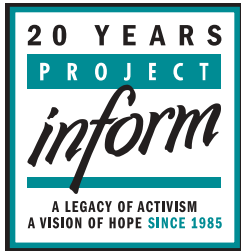


MILESTONES OF PROJECT INFORM AND THE EPIDEMIC SINCE 1985

project inform at twenty

MILESTONES OF PROJECT INFORM AND THE EPIDEMIC SINCE 1985



In 1985, a small group of concerned community members joined together to start a short-term “project” at a time when reliable information about HIV/AIDS and its treatment was nearly impossible to obtain. Since then, Project Inform has worked to accelerate and facilitate advances in treatment, recognizing that therapeutic breakthroughs are only effective if people living with HIV have access to them.

The following milestones reveal not just Project Inform’s legacy of activism; they also offer a glimpse into the future—the enormous scope of the work ahead and our vision of hope.

1985
 nineteen eighty-five

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Proposed the first truly community-based research study.
- ★ Designed and implemented the first public treatment information education program.
- ★ Created and distributed the first community-based, independent treatment education materials.
- ★ Made the first known community call for an AIDS medical model based on patient empowerment and taking responsibility for one’s own medical care.
- ★ Facilitated the development of an informal pipeline to make experimental drugs under study in the US available to people with AIDS outside of clinical trials.



EXAMPLE OF PROTEST SIGNAGE, SAN FRANCISCO

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ The first International AIDS Conference is held in Atlanta, Georgia.
- ▼ On July 25, Rock Hudson discloses he has AIDS, focusing unprecedented national attention on the epidemic. He dies October 2.
- ▼ The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the first AIDS antibody test, which is immediately used to screen the nation’s blood supply. The California legislature subsequently passes a law guaranteeing the confidentiality of HIV testing in California, a concept that is eventually adopted nationwide.



U.S. TO DATE TOTAL

20,470 AIDS cases

8,161 AIDS deaths

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Opened the nation’s first HIV/AIDS treatment information hotline service.
- ★ Initiated the first community meetings with the FDA in Washington, DC.
- ★ Formally launched the “town meeting” program to provide HIV treatment education.
- ★ Organized the first demonstration against a pharmaceutical company.
- ★ Held the first community meetings with a pharmaceutical company.
- ★ Successfully challenged the U.S. Border Patrol and the FDA regarding personal importation of therapies to create the FDA “Personal Importation Policy.” This policy now enables the purchase of a wide range of drugs from Canada and other countries.

1986
nineteen eighty-six

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

▼ U.S. Surgeon General Koop issues “Surgeon General’s Report on AIDS”, calling for education and condom use.

▼ The first controlled effectiveness trial of AZT is undertaken by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

▼ President Reagan first mentions the word “AIDS” in public.

▼ National Academy of Science issues report critical of the U.S. response to “national health crisis;” calls for a \$2 billion investment.

▼ Second International AIDS Conference is held in Paris, France.



▼ The first panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is created in San Francisco.

▼ Ricky Ray, a nine-year-old hemophiliac with HIV, is barred from Florida school and his family’s home is burned by arsonists in the following year.

▼ Institute of Medicine report calls for a national education campaign and creation of National Commission on AIDS.

1987
nineteen eighty-seven

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Began publishing *PI Perspective*, the first community newsletter to blend cutting edge treatment education, advocacy, and commentary.
- ★ Led the community campaign to support the development of the FDA “Treatment IND Regulations” to significantly enhance access to experimental drugs.
- ★ Initiated the first community negotiations with a drug company to resolve a pricing dispute.
- ★ Became the first nationally known AIDS organization to call for people to “get tested.”

