

HISTORY OF AIDS IN AMERICA AND IT'S MORAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- June 5, 1981
- CDC-Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
- Rare lung infection *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) reported in 5 young healthy gay men in Los Angeles, California
- June 6, 1981
- The Associated Press, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle report on the MMWR article and within days the CDC receives multiple reports of PCP and clustering of Kaposi Sarcoma (KS) in gay men in New York City & California

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- July 3, 1981
- MMWR reports KS and PCP among 26 Gay men in NYC and Calif.
- Sept. 21, 1981
- The nation's first KS clinic opens in San Francisco
- Dec. 10, 1981
- Bobbi Campbell a San Francisco nurse becomes the first KS patient to go public.

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- By the end of 1981 there were a total of 270 reported cases of severe immunodeficiency among Gay men and 121 of those individual had died. Researchers begin calling the condition GRID- Gay Related Immunodeficiency.
- Jan.4, 1982
- Gay Men's Health Crisis become the first community based Aids Service Provider in the USA and is formed in NYC.
- April 13,1982
- The first congressional hearings on AIDS at LA Gay & Lesbian Community Services center in Hollywood convened by congressman Henry Waxman

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- CDC head James Curren estimates that tens of thousands of people may be affected by the disease.
- Sept. 24, 1982
- CDC for the first time defines AIDS. “A disease at least moderately predictive of a defect in cell mediated immunity, occurring in a person with no known case for diminished resistance to that disease”
- Dec. 10, 1982
- CDC reports a case of AIDS in an infant who received blood transfusions.

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- Jan. 1, 1983
- Ward 86 the worlds first out patient AIDS Clinic opens at San Francisco General Hospital and becomes the model for medical care.
- Jan. 4, 1983
- CDC and the FDA public meeting fail to reach a consensus on appropriate action to protect the nations blood supply from Aids.
- Jan.7, 1983
- CDC reports cases of Aids in Females.

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- March 4, 1983
- CDC reports that most cases of AIDS have been reported among homosexual men with multiple sexual partners, people who inject drugs, Haitians and hemophiliacs. The report suggests that AIDS may be caused by an infectious agent that is transmitted sexually or through blood products.
- May 1983
- Dr. Françoise Barre at the Pasteur Institute in France makes the discovery of the causative agent for AIDS a retrovirus they call Lymphadenopathy Associated Virus (LAD)

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- June 3, 1983
- People Living with AIDS take over the plenary stage at the National AIDS Forum in Denver, Colorado and asked to be called People with AIDS not AIDS Victims. The meeting created the Denver Principles and it serves as the charter for the founding of the National Association of People with AIDS.
- September 9, 1983
- CDC identifies all major routes of HIV Transmission and rules out transmission by casual contact, with food, water, air or environmental surfaces.

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- September 30, 1983
- A New York doctor is threatened with eviction from his building for treating AIDS patients. The state Attorney General and the Lambda Legal file the first AIDS discrimination case.
- January 1984
- Community based AIDS Service Organizations join together to form AIDS Action a national organization in Washington DC to advocate for people and communities affected by the epidemic.

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- April 23, 1984
- Dr. Robert Gallo at NCI states that they have found the cause of HIV a retrovirus they labeled HTLV 3. Margaret Heckler of HHS states that a vaccine against AIDS will be produced within 2 years.
- October 1984
- San Francisco and NYC officials order the closure of bath houses.
- March 1985
- FDA Licenses the first commercial blood test ELISA (Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay) to detect HIV. Blood banks begin screening the US blood supply.

HIV IN AMERICA TIME LINE

- April 1985
- HHS and WHO host the first International Aids Conference in Atlanta.
- August 1985
- Ryan White an Indiana teenager with hemophilia contracted AIDS through blood products, is refused entry to his middle school
- Sept. 1985
- President Ronald Regan mentions AIDS publicly for the first time calling AIDS a top priority defending his administration and the funding for AIDS research

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- Oct. 2 1985
- Actor Rock Hudson dies of AIDS. His will leaves \$250,000 to help set up the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR) and Elizabeth Taylor is it's first chairperson.
- May 1986
- The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses declares that the virus that causes AIDS will officially be known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Oct. 1986
- CDC reports that AIDS cases are disproportionately affecting African Americans and Latinos.
- March 1987
- Playwright and AIDS Activist Larry Kramer founds the group AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP)

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- March 19
- The FDA approves the first antiretroviral drug Zidovudine (AZT) and creates emergency funding to states for AZT.
- March 31
- President Ronald Regan and French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac end an international scientific dispute, when they announce that researchers from both countries will share credit for the discovery of the AIDS virus. The 2 countries agree that the patent rights to a blood test and the royalties will be shared

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- April 29th
- The FDA approves the Western Blot blood test kit a more specific test for HIV antibodies.
- May 5
- The US adds HIV as a dangerous contagious disease to its immigration exclusion list and mandates HIV testing for all visa applicants. The HIV ban would not be lifted until 2010.

