

# in FOCUS

SPRING 2018

## Your Donations Hard at Work

by Dana Van Gorder, Executive Director



L-R Dana Van Gorder, David Evans, Vignetta Charles, Monique Tula, Ernest Hopkins, Andrew Reynolds, Emalie Hurliaux, and Alan McCord.

The Board, staff and volunteers of Project Inform are enormously proud of the significant impact we have on ending the HIV and hepatitis C epidemics with a small, but truly mighty staff. We make a firm commitment to choosing projects that are highly strategic and most likely to lead to major change; issues that others are not addressing and need the particular expertise and leadership that we uniquely bring to them; approaches that can be controversial, but around which we build consensus about the best way to proceed. It is because we take so seriously our responsibility to those living with and affected by HIV and hepatitis C, as well as to our donors, that we strive to put every dollar we raise to its highest purpose. Indeed, we run a lean and efficient organization, with a rigorous focus squarely on our mission.

In this edition of *in FOCUS*, we highlight some of the work that your support makes possible, and of which we are especially proud.

**David Evans** continues his research to understand the needs and wishes of people with HIV regarding their possible participation in clinical trials to assess candidates for a cure for HIV. He helped co-write an extensive report on the search for a cure, which we highly recommend to our readers.<sup>1</sup>

**Emalie Hurliaux** helped launch the first U.S. city hepatitis C elimination initiative — End Hep C SF. She successfully advocated for \$3.3 million in additional funding for HIV and hepatitis C testing in California. She co-sponsored AB 186, a bill in California to allow a limited number of jurisdictions to create pilot safe consumption spaces for drug use in order to reduce overdoses, reduce transmission of HIV and hepatitis C, reduce improperly discarded syringes and public injections, and increase linkage to drug treatment programs; and

successfully advocated with MediCal to increase the number of people who could receive treatment for hepatitis C.

In 2017, **Alan McCord** and **Emily Mariko-Sanders** oversaw the production and nationwide distribution of 707,000 educational pieces about PrEP, and 17,500 educational booklets for people newly diagnosed with HIV.

**Alan McCord** and **Charlie Romero** helped launch PleasePrEPMe.org, a new online chat service that answers questions about PrEP and refers people to providers to help get started with PrEP services. PleasePrEPMe has helped over 1,500 people make good decisions about whether PrEP fits into their approach to HIV prevention.

**Alan McCord** also launched our PrEP Navigation Manual to assist HIV prevention workers who support people wanting to initiate and cover the costs of PrEP.

**Andrew Reynolds** wrote a comprehensive article about current curative treatments for hepatitis C in *Positively Aware* magazine<sup>2</sup>, and an important article about the sexual transmission of hepatitis C among HIV-positive gay men and gay men using PrEP<sup>3</sup>. He led a national program to provide continuing medical education to 500 family physicians to engage them in testing patients for hepatitis C. In 2017, he oversaw the production and distribution of booklets for 3,700 people co-infected with HIV and hepatitis C discussing their health care needs, and 1,450 “toolkits” for HIV physicians discussing the importance of screening their patients for hepatitis C.

**Anne Donnelly** helped secure funding in California to establish a PrEP Assistance Program that will pay for medical visits, laboratory services and co-payments for people who cannot otherwise afford them. She worked

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# Evening of Hope 2017

Last November, Project Inform held its annual Evening of Hope Gala and, thanks to you, we raised more than \$135,000 in support of Project Inform's lifesaving work!

This year's theme, "A Dream of No More-Getting to Zero" was illustrated by real life stories from Project Inform clients and family members from around the country.

The evening kicked off with comments and a proclamation from State Senator Scott Wiener, acknowledging Dana Van Gorder's 10 years as Executive Director of Project Inform. Outgoing Board president Ferd Garcia was thanked for his many years of volunteer service, and spoke about the inspiration for all the advocacy work he does around the world.



*Nic Marcheso, Ricky Shankar, Kathleen Hayes, Luann Mangano, Rachel Del Monte, Stacy Del Monte, Andrew Bosco.*

*Photo by Drew Altizer Photography, 2017.*



*Tom Kelley, Kelly Tonnesen, Dana Van Gorder.*

*Photo by Drew Altizer Photography, 2017.*

Emalie Huriaux, Project Inform's Director of Federal and State Affairs, presented three important CalHEP awards to people in the field working to eliminate hepatitis C.

Comic Casey Ley was the MC and balanced humor with the power of the work being honored. Additional performers included: Synchronicity Strings, Scott Wells & Dancers, Kitten on the Keys, and Aerialist Gemiah Kurzfeld.

Project Inform is deeply grateful to all of the evening's sponsors, attendees, donors and volunteers who helped make this year such a success!



*Christopher Esposito, Kevin Sessums, Ferd Garcia.*

*Photo by Drew Altizer Photography, 2017.*



*Emalie Huriaux (center) flanked by CalHEP honorees (L-R):*

*Brandie Wilson, Katie Burk, Annie Luetkemeyer, M.D., and Christian Ramers, M.D., MPH. Photo by Pete McManus Photography, 2017.*

## Your Donations Hard at Work, continued

to stabilize California's AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which provides HIV medications to low income people, after a disastrous change in program administration. In addition, she led Project Inform's efforts to oppose the repeal of the ACA.

In February 2018, **Emalie Huriaux** led a summit of 113 representatives of 26 Northern California counties to discuss ways to address HIV and hepatitis C care, treatment and prevention, as well as overdose prevention, as part of the response to the injection opioid epidemic. Emalie recently moved to Olympia, WA to work for the Washington State Department of Health. We are deeply grateful and honored to have had her work with us and know she will continue to do brilliant work.

**David Evans** is assembling a think tank to identify research to better understand, as well as respond to, the unique medical and psychosocial issues of a growing population of people aging with HIV.

**Dana Van Gorder** serves on the Steering Committee of Getting to Zero, San Francisco's effort to become the first city

in the United States to achieve zero deaths, zero new infections and zero stigma from HIV. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Public Policy Committee of AIDS United, the leading HIV advocacy agency in Washington, DC.

**Anne Donnelly** and **Andrew Reynolds** are pursuing \$22.6 million in additional funding in California to strengthen the state's response to both HIV and hepatitis C.

**Andrew Reynolds** is building a program to support physicians and other medical personnel to better identify and respond to the HIV, hepatitis C and overdose prevention needs of patients using injection opioids.

**Anne Donnelly** and **Dana Van Gorder** are spearheading an effort to develop a comprehensive strategy in California to end the HIV and hepatitis C epidemics.

Once again, this life-saving and well-respected work would not be possible without you. We are honored and grateful for your generous and loyal support.

<sup>1</sup> "If We Build It, Will They Come? Perceptions of HIV Cure-Related Research by People Living with HIV in Four U.S. Cities: A Qualitative Focus Group Study" <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/aid.2017.0178>

<sup>2</sup> "Which HCV Treatment is Right for Me?" <https://www.positivelyaware.com/articles/which-hcv-treatment-right-me-2017>

<sup>3</sup> "Hepatitis C Awareness For Gay Men" <https://www.positivelyaware.com/articles/hepatitis-c-awareness-gay-men>



# Thank You To Our Generous Donors

Project Inform is deeply grateful to the many individuals, foundations and corporations for your generosity throughout the year. Your support helps us continue our pivotal work in the HIV and hepatitis C epidemics. This list includes donors between January 1st, 2017 and February 28, 2018. We strive to be sure our donors are acknowledged accurately. *Please notify us of any corrections at [development@projectinform.org](mailto:development@projectinform.org).*

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