

amfARTM
AIDS RESEARCH

news

2 Sharon Stone Named Global Fundraising Chairman

3 POLICY REPORT
Whither World Health?

4 TREAT ASIA UPDATE

5 Fine-Tuning HAART for Treatment-Experienced Patients

6 RESEARCH
HIV and the Brain
amfAR to Be Honored With Advocacy Award

7 Rejuvenating the Field of AIDS Research

8 BENEFIT NEWS

12 Calendar



bbb.org/charity

amfAR meets the BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability

amfAR Appoints New Leadership Kevin Frost Named Chief Executive Officer

amfAR has announced the appointment of Kevin Robert Frost as the Foundation's new chief executive officer. Frost was previously vice president for Global Initiatives at amfAR and has served as interim CEO since March 2007.

"amfAR's 25 years of experience fighting AIDS obligates us to do all we can in our efforts to end this pandemic," Frost said upon his appointment. "And while the needs are great, amfAR is well positioned to continue to make major contributions to HIV research, prevention, treatment, and advocacy in the coming years."

Frost has worked extensively in Asia, where he facilitated the development of amfAR's TREAT Asia initiative, a network of more than 50 hospitals, community clinics, NGOs, and healthcare facilities,



working together with civil society to build capacity for scaling up treatment efforts in the region.

Frost served as a member of the international advisory committee for the 2004 International AIDS Conference in Barcelona and was a member of the

(continued on page 2)

Global MSM Initiative Launched amfAR Program Addresses Shortage of HIV Services for Men Who Have Sex With Men

Around the world, HIV remains a crisis among men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly in resource-limited settings. Globally, less than one in 20 MSM has access to needed HIV prevention, treatment, and care services, according to UNAIDS.

In an effort to meet this urgent need and to reduce rates of HIV infection among MSM in developing countries, in July amfAR announced an international MSM Initiative. After initiating discussions in early 2007, amfAR has moved speedily to raise more than \$1 million to support the Initiative. The first request for proposals (RFP) was released in

October and the Initiative's initial round of grants is expected to be issued in January 2008, barely a year from when the project was first conceived.

"Through the MSM Initiative, we hope to foster collaboration among organizations, promote advocacy that transforms attitudes and discriminatory policies, and increase HIV/AIDS funding for MSM worldwide," said amfAR CEO Kevin Frost, who spearheaded the new project.

With small, targeted grants aimed at grassroots groups in resource-limited countries, the MSM Initiative is expected to have an immediate and significant impact on communities with limited

(continued on page 7)

amfAR Board of Trustees

Kenneth Cole
Chairman of the Board
 Patricia J. Matson
Vice Chairman
 John C. Simons
Vice Chairman
 Wallace Sheft, C.P.A.
Treasurer
 William D. Zabel, Esq.
Secretary

Dame Elizabeth Taylor
Founding International Chairman
 Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.
Founding Chairman

Arlen H. Andelson
 Harry Belafonte
 David Bohnett
 Zev Braun
 Jonathan S. Canno
 Donald Capoccia
 Jane B. Eisner
 Arnold W. Klein, M.D.
 Michael J. Klingensmith
 Michele V. McNeill, Pharm.D.
 Richard H. Metzner
 Edward L. Milstein
 Natasha Richardson
 Vincent A. Roberti
 Allan Rosenfield, M.D.
 Alan D. Schwartz
 Diana L. Taylor
 Kevin Wendle

Adjunct Trustees

David E. Bloom, Ph.D.
 R. Martin Chavez, Ph.D.
 Mervyn F. Silverman, M.D., M.P.H.
 Mario Stevenson, Ph.D.

Program Board

Allan Rosenfield, M.D.
Chair

Dawn Averitt-Bridge
 David E. Bloom, Ph.D.
 Tim Brown, Ph.D.
 Alex Carballo-Dieguez, Ph.D.
 Willard Cates, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
 R. Alta Charo, J.D.
 Grant N. Colfax, M.D.
 Hoosen Coovadia, M.D.
 Sherry Deren, Ph.D.
 Carl Dieffenbach, Ph.D.
 Wafaa El-Sadr, M.D., M.P.H.
 Sherry Glied, Ph.D.
 Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
 Adeeba Kamarulzaman, MBBS, FRACP
 Jennifer Kates, M.A., M.P.A.
 Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.
 Patrick C.K. Li, MBBS
 Kenneth H. Mayer, M.D.
 William E. Paul, M.D.
 Mervyn F. Silverman, M.D., M.P.H.
 Peter Staley
 Mario Stevenson, Ph.D.
 David Vlahov, Ph.D.

In Memoriam

Sheldon W. Andelson, Esq.
 Mrs. Albert D. Lasker
 Jonathan M. Mann, M.D., M.P.H.
 Maxine Mesinger
 Peter Scott, Esq.
 Tom Stoddard

Sharon Stone
Global Fundraising Chairman

Management Group

Kevin Robert Frost
Chief Executive Officer

Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A.
Senior Medical and Policy Advisor
 Deborah C. Hernan

Vice President, Public Information
 Rowena Johnston, Ph.D.
Vice President, Research
 Jeffrey Laurence, M.D.

