



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Recent New York Studies Show Immune System Struggle in HIV Infection.

New York- The immune system mounts a furious, prolonged struggle against the AIDS virus during HIV infection, new studies document.

Infection kicks the immune system into overdrive, making it produce perhaps 2 billion disease-fighting cells every day just to replace those destroyed by infection, researchers found.

The fact that the body can meet that challenge suggests that the battered immune system could recover if the HIV onslaught could somehow be controlled, the researchers said.

"What we must do is deal with the destruction by the virus. ... The replenishment process is already working overtime," said Dr. David Ho, whose study is one of two on the topic published in today's issue of the journal Nature.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who was not involved in the studies, said the overall results provided evidence of what scientists had already assumed about HIV infection. The new works show "impressively high" amounts of activity involving HIV and the disease-fighting cell, called CD4, he said.

Researchers calculated that each day, 20 million to 7 billion copies of HIV per person appeared in the blood of people they studied, and an equal number were removed, probably by the immune system, natural filters and entry into CD4 cells. Similarly, about 2 billion CD4 cells were created on average each day and an equal number destroyed as a result of HIV infection.

One of the studies, by Dr. George M. Shaw of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and co-authors, calculated that an infected person may replace, on average, about 5 percent of the body's total CD4 population every day. That shows that the immune system can still produce lots of CD4 cells, Shaw said.

Another finding points up an obstacle to controlling HIV. Shaw's group found that in patients treated with the experimental drug nevirapine, the initial population of HIV in the blood was replaced by mutant strains resistant to the drug within four weeks.

The other study was by Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center at the New York University School of Medicine and co-authors.

New Report Says HIV Most Contagious When People Don't Know They Have It

DETROIT (AP) — The AIDS virus may be 100 to 1,000 times more contagious during the first two months of infection, when routine AIDS tests are unable to tell whether people are infected, researchers said Friday.

Among Gay men, the chances of infecting a partner during unprotected sex in the initial 60 days may be as high as three in 10, the University of Michigan research team said.

"It means that if you're trying to evaluate a partner for how risky it is to have sex, it is not just how many partners, but also how recently," said James S. Koopman, a University of Michigan epidemiologist.

Routine AIDS tests look for presence of antibodies the body has made to defend against the AIDS virus. The antibodies don't immediately appear.

HIV-infected people can be healthy and live for years before the virus begins reproducing and attacks the body's immune system.

"The danger is that a person who tests negative and is very active sexually may be more dangerous than someone who has tested positive," said Carl S. Simon, another University of Michigan researcher.

Other studies have suggested that HIV, the AIDS virus, is most contagious in early stages. The Michigan study, a mathematical analysis based on existing research, attempted to determine how much more contagious.

"Within the context of actual studies, there are limited data to support this contention and this model puts some mathematical odds on infectiousness early on," said Dr. Scott Holmberg of the Division of HIV-AIDS at the At-

New Republican Controlled Congress Brings Uncertainty to AIDS Funding

More Equitable Distribution of Funds Gaining Support



Great Music—Beethoven (Gary Oldman) performs before polite Viennese society in "Immortal Beloved." The film which opens its regular engagement January 27 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater, will have a benefit premiere for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra on January 25. (See page 10 for details.)

Helms Introduces Bills in Congress That Would Promote Anti-Gay Discrimination

(Washington, D.C.)— In the first indication that anti-Gay extremists in the new Republican-controlled Congress may target Lesbians and Gay Americans in discriminatory legislation, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) has introduced two bills that would promote hate speech and discrimination against federal workers. The Helms bills mark the first two pieces of anti-Gay legislation introduced in the 104th Congress, according to an analysis by the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

The first bill, numbered S.23, would give a special exemption from workplace non-discrimination policies to government employees who voice prejudices against Lesbian and Gay coworkers.

The second bill, S.25, would target Lesbian and Gay employees for discrimination by denying their employee organizations the same rights to free association and free speech guaranteed to other employee groups.

Twenty-two employee groups for Lesbian and Gay federal workers have formed, similar to groups representing African Americans, Latinos and women in the federal work force.