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, National Minority AIDS Council and National Task Force on AIDS Prevention form.
- ▼ The Names Project displays the AIDS Quilt in Washington, DC for the first time, with 1,920 panels on the Mall.
- ▼ The FDA approves zidovudine (AZT/ Retrovir), the first antiviral agent to treat AIDS. At \$12,000 a year, it is one of history’s most expensive drug therapies.
- ▼ U.S. Congress adopts Helms Amendment banning use of federal funds for AIDS education materials that “promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual activities,” often referred to as the “no promo homo” policy.
- ▼ FDA creates new class of experimental drugs, Treatment Investigational New Drugs (INDs), which accelerates drug approval by two to three years.
- ▼ Third International AIDS Conference on AIDS is held in Washington, DC.
- ▼ FDA sanctions first human testing of candidate vaccine against HIV.
- ▼ U.S. adds HIV as a “dangerous contagious disease” to its immigration exclusion list; mandates testing of all applicants.
- ▼ CDC holds its first National Conference on HIV and communities of color.
- ▼ President Reagan makes first public speech about AIDS; establishes Presidential Commission on HIV (Watkins Commission).
- ▼ “And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic”, a history of the early years of the epidemic by Randy Shilts, is published.
- ▼ Entertainer Liberace dies of AIDS.



U.S. TO DATE TOTAL	
59,572 AIDS cases	27,909 AIDS deaths

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Expanded the Town Meetings Program to cities throughout the United States.
- ★ Handled more than 5,000 calls to our Hotline monthly.
- ★ Initiated productive meetings with research teams in Washington, DC and in academic centers.
- ★ Became the first community organization invited to provide a plenary speaker (on patient access to experimental therapy) at the Society of Infectious Diseases Annual Meeting, a major medical conference.
- ★ Became the largest and most widely read source of treatment information materials nationally.



1988
nineteen eighty-eight

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ Largely as a result of the work of AIDS activists, the FDA implements new regulations designed to make promising therapies available sooner for patients with life-threatening and severely debilitating diseases.
- ▼ FDA allows the importation of unapproved drugs for persons with life-threatening illnesses, including HIV/AIDS.
- ▼ Fourth International AIDS Conference is held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ▼ NIH establishes Office of AIDS Research (OAR) and AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG).
- ▼ U.S. Surgeon General and CDC mail brochure, "Understanding AIDS" to all U.S. households; first and only national mailing of its kind.
- ▼ First comprehensive needle exchange program (NEP) established in North America in Tacoma, WA. New York City creates first government-funded NEP and San Francisco establishes what becomes largest NEP in the nation.
- ▼ World AIDS Day first declared by World Health Organization (WHO) on December 1.

1989
nineteen eighty-nine

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Became extensively involved with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) research programs and committees.
- ★ Project Inform co-founder appointed as first community member on National Academy of Science Institute of Medicine Roundtable on AIDS Drug Development, leading to extensive academic, NIH, and industry advocacy and influence.
- ★ Successfully persuaded Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), to create a scientific meeting focused on restoring the immune system in people with advanced AIDS, the forerunner of today's Immune Restoration Think Tank (IRTT) conferences.

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES



- ▼ After enormous community pressure, AZT manufacturer Burroughs Wellcome lowers the price of the drug by 20%.
- ▼ First guidelines for the prevention of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP), an AIDS-related opportunistic infection and major cause of morbidity and mortality for people with HIV, are issued by the CDC.
- ▼ Head of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Anthony Fauci, endorses parallel track policy, giving those who do not qualify for clinical trials access to experimental treatments.
- ▼ ACT UP holds demonstration at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.
- ▼ U.S. Congress creates the National Commission on AIDS.
- ▼ Fifth International AIDS Conference ("The Scientific and Social Challenge of AIDS") is held in Montreal, Canada.
- ▼ Dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey dies of AIDS.
- ▼ Photographer Robert Mapplethorpe dies of AIDS.

U.S. TO DATE TOTAL

115,786 AIDS cases

70,313 AIDS deaths

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Led a successful community effort to get a second reduction in the price of AZT.
- ★ Hosted the first community-sponsored Treatment Awareness Week Forum, a patient-oriented medical conference.
- ★ Worked with Dr. Fauci and a small core of activists to develop the “Parallel Track” concept of providing early access to experimental drugs, an evolution of the concepts first proposed by Project Inform at the meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in 1988.
- ★ Played a leadership role on a special U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Task Force created to draft the Parallel Track regulations.