Senior Scientific Consultant
 John F. Logan, Esq.
Vice President and General Counsel
 Bill Melamed

Vice President, Development
 Scott Newman, M.B.A.

Vice President, Finance and Administration
 Monica S. Ruiz, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director, Public Policy

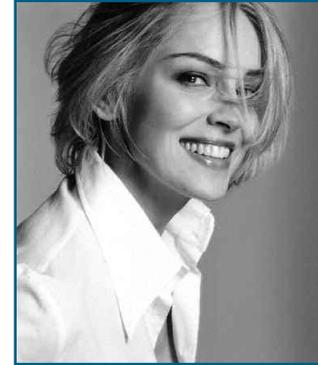
Sharon Stone Named Global Fundraising Chairman

Long-time AIDS advocate and amfAR supporter Sharon Stone has been named amfAR's global fundraising chairman.

Since becoming chairman of amfAR's Campaign for AIDS Research in 1995, Stone has worked tirelessly to heighten awareness of HIV/AIDS and to underscore the urgent need for continued AIDS research. Her dynamic presence has been an indispensable element in a number of highly successful amfAR benefits. Through personal appearances, benefit premieres of her movies, and other special events, she has helped amfAR raise millions of dollars and has greatly increased AIDS awareness worldwide.

Stone's new role was announced by Kenneth Cole, chairman of amfAR's board of trustees, at the September 27 board meeting, the first attended by recently elected board members Natasha Richardson and Diana L. Taylor. Richardson, an award-winning stage and screen actress, has conceived, organized, and spearheaded a number of highly successful amfAR events. She received amfAR's Award of Courage in November 2000.

Taylor is a managing director of the investment banking firm of Wolfensohn & Co. She also chairs a commission for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation that concentrates on financially underserved communities, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. ■



Leadership (continued from page 1)

scientific committee for the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto. He has also served on the advisory panels for three U.S. Food and Drug Administration hearings on AIDS-related drug treatments. He has published in numerous journals including *The Lancet*, *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, *Journal of AIDS (JAIDS)*, *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, and *The AIDS Reader*.

Prior to joining amfAR in 1994, Frost spent four years at New York University Medical Center where he worked primarily on clinical research studies of cytomegalovirus retinitis in people with HIV/AIDS. He also served for a year as the inpatient care coordinator of the AIDS program at New York City's Bellevue Hospital.

In addition to Frost's appointment, Rear Admiral Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A. (ret.), has been named senior medical and policy advisor. Dr. Blumenthal has been a leading U.S.

government health expert and spokesperson for more than 20 years. She served as assistant U.S. surgeon general; the first-ever deputy assistant secretary for women's health; senior global and e-health advisor in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; chief of the Behavioral Medicine and Basic Prevention Research Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health; and as a White House advisor on health issues.

Dr. Blumenthal is currently distinguished advisor on health and medicine at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and a clinical professor at Georgetown and Tufts Schools of Medicine. She is the recipient of numerous awards, medals, and honorary doctorates for her landmark contributions to improving health. Her work in the government has included a focus on HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic in the early 1980s. ■

policy report

Whither World Health?

amfAR Co-Sponsors Global Health Symposium

Some 400 experts from the fields of science, public health, and policy gathered to assess the current state of global health and to discuss a road map for future collaborative action at an amfAR-co-sponsored symposium at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., October 11–12.

The symposium featured presentations by eminent figures such as Sir Richard Feachem, recently retired director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and John Podesta, President Bill Clinton’s chief of staff and now president and CEO of the Center for American Progress. Although discussions touched on a broad range of issues, time and again speakers returned to two core questions—what will be the greatest threats to world health in the immediate future, and what must we do to contain them?

“Today, one nation’s problem is every nation’s problem. But the good news is that solutions cross borders, too.”

Globalization was cited by a number of participants as perhaps the most powerful force now operating in the realm of world public health. Noting the speed with which AIDS, avian flu, and other infectious diseases have been able to leap

“With future pandemics, if we do far too little, far too late, we will pay a huge price. That is what we’ve done with HIV.”

across national borders, amfAR’s senior medical and policy advisor Dr. Susan J. Blumenthal, one of the meeting’s organizers, noted, “Today, one nation’s problem is every nation’s problem. But the good news is that solutions cross borders, too.”

Underestimating the mutability and efficiency of the microbes that cause AIDS, tuberculosis, influenza, and other deadly diseases is one the most dangerous mistakes we can make, insisted Dr. Fauci. In the mid-1960s, he said, “many people in the U.S. proclaimed a near end to the era of infectious diseases—they didn’t understand the evolutionary capacity of infectious disease, which is the second leading cause of death worldwide.”

HIV/AIDS offers a particularly vivid lesson about the danger of ignoring an infectious disease, according to Dr. Feachem. “With future pandemics, if we do far too little, far too late, we will pay a huge price,” he predicted. “That is what we’ve done with HIV.”

