Israeli medic brings hope of Aids cure

**BY YUH TIMCHIA**

NATION Correspondent

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Findings from ground breaking

research have suggested

that a breakthrough treatment

that eradicates HIV and Aids

from infected patients has been

discovered.

An Israeli medic who

pioneered the use of immunotherapy

through stem cell

transplantation, Professor Shimon

Slavin, is lead researcher

in the study that resulted in

the novel medical technique

that could finally bring salvation

to more than 34 million

persons living with the virus

worldwide.

He claims his new approach,

which involves stem cell transplantation,

can effectively

replace an immune system that

has fallen apart with a new one

with very minimal intoxication

of patients, especially if the

donors are resistant to HIV.

Prof Slavin, Medical and

Scientific director of Israel’s

International Centre for Cell

Therapy and Cancer Immunotherapy

(CTCI) in Tel

Aviv, says his study is based

on a newly discovered biological

compound. The compound

he did not name but said was

discovered by a Japanese scientist

working in the USA, “can

activate macrophages, which

are a type of white blood cells

that form part of the human

body’s defence mechanism, to

eliminate infections and induce

an immune response against

infections.”

A small pilot study, he says,

has proven that this can do

away with the viral load in

persons with HIV but affirms

the results are still too small

to lead to a broad-spectrum

conclusion.

“It is simple,” Prof Slavin

says. “It’s one or two injections

a week which patients

themselves can administer at

home. This will be important

great news to the world.’’

A great deal of HIV research

has laid more stress on vaccines

or drugs that only slow

the progress of the virus.