1990
nineteenninety



AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ Sixth International AIDS Conference (“AIDS in the Nineties: From Science to Policy”) is held in San Francisco, CA. To protest U.S. immigration policy, domestic and international non-governmental groups boycott the conference.
- ▼ Congress enacts the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including people living with HIV/AIDS.
- ▼ FDA approves use of AZT for pediatric AIDS.
- ▼ First National Conference on Women and AIDS held in Boston.
- ▼ Ryan White dies at the age of 18. The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990 is enacted by the U.S. Congress, providing federal funds for community-based care and treatment services. In first year, it is funded at \$220.5 million.
- ▼ Pop artist Keith Haring dies of AIDS.



1991
nineteenninety-one

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Project Inform volunteers created the Treatment Action Network (TAN), a grassroots organizing tool for activating nationwide political action on AIDS. TAN remains the largest national grassroots network of individuals advocating on federal and state legislative activity concerning HIV/AIDS research, treatment and healthcare issues.
- ★ Led the creation of a consensus demand for the release of ddI and ddC.
- ★ Launched Project Immune Restoration to continue the work of the immune restoration meetings originally hosted by the Institute of Medicine.
- ★ Worked closely with FDA Commissioner David Kessler to create the Accelerated Approval process for drugs for life-threatening illnesses; assisted in drafting these regulations.
- ★ Initiated a new phase of stronger and wider advocacy work nationwide.

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES



- ▼ NBA legend Magic Johnson announces that he is HIV-positive and retires from basketball.
- ▼ Seventh International AIDS Conference (“Science Challenging AIDS”) is held in Florence, Italy.
- ▼ Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Act of 1991 enacted by the U.S. Congress, to provide housing assistance to people living with AIDS through grants to U.S. states and local communities.
- ▼ Ricky Ray dies of AIDS.
- ▼ CDC recommends restrictions on the practice of HIV-positive healthcare workers and Congress enacts law requiring states to take similar action.
- ▼ Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the rock band Queen, dies of AIDS.
- ▼ Red ribbon introduced as the international symbol of AIDS awareness at the Tony Awards by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Visual AIDS.
- ▼ Bristol-Myers receives FDA approval to market didanosine (ddI/Videx) to those who cannot tolerate AZT or who no longer derive benefit from it.

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Launched a major campaign to increase the amount of funding directed to AIDS research at NIH. Press materials, direct lobbying, and monitoring the appropriations process along with our partners led President Clinton to increase AIDS research funding by more than \$200 million in his first term, and significant increases in AIDS research over the next several years.
- ★ Held the first fully Project Inform-sponsored meeting of the Immune Restoration Think Tank in Washington, DC to create a research agenda for restoring immunity lost due to HIV infection. The meeting developed short- and long-term research goals and action plans. Subsequent meetings have further developed these plans and continued to explore novel ideas and approaches, resulting in numerous new research studies and collaborations.
- ★ Co-hosted “Future Directions in AIDS Research,” along with the Harvard AIDS Institute and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. This event brought together leading scientists, researchers, policy makers, and activists to discuss current opportunities and challenges in structural reforms and proposed new ways of organizing the scientific effort on a national basis. Some streamlined approaches to the coordination of basic and clinical research grew out of this process.

1992
nineteenninety-two

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

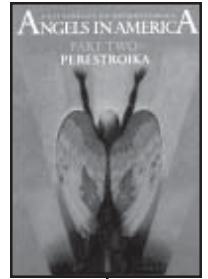
- ▼ Eighth International AIDS Conference (“A World United Against AIDS”), is held in Amsterdam; would have taken place in Boston, but was moved due to U.S. immigration ban.
- ▼ AIDS becomes the leading cause of death among American men between 25 and 44 and the fourth leading cause for women in the same age group. Disproportionately high rates of new HIV infections among African American women become headline news.
- ▼ International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) is founded.
- ▼ Tennis star Arthur Ashe announces he has AIDS.
- ▼ Mary Fisher and Bob Hattoy, each HIV-positive, address the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, respectively.
- ▼ Zalcitabine (ddC/Hivid) approved for use.