In addition to analyzing specific future threats to global health, other symposium sessions offered information on innovative practices and new models for improving global health care. As part of a forum on scaleable, sustainable models for health-

care delivery, amfAR CEO Kevin Frost provided an overview of amfAR’s TREAT Asia initiative.

New models for international aid, such as TREAT Asia and the Global Fund, must be developed in order to effectively improve global health in the 21st century, stated Dr. Feachem. “In my 30 to 40 years I’ve seen huge progress and I’ve seen setbacks,” he concluded. “But we have today an unprecedented level of economic muscle, political commitment, and scientific expertise. So let’s get on with it.”

The symposium was co-sponsored by amfAR, the Embassy of Italy, the National Academies, and Partners HealthCare System. ■



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, amfAR’s senior medical and policy advisor Dr. Susan J. Blumenthal, and amfAR CEO Kevin Frost. (Photo: National Kidney Foundation)

treat asia update

Network Gathers in Hanoi for 7th Annual Meeting

amfAR and its TREAT Asia initiative hosted more than 180 HIV/AIDS specialists from Asia and around the world at the 7th Annual Network Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, September 7–10. With more than 60 pediatric doctors, nurses, and researchers in attendance for the first time, the participants reviewed the previous year's advances, which included the publication of numerous research papers, the launch of the new TREAT Asia Pediatric HIV Observational Database, the completion of a three-year training cycle for community activists, and significant progress in implementing complex HIV drug resistance studies and a laboratory quality assurance project.

The growth of the TREAT Asia Network and the broad range of projects undertaken by its members led to a greater number of specialized sessions at this year's meeting, covering such topics as HIV-related cancers, database training, new research proposals, budgeting and grant reporting, and strategies for community training programs. But on the last day of the meeting, participants discussed the future of TREAT Asia and how the Network might expand its role, specifically in regard to Asia-wide leadership, mentoring, education, and policy-related activities. "TREAT Asia is potentially very powerful because we have all these incredible clinicians in this room," said steering committee member Dr. Annette Sohn, summing up the growing confidence of participants in the strength of the network they have built over the last seven years.

Record Year for Research

The TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD) was established in order to generate much-needed scientific data on HIV disease and treatment in Asia. Few clinical studies on the treatment of



During a break at the TREAT Asia meeting in Hanoi, Dr. Annette Sohn (center) gathered with ACATA members Ayi Farida, Jeanne D'Arc Truong, Addy Chen, Duong Truong Thuy, Dhayan Dirgantara, and Sam Nugraha. (Photo: Luong Hung)

HIV/AIDS had been conducted in the region, leaving clinicians with insufficient treatment and care data on the continent's HIV-positive populations.

Now, five years after TAHOD was established, database investigators have hit full stride. Over the course of 2007, TAHOD researchers, drawing on anonymous data from more than 3,500 patients at 17 TREAT Asia sites across Asia, have published a record seven papers in such prestigious journals as *The Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, HIV Medicine, and Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

By collecting a large bank of information on HIV disease and treatment patterns across Asia, TAHOD has been able to deepen understanding of how the disease affects the region's populations. A recent paper, published in the July issue of the *International Journal of STD and AIDS*, described one aspect of the challenge. "Antiretroviral treatment scale-up programs in resource-limited settings...often rely on health-care workers who lack the detailed clinical knowledge of managing HIV infection," the paper's authors wrote. As a result, "concerns are sometimes raised about the difficulties of managing complications of antiretroviral treatment."

To address the implications of that problem, TAHOD researchers examined the management of a condition known as immune reconstitution syndrome—with reassuring results. "In spite of the relatively high rates of co-infection with tuberculosis and the relatively advanced stage of disease at which patients started HAART," the authors

wrote, immune reconstitution syndrome was found to be "relatively uncommon" in Asia—a finding indicating that the effective management of HIV/AIDS in Asia may face one less obstacle.

The Purple Sky Network

Only a year ago, the Purple Sky Network—an association of Mekong-area community groups involved in fighting HIV among men who have sex with men (MSM)—met for the first time in Bangkok. With the aim of gaining recognition and support for heavily stigmatized MSM in a region where HIV is spreading with shocking



Dr. Patrick Li and Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman, co-chair and chair of the TREAT Asia Steering Committee. (Photo: Luong Hung)

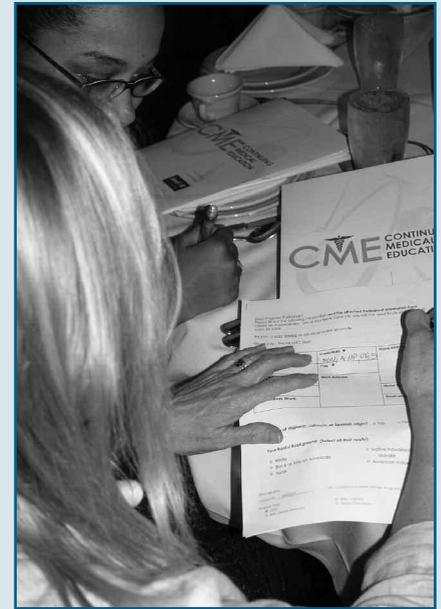
Fine-Tuning HAART for Treatment-Experienced Patients

amfAR's Continuing Education Program Takes to the Road

Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has radically improved the treatment of HIV over the past decade, but deciding on an effective and tolerable regimen is no easy task. To make matters more complex, a patient's inability to adhere to a drug regimen, difficulty tolerating a medication, or simply long-term use of a drug can lead to the evolution of drug-resistant strains of HIV, which in turn can lead to an increase in viral load followed by disease progression.

