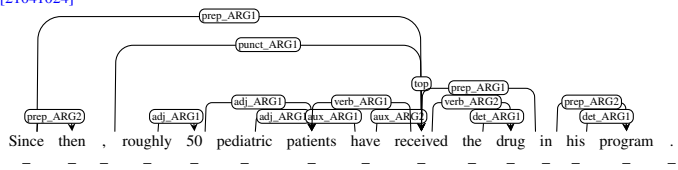
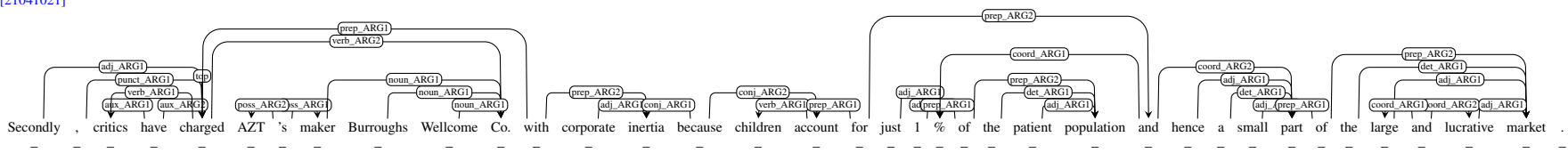
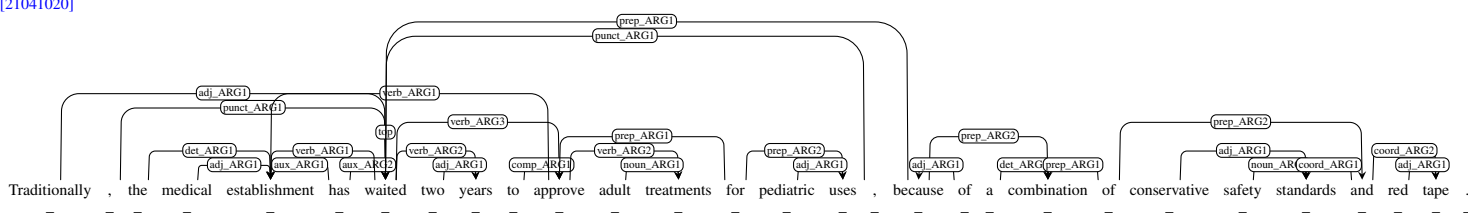
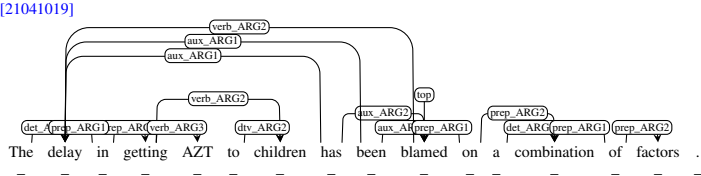
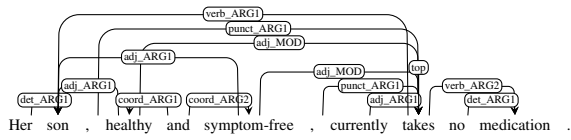
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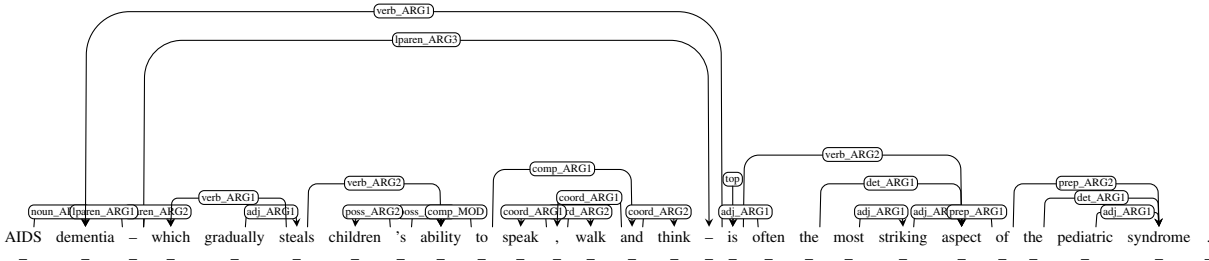
" But my daughter could n't , until she was too ill to take it .

[21041017]

To watch your child die is an inhuman experience . "

[21041018]





[21041036]