1993
nineteen ninety-three

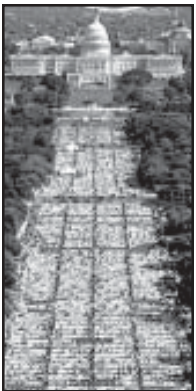
PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Co-founded the first AIDSWatch, the only national lobby days focused on appropriate funding for all HIV/AIDS programs.
- ★ Led a call for continued hope within the HIV affected community to counter a wave of despair set off by disappointing findings about the effectiveness of treatment.
- ★ Successfully lobbied pharmaceutical companies and federal officials to continue to develop protease inhibitors when they were close to abandoning the field.



AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ Congress requires government research agencies to expand involvement of women and minorities in all research.
- ▼ Ninth International AIDS Conference is held in Berlin, Germany.
- ▼ First annual "AIDSWatch"—hundreds of community members from across the U.S. converge in Washington, DC to lobby Congress for increased AIDS funding.
- ▼ "Angels in America", Tony Kushner's play about AIDS, wins the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize.
- ▼ CDC expands case definition of AIDS to reflect fuller spectrum of the disease, including adding a condition specific to women and those more prevalent among injection drug users.
- ▼ World-class ballet dancer, Rudolf Nureyev, dies of AIDS.



DISPLAY OF NAMES QUILT, WASHINGTON, DC

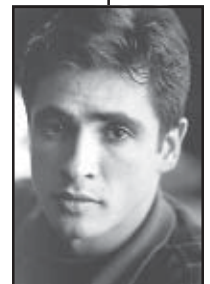
PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Distributed a comprehensive guide about the treatment of opportunistic infections in HIV disease.
- ★ Led an ongoing effort challenging “HIV denialists” who argued that HIV was harmless. At Project Inform’s urging, the National Institutes of Health published a lengthy compilation of all the studies which led to or supported the conclusion that HIV is the cause of AIDS.

1994
nineteenninety-four

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ AZT is proven to reduce HIV transmission from mother to infant by up to 70%.
- ▼ 10th International AIDS Conference (“The Global Challenge of AIDS: Together for the Future”) is held in Yokohama, Japan.
- ▼ AIDS becomes leading cause of death for all Americans ages 25–44; remains so through 1995.
- ▼ FDA approves an oral HIV test, the first non-blood based antibody test for HIV.
- ▼ Randy Shilts, author of “And the Band Played On” dies of AIDS at age 42.
- ▼ Combination therapy proves effective in battling HIV, and individualized therapy emerges as a treatment strategy championed by Project Inform, S.F. AIDS Foundation, and ACT-UP/Golden Gate.
- ▼ Pedro Zamora, a young gay man living with HIV, appears on the cast of MTV’s popular show, *The Real World*; dies later in the year at age 22.
- ▼ Elizabeth Glaser, co-founder of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, dies of AIDS.
- ▼ Stavudine (d4T/Zerit) approved for use.



1995
 nineteen ninety-five

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Co-created the North American Treatment Action Forum (previously the National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Forum or NATAF). Now sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council, NATAF’s mission is to prolong the lives of individuals living with HIV/AIDS by educating and engaging individuals and inspiring the treatment education and advocacy community. Project Inform continues as an active partner in planning and implementing this conference.
- ★ Collaborated with regional and national partners to defeat a proposal to block grant Medicaid, which would have threatened the healthcare of millions of beneficiaries.