In order to help health-care workers select a HAART regimen, especially in highly treatment-experienced patients with limited options, amfAR recently concluded a series of ten dinner meetings in cities across the country entitled *Improving HIV Treatment Outcomes and Care for the Treatment-Experienced Patient*. Aimed at physician assistants and nurse practitioners with heavy HIV case loads, the series attracted more than 500 attendees who received continuing medical education (CME) credits through amfAR and nursing credits through the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC). amfAR presented the series in conjunction with a number of AIDS service organizations, including regional AIDS education and training centers, local ANAC chapters, and the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

One of the goals of amfAR's CME program is to broaden the reach of educational activities—in this case by providing specialized HIV training to mid-level providers who often interact very closely with HIV-positive patients. Additionally, by holding programs in Atlanta and Raleigh-Durham, NC, the series in part targeted the South, where there is rising prevalence of HIV. The series, which ran from June 6 through October 17, was also conducted in Albany, NY, Boston, Denver, Indianapolis, Kansas City, MO, Los Angeles, Portland, OR, and San Diego. ■



More than 500 medical professionals attended amfAR's continuing education program aimed at helping select HIV drugs for treatment-experienced patients with few options. (Photo: Larry Switzer)

speed among MSM, the 80-plus groups involved in the Purple Sky Network set out to strengthen the voices of MSM within their own countries.

The goals of the Purple Sky Network were ambitious, but the last year has seen remarkable progress toward their realization. Not long ago, none of the six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region—Cambodia, southern China (Yunnan and Guangxi provinces), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam—included MSM in their national strategic plans for HIV/AIDS; today, all of them do except China (although Yunnan and Guanxi provinces do.) A year ago, only Myanmar and Vietnam had established national MSM working groups; today, every country but Thailand has.

“This is a huge change,” said Cliff Cortez, a member of the Purple Sky

Network's advisory board and USAID's Bangkok regional senior advisor. “Prior to the work of the Purple Sky Network, none of the national governments in this region were anywhere near being at the table as partners on MSM and HIV.”

But changes in the political landscape for MSM in the region haven't come without hard work, beginning three years before the Purple Sky Network was launched when a study showed that HIV prevalence among MSM in Bangkok stood at 17.3 percent, far higher than 1.5 percent in the general population. This disturbing data kickstarted a series of discussions and meetings between governments, community groups, and NGOs in the region.

“That was the first time government representatives in the Mekong region had come together to discuss MSM issues,”

said Jack Arayawongchai, the coordinator of TREAT Asia's MSM program. This collective, regional focus on HIV and MSM had an immediate impact. The Laotian government, for instance, went from refusing to acknowledge that MSM existed in the country to staging the first national meeting on MSM and HIV in 2007, which resulted in the inclusion of MSM in the national HIV/AIDS plan.

As the Purple Sky Network enters its second year, plans have been formed to expand partnerships with other regional groups and to push forward with efforts to support MSM in-country groups. Although the epidemic continues to spread among MSM in Asia, the Purple Sky Network has shown that first steps can be giant steps in the fight against HIV/AIDS. ■

HIV and the Brain

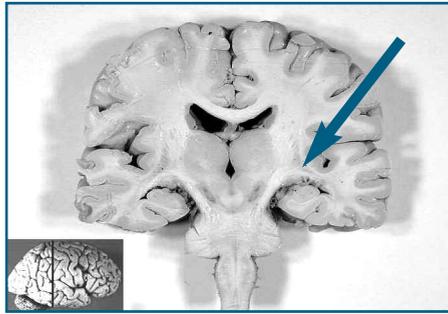
By Jeffrey Laurence, M.D.

Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) saves lives—to be exact, 2.8 million years of life since 1989 in the U.S. alone, based on national surveillance data published last year. HAART's effectiveness is mitigated to some extent by problems arising from drug resistance and drug side effects, but HIV infection may have other debilitating consequences as well. One issue of growing importance involves changes in mental function ranging from mild cognitive impairment to frank dementia, a problem addressed by amfAR-funded scientist Beau Ances writing in the September issue of the *Archives of Neurology*.

Before HAART, up to one-third of people with AIDS developed mental changes substantial enough to alter their capacity to complete normal daily activities. As HAART became more widely available, the occurrence of frank dementia fortunately declined, but in its place came a range of less serious but still significant and common mental impairments.