HIV IN AMERICA TIMELINE

- Aug. 2
- A federal judge orders Florida's Desoto County School Board to enroll HIV positive brothers Ricky, Robert and Randy Ray. The School Board refused to allow the 3 brothers who were hemophiliacs to attend school. After the ruling angry town residents refused to let their children attend school and someone sets fire to the Ray's house on August 28th destroying it.
- Oct. 11
- The AIDS Memorial Quilt goes on display at the national Mall in Washington D.C.

HIV IN AMERICA TIME LINE

- October 14
- In a 94-2 vote the U.S. Senate adopts the Helms Amendment which requires federally financed educational materials about AIDS to stress sexual abstinence and forbids any material that promotes homosexuality or drug use.
- Nov. 13
- The American Medical Association declares that doctors have a ethical obligation to care for people with AIDS, as well as those who have become infected with the virus that show no symptoms.

MORALS AND ETHICS

- Basis for comparison
- Meaning

Morals

Morals are beliefs of the individual or groups as to what is right or wrong

Ethics

Are the guiding principles which help the individual or group decide what is good or bad

Governed by

Social & Cultural Norms

Individual or Legal & Professional Norms

MORALS AND ETHICS

	Morals	Ethics
• Basis for Comparison		
• Deals with	Principals of right or wrong	Right or wrong conduct
• Consistency	Morals differ from society to society and culture to culture	Ethics are generally uniform
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THE HISTORY AND ETHICS OF AZT

- 1) In the 1960's the predominate theory was that most cancers were caused by environmental retro viruses. Howard Temin and David Baltimore demonstrated the existence of reverse transcription and that all avian cancers are caused by retroviruses.
- 2) It was also known that anti-cancer drugs like 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP) could successfully block the synthesis of nucleic acids and had antibacterial, antiviral and anticancer effects.
- 3) Jerome Horowitz first synthesized AZT in 1964 under a National Institute of Health (NIH) Grant. Horowitz was unable to demonstrate that AZT had any effect on mouse cancers.

THE HISTORY AND ETHICS OF AZT

- 4) Wolfram Ostertag at the Max Plank Institute for Experimental Medicine in Germany demonstrated the ability of AZT to inhibit the replication of the Murine Leukemia Virus (Friend Virus) a retrovirus, in cell cultures.
- 5) In 1983 Francoise Barre identified a retrovirus as being associated with LAV and there after the NCI initiated a program to develop HIV therapies by using a line of CD4+ T-Cells that they made and subsequently developed an assay to screen drugs for their ability to protect CD4+ T- Cells.
- 6) The NCI sought collaborations with pharmaceutical companies that had access to libraries of compounds with potential anti-viral activity. The company Burroughs-Wellcome (BW) had a background in studying compounds with the

HISTORY AND ETHICS OF AZT

- (continued)

capacity of inhibiting reverse transcriptase. BW demonstrated that their remade version of AZT (Compound S) was able to inhibit the replication of Friend Virus.

- 7) BW sent Compound S to the NCI where it showed a protective effect on CD4+ T-Cells. In February 1985 Phase I clinical trials were begun using a placebo controlled model and BW applied for a patent for AZT.
- 8) A subsequent clinical trial randomized 300 patients for 6 months in a placebo controlled trial. At 16 weeks the trial was stopped as during that time there was 1 death in the treated group and 19 deaths in the placebo group. BW pushed the FDA to approve the drug and AZT was approved by the FDA in March of 1987 making

HISTORY AND ETHICS OF AZT

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- it the fastest drug approved by the FDA with a drug development period of only 25 months.
- 9) In Sept. 1989 ACT-UP confronted BW at the New York Stock Exchange. By 1989 more than 60,000 people in the U.S had died from AIDS. The original price for AZT was \$10,000 per year and the cost was lowered to \$8,000 per year after Congress threatened a Congressional Hearing. AZT was the most expensive drug ever at that time and over the period of time from 1987 to 1989 BW's stock increased 40%. At the opening bell on that Sept. day at the New York Stock Exchange ACT-UP unraveled a banner that read "Sell Wellcome". Within 2 weeks BW reduced the price of AZT to \$6,400.