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES



- ▼ First guidelines for the prevention of opportunistic infections in persons infected with HIV issued by CDC.
- ▼ First National HIV Testing Day created by the National Association of People with AIDS.
- ▼ President Clinton establishes the first Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and hosts the first White House Summit on AIDS.
- ▼ First protease inhibitor, saquinavir (Invirase), approved in record time by the U.S. FDA, ushering in new era of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). Lamivudine (3TC/Epivir) also approved.
- ▼ Olympic Gold Medal diver Greg Louganis discloses that he is living with HIV, leading to public debate regarding disclosure of HIV status.

U.S. TO DATE TOTAL	
513,486 AIDS cases	319,849 AIDS deaths

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Developed and launched the web site, *www.projectinform.org*, which was named a top public service site by *Internet World Magazine*. Web site starts to receive 1,000 visitors per day.
- ★ With the advent of highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART), effective but expensive treatment regimens, access to treatment becomes a focus of our public policy efforts. As more people were living longer with HIV, Project Inform assumed a leadership role in the development of specific funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). Our advocacy led to increased ADAP-specific funding, allowing people who couldn't otherwise afford medication access to life-prolonging treatment. Project Inform continues to provide leadership in the fight for increased funding for this program as well as reasonable drug prices and appropriate structure and delivery mechanisms.

1996

nineteenninety-six

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ 11th International AIDS Conference (“One World, One Hope”) is held in Vancouver, Canada; highlights effectiveness of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), creating period of optimism.
- ▼ HIV no longer leading cause of death for all Americans ages 25–44; remains leading cause of death for African Americans in this age group.
- ▼ International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), an NGO, forms to speed the search for an effective HIV vaccine.
- ▼ FDA approves viral load test, a new test that measures the level of HIV in the body.
- ▼ U.S. Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White CARE Act.
- ▼ FDA approves HIV urine test and first HIV home testing and collection kit.
- ▼ Time Magazine names AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho as its “Man of the Year.”
- ▼ FDA approves first non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI), nevirapine (Viramune); ritonavir (Norvir) and indinavir (Crixivan) also approved for use.



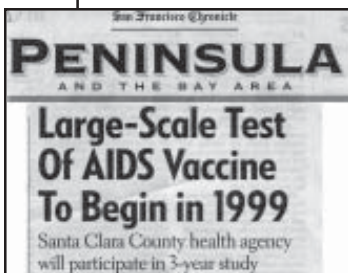
1997
nineteen ninety-seven

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Launched Project Wise, a program focusing specifically on the needs of women living with HIV disease; assumed publication of *Wise Words*, an informational newsletter geared toward women’s issues formerly published by the Women’s Information Service and Exchange in Atlanta.
- ★ Project Inform staff member appointed to serve on a new national panel to create a formal set of Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Therapy for the Treatment of HIV Disease.
- ★ Published the first edition of the *HIV Drug Book*, a comprehensive and detailed description of all the drugs used in the treatment of HIV disease, along with strategies for their most effective use.
- ★ Published seminal community education materials on drug interactions and drug resistance.

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. decline by more than 40% compared to the prior year, largely due to HAART.
- ▼ President Clinton calls for an AIDS vaccine to be developed within 10 years.
- ▼ California records its 100,000th case of AIDS.
- ▼ Congress enacts FDA Modernization Act of 1997, codifying accelerated approval process, and allowing dissemination of information about off-label uses of drugs.
- ▼ FDA approves use of nelfinavir (Viracept) and delavirdine (Rescriptor).



PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Expanded advocacy trainings to several states, facilitating the development of statewide coalitions.
- ★ Published the Second Edition of the *HIV Drug Book*.
- ★ Created the Fair Pricing Coalition, the first formal grouping organized to negotiate the pricing of new drugs and price increases on older drugs with the pharmaceutical industry. Project Informs retains a leadership role in this coalition to this day.

