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B' OTULA OWUOR, Sci.nc. E"tu.

Will medical researchers ever find a cure for Aida? What has become Of

the vaccines Kemron, Immunex and the first Aids drug AZT? What

about the new compound called Cytopar? Are there any other new

compounds being developed?

These are just some Of the questions that worry medical experts Who

believe that, unless a Cure is found, some nations may depopulated

if the level Of infection reaches 30 per cent.

Despite increased health education

continue to be infected With the Aids

Organisation says may 40 million people.

The number increasing rapidly in Africa where millions Will die

because Of illiteracy, ignorance and the lack of medical equipment

needed for sterilisation and blood screening.

r, the results of a released the Institute of

Research Studies at the University Of Nairobi indicate that

intimate and casual sex is still rampant in the country an Aids

control has a long way to

Some doctors in Kenya believe that talking about the march for an

Aids cure encourages lax attitudes among people. However, others like

Prof Arthur Obel — who this week said that a new anti\_Aids (inset)

that

compound, Cytopar, is be. investigated — believe that it is inhuman

to just sit and wait for patients to die.

"Doctors and medical researchers have a moral duty to

look for new drugs and modes Of

treatment that can keep patients

in an interview at

office in Nairobi. 'The virus has

defied researchers in nations With

ultra-modern technologies and

we can no longer Wait despite

limitations," he added.

In 1981, Prof Obel identified

and documented proven cases of

although

three years after. Of

the local experts — with Dr Davy

the director of Kenya

Medical Research Institute —

e with Kemron, the

Aids drug based on oral

use low-dose natural interferon

alpha. However, the professor

said that although he was involved in the initial work on

Kemron, he is no longer qualified

to talk about drug and com-

pound he is using is actually

swallowed and not absorbed in

the mouth like Kemron.

There is need to constantly

remind people about preventive

Prof Obel

measures

emphasised.

' 'The emergence of Kemron

and another interferon-based

drug, Immunex, should be seen as

postive moves in the war against

and there is no need for

unnecessary struggles because

the truth always come out,"

Prof Obel said.

Researchers should

be looking for and trying Out sub-

stances "at show advantages in

he added.

He said that high interest in

finding effective drugs against

the disease goes back to the first

case he identified. "

patients

me first and their

is

One-Aids

who won't throw

in the towel yet

am an optimist and I believe

that, With constant effort, it Wili

be possible to provide better

management or even contain the

disease," he said.

There is still much to be understanding of the nature of both the

Aid" virus and the disease itself.

The professor said that it may be

possible that the virus Stands by

after initiating e chain of reactions that destroy the body.

and and

cell and

their impact on

mechanisms can be negative.

There are cages of diarrhoea in

Aids patients which be

linked to excessive release free

molecules Or radicals, he

Prof Obers management Of

also involves the removal Of

these radicals that may be interfering with the body's functions.

dimension in the management

Of the disease.

Cytopar stabilises cell membranes, enabling the return of

normal function, and it helps deal

with anaesthesia, a condition

common in Aids patients with

low blood pressure and weight

loss. This condition is also common in those With disease. The drug also stimulates

body cells.

Prof Obel said there need

remove the stigma associated

with Aids because it makes

people to shy away from treatment and counselling. However,

experimental treatment come

from Kenya, Tanzania and

Uganda.

Prof said that apart from

the obvious need to do

for the large number of those infected by the virus, his train.

and interests in metabolic

cine, clinical medicine and pharmacology plus

to pay more attention to the

His experimental drug gives

Kenyans at least four anti-Aids

drugs, including Kemron,

Immunex and AH. week,

an official Of the Welcome Foundation, which markets AZT, the

first anti -Aids drug. told the Sunday Nation that recent tests indicate the drug delays the onset

of Aids or the final stages of infection with the Human

Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Although the country has these

four drugs, there is still room for

screening herbs for antiviral

properties. However, thing may

not be easy. There is much jealousy and

malice among

They

innovations or

efforts

Unlike the in countries

such as Kenya: no

, the fact of American coming to Kenya

and collecting to produce

anti-cancer drugs, discredit Kenya

Finally, Kenyans should be re-

minded that the effort to

find effective drug, they

must stick to their sex partners

indiscriminate and casual sex simply means death. The

cure for Aids has yet to be

announced.