Dr. Ances and colleagues noted that the standard way of assessing functional changes in brain activity, using magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) and measurements of certain brain chemicals, may have led doctors to believe that HAART was having a greater positive effect in the brain than was actually occurring. It appeared that HAART could return these abnormally elevated chemical markers to the normal range in most people. Yet clinically, abnormalities in mental function continued to occur in some patients. Clearly a more sensitive indicator of HIV's effects in the brain was needed. Dr. Ances's group has now identified one such test.

Working at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Ances used the standard MRS scan, but with a twist. Instead of



Dr. Beau Ances and colleagues determined that a viral sanctuary capable of inducing inflammation most likely persists in the brain's lenticular nuclei (arrow) despite use of antiretroviral drugs capable of blocking HIV. Inset shows the location of the brain cross-section. (Photo: John A Beal, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport)

analyzing the brain chemicals typically targeted in MRS, he examined changes in three chemicals that are elevated in nerve tissues under inflammatory or oxidative stresses—the kinds of conditions induced by HIV. These molecules—creatine, a marker of high-energy metabolism; lactate, a measure of cell activity under conditions of low oxygen; and lipid, affected by oxidative stress—were examined in an area of the brain known as the lenticular nuclei (LN). Dr. Ances's group chose to study the LN because previous studies had found that chemical and immune abnormalities in that region of the brain are strongly linked with HIV-associated mental impairment. HIV-negative volunteers were evaluated along with HIV-infected individuals who were either cognitively normal or mildly or severely impaired.

Dr. Ances discovered that lipid and lactate are more sensitive markers for cognitive changes than commonly measured chemicals, and that increasing levels correlated with increased cognitive impairment. Whether HAART included drugs such as tenofovir or tipranavir, which readily enter into the brain, or agents such

as AZT, indinavir or lopinavir, which have much poorer brain penetrance, it did not correct these abnormalities.

The authors concluded that a viral sanctuary capable of inducing inflammation most likely persists in the brain despite use of antiretroviral drugs capable of blocking HIV growth in other areas of the body. And they called for further research into the development of other types of drugs capable of protecting the brain against such assaults, an area of active interest to amfAR-funded scientists. ■

Dr. Laurence is amfAR's senior scientific consultant.

amfAR to Be Honored with Advocacy Award

Dr. Mathilde Krim to Accept Research!America's Paul G. Rogers Award

In recognition of amfAR's staunch support of biomedical research, Founding Chairman Dr. Mathilde Krim will accept the Paul G. Rogers Distinguished Organization Advocacy Award on behalf of amfAR from Research!America, the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make health research a higher national priority. The Rogers Award will be presented at a ceremony on March 18, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Research!America's annual awards program was established in 1996 to honor outstanding advocates of medical, health, and scientific research. ■

Rejuvenating the Field of AIDS Research

Krim Fellows Program Confronts Urgent Need for Young Scientists

In January 2007, amfAR launched a new research initiative in honor of its founding chairman: The Mathilde Krim Fellows in Basic Biomedical Research. The aim was to confront an urgent problem. At a time when HIV/AIDS kills more than 2 million people each year, support for bright young scientists seeking innovative solutions to the epidemic is evaporating.

The proportion of funding awarded to young scientists aged 35 or less has steadily declined from 23 percent in 1980 to below four percent in 2001, according to a study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A recent *Nature Medicine* article reported that the number of young scientists securing NIH grants fell by 14 percent between 2003 and 2006.

Meanwhile, the share of grants going to older scientists has grown sharply. The result is that young scientists, looking for support for original ideas, are increasingly forced to leave academia.

In the early days of HIV/AIDS research, the urgency and complexity of the disease drew many of the world's sharpest young scientists. These investigators were mentored by senior scientists until they were eventually able to head up their own research teams and generate funding for their own work.

This system of training and mentoring leading to professional independence guaranteed a continued supply of new energy

and fresh ideas. But most experts agree that it is now falling apart as a result of scarce research support for any but senior researchers.

Addressing this gap and moving from concept to funding in less than a year, amfAR will announce its inaugural round of Krim Fellowships in January. The program will support exceptional young scientists' biomedical research aimed at treating, preventing, and eradicating HIV/AIDS. The Krim Fellowship program will support two years of postdoctoral research, with the possibility of one additional year of research support during the first year of a tenure-track position.

The first round of proposals was reviewed by amfAR's Scientific Advisory Committee at an October meeting described as "an unqualified success" by Dr. Rowena Johnston, amfAR's vice president of research. "We received many applications of extraordinarily high caliber from leading laboratories all around the world," she indicated. "The overwhelming response to this program underscores the pressing funding needs of new researchers as support has dried up from other sources." ■



Dr. Mathilde Krim, amfAR's founding chairman.

MSM *(continued from page 1)*

resources for MSM. The Initiative will support networks working to address HIV among MSM, fund research to build understanding of HIV epidemics and interventions among MSM, and seek effective policies and increased public funding for HIV prevention and treatment efforts for MSM.

The first round of awards will support front-line organizations and networks in Africa, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. amfAR will issue a second series of RFPs in 2008 for Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Central and East Asia, and China.