HISTORY AND ETHICS OF AZT

- 10) In 1991 the advocacy group Public Citizen filed a lawsuit claiming that BW's patent was invalid and their suit was joined by Barr Laboratories and Nova-pharma as they argued that BW were not the inventors of AZT, as BW did not do the original phase I trials but the NCI did. BW won at the U.S. Court of Appeals at the Federal Circuit Court as the court ruled that even though BW had never tested AZT against HIV they conceived that it would work before sending it to the NCI for testing. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case letting stand *Burroughs Wellcome v Barr Labs* which stand as a landmark decision in U.S. patent law.

ACT UP AND HOW THEY CHANGED THE CARE FOR AIDS PATIENTS

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power(ACT-UP) was founded in 1987 as a direct action advocacy group that worked to impact the lives of People Living With AIDS and helped bring about legislation, medical research, treatment and social policies that helped bring about the end of the horror for AIDS patients

- ACT-UP's mantra was SILENCE=DEATH and the movement became the focal point from which the profiteering of the pharmaceutical industry was confronted. This is chronicled in the documentary United in Anger.

ACT UP AND HOW THEY CHANGED THE CARE FOR AIDS PATIENTS

- ACT-UP challenged the FDA by asking the question “ If something works is it ethical to deny patients access to it”?
- ACT-UP got the FDA to shorten the drug approval process by 2 years by promoting the concepts of parallel tracts. Expanded Access trials in tandem with traditional designed research protocols
- ACT-UP lead the fight at the FDA to consider compassionate use protocols for ganciclovir, DDI, D4T and 3TC.
- ACT-UP was the major advocacy group that brought about ending the detention of HIV + Haitians held at Guantanamo Bay in 1993.

HAITIAN REFUGEES, GUANTANAMO BAY AND ACT-UP

- 1) The Haitian refugee crisis began in September 1991 with the overthrow of the Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a military coup
- 2) The U.S. Coast Guard began the process of rescuing Haitians trying to escape Haiti by boats and rafts and took them back to Haiti under a policy of strict repatriation. The idea was to keep the refugees from getting to U.S. soil because if they did they would be protected from immediate repatriation as they would be entitled to have an asylum hearing first, per international law.
- 3) The Haitian Refugee Center won a court hearing that allowed a temporary restraining order against forced repatriation, thus the decision was made to take the refugees to Guantanamo Bay as it was felt to be a location that existed outside U.S. Constitutional Law a “rights free space”
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HAITIAN REFUGEES, GUANTANAMO BAY AND ACT-UP

- 4) By 1992 there were 12,500 refugees held at Guantanamo and over the next year the number of refugees were gradually reduced through repatriation and 33% of the refugees were granted asylum.
- 5) 260 individuals who were either HIV+ or were related to someone who had HIV were segregated into a “humanitarian camp” known as Camp Bulkeley. A tent camp surrounded by barbed wire and with poor sanitation and lack of potable water
- 6) The situation was further complicated in 1993 when The U.S. Senate introduced a clause into the Immigration and Nationality Act prohibiting HIV + immigrants from entering the U.S.

HAITIAN REFUGEES, GUANTANAMO BAY AND ACT UP

- 7) As conditions began to deteriorate ACT-UP pushed forward in its efforts to educate the American public about AIDS and HIV and about the plight of the Haitians. ACT-UP pushed forward with lawsuits that argued that refugees were covered under the U.S. Constitution and that their rights were being violated.
- 8) The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against ACT-UP but Camp Bulkeley was dismantled in 1993 after another suit was brought by ACT-UP and U.S. District Judge Sterling Johnson Jr., ruled that Camp Bulkeley was an HIV Prison Camp and that the U.S. Government either had to provide treatment for those with AIDS or send them where they could be treated.

HAITIAN REFUGEES, GUANTANAMO BAY AND ACT UP

9) Are there limitations to how a government should act to prevent a potential pandemic? Does the government have the power to segregate potentially dangerous health groups? Are individuals or government officials responsible for decisions about community health?