1998
nineteenninety-eight



AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ Minority AIDS Initiative created in U.S., after African American leaders declare a “state of emergency” and Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to do the same.
- ▼ 12th International AIDS Conference (“Bridging the Gap”) is held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ▼ Drug-resistant strains of HIV appear.
- ▼ U.S Department of Health and Human Services issues first national guidelines for the use of antiretroviral therapy in adults.
- ▼ The CDC announces the AIDS death rate dropped an incredible 47% from 1996 to 1997. However, the rate of new HIV infections—40,000 a year—is not declining, showing a need for innovative new prevention efforts.
- ▼ The U.S. Supreme Court in *Bragdon v. Abbot* rules that the Americans with Disabilities Act covers those in earlier stages of HIV disease, not just AIDS.
- ▼ The first Phase III (large-scale) clinical trial of an HIV vaccine begins.
- ▼ FDA approves use of efavirenz (Sustiva) and abacavir (Ziagen).

1999
nineteenninety-nine

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ As many HIV-positive individuals started to live longer and face increasingly complex treatment options, Project Inform assumed a lead role in educating the community about emerging issues such as Lipodystrophy Syndrome, Salvage Therapy Options, Resistance Testing, and Strategic Treatment Interruption.
- ★ 70 volunteer hotline operators covering 17 shifts handled hundreds of calls to the hotline each week.
- ★ Developed and distributed a set of Ethical Guidelines for community organizations to use to guide their relations with the pharmaceutical industry, the only document of its type.

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ One-third of new infections in the U.S. occur in women.
- ▼ Reggie Williams, founder of the National AIDS Task Force on AIDS Prevention, dies of AIDS.
- ▼ Congressional Hispanic Caucus, with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, convenes Congressional hearing on impact of HIV/AIDS on Latino community.
- ▼ FDA approves use of amprenavir (Agenerase).



PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Worked in coalition with advocates to fight attempts to mandate HIV testing of pregnant women in the 2000 Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization bill.
- ★ Published *Positive? How Are You Feeling?*, a brochure developed to help women recognize feelings and signals that may be related to HIV disease.
- ★ Successfully organized and facilitated advocacy training in Anchorage, Alaska. Following the training, participants held a legislative meeting with staff of Senator Ted Stevens, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to discuss HIV/AIDS funding issues and other needs specific to Alaskans, particularly Alaskan Natives.
- ★ Initiated discussions with Gilead Sciences regarding an expanded access program for its experimental therapy tenofovir.

2000
two thousand

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ Under the slogan, "Break the Silence," the 13th International Conference on AIDS is held in Durban, South Africa. In some sub-Saharan African countries, over 25% of the entire population has HIV.
- ▼ US Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White CARE Act for the second time.
- ▼ Among gay and bisexual men, AIDS diagnoses among African American and Latino men exceed that of whites for the first time.
- ▼ FDA approves the use of lopinavir (Kaletra).



2001
two thousand and one

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Newly redesigned web site received more than 150,000 page requests per month for information in English and Spanish.
- ★ In collaboration with the Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), developed and co-authored a model for best gynecological practices for women living with HIV/AIDS.
- ★ Met with industry leaders and nongovernmental organizations to discuss pricing policies for drug distribution and differential and equity pricing issues in developing countries.
- ★ Joined the National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA) and helped draft a set of principles for consideration for international engagement on access to treatment.

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ President Bush contributes \$200 million to the Global AIDS Fund. Advocates decry the contribution as insufficient, noting the United Nations’ estimate that \$7–10 billion is needed annually to fight HIV in the developing world.
- ▼ 14% of individuals newly infected with HIV already exhibit resistance to at least one anti-HIV medication.
- ▼ Bristol-Myers Squibb concedes patents on anti-HIV drugs in Africa.
- ▼ FDA approves use of tenofovir (Viread).