Individual organizations are eligible for one-year awards of up to \$20,000 while networks are eligible for awards of up to

\$50,000. As the MSM Initiative grows, it will provide more support to a greater number of organizations.



Tackling MSM issues in Asia, Vincent Crisostomo of the Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Network on HIV/AIDS and Addy Chen of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance joined other MSM activists at a Purple Sky Network meeting. (Photo: Apinun Sreengam)

The MSM Initiative coordinates its activities with UNAIDS, the Global Forum on MSM and HIV, and dozens of local and regional organizations. It has itself received funding from a number of generous institutions and individuals, including the M•A•C AIDS Fund, the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline's Positive Action program, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as David Bohnett and Tom Gregory, Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill, James C. Hormel and Timothy Wu, Dr. Mathilde Krim, and more than a dozen other individuals and families. ■

benefit news

Cinema Against AIDS Shows “Cannes Do” Spirit

Event Is the Most Successful Fundraiser in amfAR History

Many of the most celebrated names in entertainment, art, and fashion gathered at the 14th annual Cinema Against AIDS gala on May 23 to support amfAR and AIDS research, in the process raising \$7 million and making the event the most successful fundraiser in amfAR history.

Among those attending this year’s event, held once again at Le Moulin de Mougins during the Cannes International Film Festival, were Sharon Stone, Harvey Weinstein, Matt Damon, George Clooney, Andy Garcia, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Diego Luna, Michelle Yeoh, Dita von Teese, M•A•C’s John Demsey, Bold Films’ Michel Litvak, Palisades Pictures’ Vincent Roberti, *French Vogue’s* Carine Roitfeld, and amfAR’s chairman of the board, Kenneth Cole.

Cole opened the event by urging each individual to continue the fight against AIDS, and Weinstein spoke of his deep satisfaction at being able to generate funds for scientists seeking solutions to the epidemic. “I have seen an enormous evolution in the research,” added Stone, amfAR’s global fundraising chairman. “We’ve seen people who were not able to live for a year now able to live for 20 years.”

Stone kicked off the live auction by selling two of her Louis Vuitton custom vanity cases for \$95,000 each. The auction featured an impromptu performance by Australian pop singer Kylie Minogue, who sang “Locomotion” and “Can’t Get You Out Of My Head” after guests bid \$300,000 to get her onstage. Julian Lennon closed the evening with an unplanned performance of “Stand By Me.”

In one of the event’s most memorable moments, George Clooney, who helped his *Ocean’s 13* castmates auction off two vacation packages, offered a kiss for the winner to sweeten the deal. “I’ve seen you kiss for free!” Stone joked to Clooney.

M•A•C Viva Glam spokeswoman Dita Von Teese, clad in Swarovski crystal-encrusted boots and a cowboy hat, also performed her burlesque show, “Liptease,” in which she rode a giant lipstick.

Other auction items included a Milan fashion package, a plate portrait by legendary artist Julian Schnabel, and a Chopard diamond necklace, which sold for \$500,000, the highest single bid of the night.

This year’s Cinema Against AIDS was sponsored by Bold Films, the M•A•C AIDS Fund, and the Weinstein Company. Event co-sponsors were Hewlett-Packard Company, Quintessentially, Warner Home Video, Chopard, and Nassiri Music.

Others in attendance included Asia Argento, Ellen Barkin, Mischa Barton, Zoe Bell, Elodie Bouchez, Carla Bruni, Naomi Campbell, Amira Casar, Roberto Cavalli, Georgina Chapman,

Don Cheadle, Maggie Cheung, Toni Collette, Rosario Dawson, Catherine Deneuve, John Galliano, Jean Paul Gaultier, Nicolas Ghesquiere, Elliott Gould, Rose McGowan, Elle Macpherson, Eva Mendes, Svetlana Metkina, Kylie Minogue, Nassiri, Petra Nemcova, Stefano Pilati, Sarah Polley, Brett Ratner, Denise Rich, Michelle Rodriguez, Robert Rodriguez, Princesse Clotilde de Savoie, Claudia Schiffer, Julian Schnabel, L’Wren Scott, Victoria Silvstedt, Mario Testino, Tracie Thoms, Ivana Trump, Jerry Weintraub, and Kerry Washington. ■



amfAR’s Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone (upper left) helped lead the record-setting Cannes benefit, with support from (clockwise) queen of burlesque Dita Von Teese, Naomi Campbell and Jean-Paul Gauthier, George Clooney and Matt Damon, and Petra Nemcova. (Photos: WireImage)

amfAR Rocks to the Tune of \$150,000

Six hundred young, hip New Yorkers descended on the Puck Building on September 24 for the 16th annual amfAR Rocks, an evening of revelry that raised \$150,000 for amfAR's AIDS research programs. Paris Hilton, a longtime amfAR supporter, traveled to New York to chair the event, along with presenting sponsor Rock & Republic's Michael Ball and Andrea Bernholtz.