Following a growing trend in the private sector, at least 17 major federal agencies have included Lesbian and Gay people along with other workers in their non-discrimination policies. No federal law protects people from being fired or otherwise discriminated against in the work place on the basis of sexual orientation.

HRCF polled members of Congress last year on their own employment practices and found broad bi-partisan support for the principle that Gay and Lesbian people should not be singled out for discrimination in the work place.

82 Republicans and 231 Democrats—including majorities of both parties in the Senate—confirmed that they do not discriminate in their offices on the basis of sexual orientation.

(While Helms is reported to have said that he does discriminate and would not hire someone who he knew was Gay, he has, by one reliable account, three Gay people working for him in his office.)

Further, one of Helms' neighbors reports that there are several Gay families on the block in the Virginia suburb where he lives. "He just doesn't know, that's all," the source said.)

In addition, a post-election poll of voters in the November election found that majorities of Republicans, Democrats and Independents support equal rights in the work place for Lesbian and Gay people.

In a random survey of 800 voters conducted November 8 and 9 by the independent polling firm of Mellman Lazarus Lake, Inc., 70% said Gay people should not face unfair job discrimination—with 64% of Republicans, 71% of Independents and 77% of Democrats supporting the idea.

Anticipating the Helms bills and supporting its lobbying activities on Capitol Hill, HRCF has activated its 5,000 member Federal Agency Network to generate calls and letters to Congress.

HRCF is also coordinating communications activities with the federal Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Employees (GLOBE) organization.

(Milwaukee)— The Republican revolution in Washington, D.C. has turned the national AIDS community upside down as it scrambles to position itself to protect hard-won AIDS funding from the previous Democratic, AIDS-friendly Congress.

While AIDS advocates from around the country are deeply worried about how massive federal budget cutting by the new Republican Congress will affect AIDS programs, in an ironic political twist, the Wisconsin-led Campaign For Fairness in Ryan White CARE Act Funding is picking up significant support from the new Congressional leaders for its issue of equity.

"It's good news, bad news," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) parent agency. "My read from Capitol Hill is that the Republicans are likely to re-authorize the CARE Act with far more equitable formulas, but at the same time, while in pursuit of a balanced budget, they could make deep cuts in federal domestic spending which would harm funding for critical AIDS services."

Nelson, who in the past month has made several trips to Washington to lead the continuing lobby effort for increased AIDS housing funding and equity in the CARE Act, spoke with Wisconsin Light upon his return from a highly controversial AIDS community meeting on the CARE Act.

Sources on the Hill have told Wisconsin Light that Nelson's unstinting lobbying efforts have been in large measure responsible for the fact that AIDS funding is being considered favorably by the new solons.

"I used our latest meeting to try to convince the Ryan White AIDS Coalition to modify its position to better address formula equity," Nelson reported. "Because of the new leadership on the Hill which supports the principles of equity, I urged our Coalition to respond to these political realities."

"Much to my surprise and disappointment, there was no support for any change of position," Nelson said. "To the contrary, the demand of the Coalition was for the Campaign For Fairness to sign a loyalty pledge to last year's Kennedy-Waxman Bill which we could not do in light of the strong support for equity among new Republican leaders and a growing number of Democratic members."

Nelson reported that the Campaign was asked to leave the Coalition for its failure to sign the loyalty pledge.

"They cut off the dialogue on critical issues that the new Congress will address and that makes no sense," Nelson said. "The wisest political strategy is to engage the new Republican leadership on our issues and that is precisely what our Campaign will continue to do."

Since the Campaign's ouster from the Ryan White Coalition, Nelson and several other Campaign leaders have met with U.S. Senators and staff including the staff leadership of Sen. Nancy Kassenbaum (R-KS) who will chair and lead the Senate committee responsible for re-authorization of the CARE Act.

"Senator Kassenbaum will write a new bill which will address our issues of equity," Nelson reported. "I am confident that the Senator's commitment extends to changing the CARE Act formulas so that living AIDS cases are counted and funds are distributed throughout the country where the HIV epidemic is headed."

When asked if he was angry about the

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**Keanu Reeves
Did He
Or Didn't He?
See Page 10**