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Outreach and Education staff developed and implemented three National Peer Treatment Education Program (NPTEP) regional trainings in partnership with Howard University, the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, and the Latino Commission on AIDS to foster peer treatment educator competencies, particularly those within minority communities highly impacted by HIV.
- ★ Working with leading pharmaceutical companies, the Fair Pricing Coalition secured a two-year price freeze on most HIV/AIDS drugs.
- ★ Led the fight to ensure that critical research of Interleukin-2 as an immune-based treatment for HIV disease was completed and evaluated.
- ★ Co-founded the “SAVE ADAP Committee,” a national grassroots coalition of treatment activists and policy advocates focused on securing adequate funding for ADAP.

2002

two thousand and two

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ CDC estimates that 850,000–950,000 U.S. residents are living with HIV—one-quarter of whom are unaware of their infection.
- ▼ During fiscal year 2001–2002, California’s AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) established in 1987, provided over 688,580 prescriptions for nearly 24,000 low-income individuals throughout the state.
- ▼ 14th International AIDS Conference (“Knowledge and Commitment”) is held in Barcelona, Spain.
- ▼ The FDA approves a new rapid HIV antibody testing device, OraQuick, a test that is easy to use and produces reliable results in 20 minutes; however, it is only authorized to be administered by certified healthcare workers.
- ▼ Linda Grinberg, a fearless AIDS treatment activist and founder and president of the Foundation for AIDS and Immune Research (FAIR), dies of AIDS.



U.S. TO DATE TOTAL

886,575 AIDS cases 501,669 AIDS deaths

2003
two thousand and three

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Provided leadership in establishing the Medicaid Defense Group (now called the HIV Medicaid/Medicare Working Group). This national coalition played a significant role in helping to defeat the Bush Administration’s harmful Medicaid ‘reform’ proposal and in securing a \$10 million increase for the federal match for state Medicaid spending. This group was singled out by national health advocates and Congressional staff for its leadership role in 2003 Medicaid advocacy.
- ★ With our national and regional partners, planned and implemented the first national meeting on the cost of HIV-related drugs to public health programs.
- ★ Helped shape and provide important input into a San Francisco-based and multi-center National Study of Organ Transplantation in people living with HIV.
- ★ Through our participation in the Fair Pricing Coalition, provided support for the ADAP Directors’ negotiations with pharmaceutical companies that resulted in \$50 million in fiscal relief to ADAP programs nationwide.

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

▼
The William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation secures price reductions for HIV/AIDS drugs from generic manufacturers, to benefit developing nations.

▼
VaxGen reported that its vaccine, AIDSVax, was ineffective overall in a trial of 5,400 participants.

▼
FDA approves use of enfuvirtide (T20/Fuzeon), atazanavir (Reyataz) and emtricitabine (FTC/Emtriva).



amFAR EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

PROJECT INFORM MILESTONES

- ★ Played a key leadership role in saving the California state ADAP, averting a crisis that would have left thousands without access to lifesaving medication.
- ★ Played a key and ongoing role in assisting the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in its redesign of the federally-funded domestic and international clinical trials networks.
- ★ Contributed to the development of AIDSVote.com, a domestic HIV/AIDS platform and questionnaire to the Presidential candidates. This project offered a tremendous opportunity for grassroots activists to get involved in the electoral process and to encourage candidates to make HIV/AIDS a priority in their campaigns.



CALIFORNIA ADAP RALLY, SACRAMENTO

2004
two thousand and four

AIDS EPIDEMIC MILESTONES

- ▼ In January, a CDC analysis of new HIV infections in 29 states that have name-based HIV reporting—not including New York and California—finds that 35% of new HIV infections between 1999 and 2002 resulted from heterosexual sex; of these, 64% were women and 74% were African American.
- ▼ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces expedited review process by FDA for fixed dose combination and co-packaged products—to be used by U.S. in purchasing medications under President Bush’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- ▼ In March, seven of nine federally-funded Ryan White Title I regions in California receive cuts in funding for HIV care and services.
- ▼ 15th International AIDS Conference (“Access for All”) takes place in Bangkok, Thailand, the first to be held in South-east Asia.
- ▼ By the end of the year, the availability of HIV rapid testing expands throughout California.

PHOTO CREDITS:

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