Among those who joined amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole and trustee Natasha Richardson at amfAR Rocks were Caridee English, Orfeh, Ty Jones, Paul Vogt, and the cast of "The Fashionista Diaries." Guests feasted on signature dishes from 50 of New York's hottest restaurants and bid on silent auction items from Rock & Republic, Rock the Cure, Bing Bang, Stella McCartney, Kenneth Cole, Bulgari, YSL, Gucci, and Rodarte. DJ Cassidy provided the evening's dance music, and also donated a private lesson behind the turntable as part of the silent auction.

amfAR Rocks was sponsored by Rock & Republic and Rock the Cure, with wine and spirits provided by Smirnoff. Now in its sixteenth year, the event helps raise AIDS awareness among young New Yorkers and has generated more than \$3 million for amfAR's HIV/AIDS programs. ■

Clockwise from top left, event chair Paris Hilton; amfAR Chairman of the Board Kenneth Cole with trustee Natasha Richardson; Mick Rock with amfAR Rocks chair Andrea Bernholtz of Rock & Republic; and Orfeh. (Photos: WireImage)



In Africa, a Fundraising Trek with Lasting Rewards

Namibia, a country located on the Atlantic coast of southern Africa, is home to the world's oldest desert as well as an estimated 230,000 people living with HIV. In late May, 20 intrepid amfAR supporters trekked into the heart of the desolate and spectacular Namib Desert, raising a total of \$251,000 for amfAR's vital HIV/AIDS programs.

During the 70-mile trek, participants walked through remote landscapes teeming with exotic wildlife, relying on each other and their guides to navigate the rough terrain of the Ugab River Valley in heat that reached 108 degrees.

Despite the intense demands of the experience, first-time trekker Derrick Cordier described the Namibian trek as "like the best movie ever—I laughed, I cried, I stumbled, and I was helped along the way." Helaina Buzzeo concurred. "This was an all-time life-changing experience for me," she said.

On the final day of the nine-day event, trekkers visited with HIV/AIDS doctors and prevention workers at the Walvis Bay Multi-Purpose Centre, where local experts offered first-

hand descriptions of their work on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic in one of the world's most vulnerable regions. On their return, Trek participants gathered and sent boxes of supplies for the Centre's youth programs, including notebooks, soccer and basketballs, crayons, pens, and pencils, the mailing costs of which were underwritten by United Shipping Solutions.

The Namibia trip was the third Trek amfAR physical challenge event, following outings in China and Vietnam. As with previous treks, participants were required to raise or contribute a minimum of \$10,000 each to participate. This year, Peter McManus of Los Angeles led the fund-raising effort with \$40,000, thereby earning a shopping excursion courtesy of Victorinox Swiss Army.

The 2008 Trek amfAR event will take place in the northern mountains of Thailand, where participants will hike

the Old Elephant Trail, once a busy trade route but now seldom visited by Western tourists. Trekkers will also be able to see first-hand the programs conducted by amfAR's Bangkok office. ■



Trekkers take a rest in the shade of an abandoned farmstead in the Namib Desert. (Photo: Romena Johnston)

amfAR Honors with Pride

Gay and Lesbian Leaders Receive Awards of Courage

amfAR recognized three influential leaders in the gay and lesbian community for their longtime involvement in the fight against AIDS at the eighth annual Honoring with Pride benefit. David Barr, Liz Smith, and Dr. Barbara Starrett were honored at the June 6 event, which raised nearly \$1 million for amfAR's programs, including more than \$560,000 for the new MSM Initiative (see page 1).

amfAR Chairman of the Board Kenneth Cole welcomed guests to the event, which was held at New York City's famed Rainbow Room. The three honorees were presented with amfAR's Award of Courage by Peter Staley, Liza Minnelli, and New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. Following a dynamic performance by actor/singer Cheyenne Jackson, a live auction featured an impromptu performance by Liza Minnelli. Kenneth Cole was able to convince nine guests to follow his lead in bidding \$5,000 each for the privilege of hearing her sing.

All three award recipients have played key roles in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic through their efforts to promote awareness, raise funds, and expand treatment and support services for people living with HIV. Barr, a longtime HIV treatment advocate and educator, is the director of the Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness, a project of the Tides Network and the

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition. Nationally syndicated columnist Liz Smith has worked for years to raise public awareness about AIDS and to publicize the work of amfAR and other organizations. Dr. Starrett, a board-certified internist, was an early leader in efforts to bring quality health care to gay men and lesbians. ■



Clockwise from top, Dr. Barbara Starrett, David Barr, and Liz Smith received Awards of Courage; Liza Minnelli and amfAR Chairman of the Board Kenneth Cole; performer Cheyenne Jackson. (Photos: WireImage)

Bucks County Hits a High Note

Philadelphia-area amfAR supporters gathered on September 23 at the farm of Laura Bohn and Richard Fiore for a fundraiser featuring a dazzling performance by Broadway star Christine Andreas. The third annual Bucks County Cabaret, which included a sumptuous dinner and a silent auction, raised \$60,000 for amfAR.

Ms. Andreas, whose velvety soprano has earned her two Tony Award nominations, was joined by her accomplished collaborator Martin Silvestri on the piano.

David McShane, Kenneth G. Shaefer, Sam and Happy Shipley, and David Topel chaired the event, which was sponsored by Merck, Merrill Lynch, and Paxson Hill Farms. The Bucks County Cabaret was planned in association with the Philadelphia and Bucks County Committee for amfAR, representing a community that has mobilized support for amfAR since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic and has raised more than \$4.5 million. ■



Clockwise from above, Broadway star Christine Andreas; David Topel, Dr. Mathilde Krim, Randy Apgar, and Allen Black; Bob Egan and Happy Shipley. (Photos, top right and bottom left: Gordon Nieburg, Bucks County Herald; top left: Alberto Ramos)

The Art of Fundraising: Record Receipts for Two by Two

Elizabeth Peyton Honored with Award of Excellence

Dallas's ninth annual Two by Two for AIDS and Art black-tie dinner and art auction raised more than \$3.2 million for amfAR and the Dallas Museum of Art.

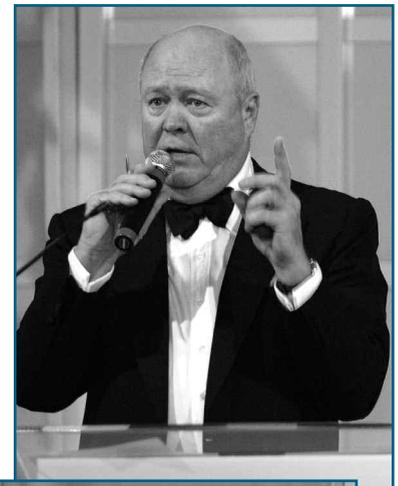
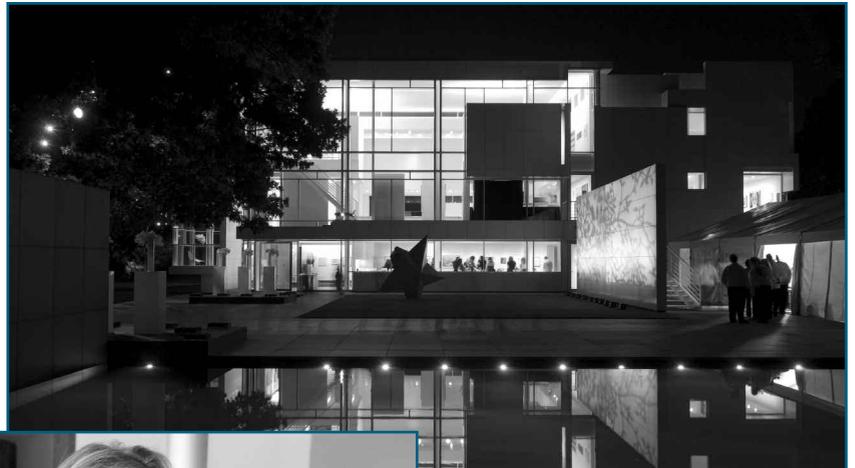
The October 27 event was once again generously hosted by Cindy and Howard Rachofsky at the Richard Meier-designed Rachofsky House, and was co-chaired by Jennifer Eagle and Catherine Rose. Among those attending were amfAR Chairman Kenneth Cole, actor Stanley Tucci, and international queen of burlesque Dita Von Teese.

Sponsored by Aston Martin of Dallas, Dom Pérignon, Harry Winston, Nassiri Music, and Sotheby's, Two by Two included cocktails and a silent auction inside the Rachofsky House, followed by dinner, a live auction, and an after-party in a tent outside.

The event's auctions featured 130 pieces of contemporary art as well as luxury items. Highlights included a painting by Elizabeth Peyton, which sold for \$450,000, and a Harry Winston ebony and diamond bangle watch, which brought \$35,000.

Following the live auction conducted by Jamie Niven, vice chairman of Sotheby's, the tent was transformed into a late-night lounge for the Last Look after-party, sponsored by Aston Martin, Dom Pérignon, and Neiman Marcus. Von Teese took to the stage in a glittering red outfit to perform the Texas debut of her racy burlesque act "My Heart Belongs to Daddy." With the encouragement of Stanley Tucci and Kenneth Cole, who each put up \$5,000 to start the bidding, guests offered up a total of \$70,000 to see a second Von Teese performance. She closed out the evening with her acclaimed martini glass routine.

As part of the Two by Two weekend in Dallas, Elizabeth Peyton was honored with amfAR's Award of Excellence for Artistic Contributions to the Fight Against AIDS at a brunch hosted by Jennifer and John Eagle and sponsored by Citi on Sunday, October 28. amfAR trustee Richard Metzner presented Peyton with the award. ■



Clockwise from top, the Rachofsky House where Two by Two was held; auctioneer Jamie Niven; Award of Excellence winner Elizabeth Peyton with Gavin Brown; actor Stanley Tucci; co-chairs Jennifer Eagle and Catherine Rose; Susan Kaminsky and Cindy Rachofsky. (Photos: Steve Foxall/ Steve Foxall Photography)

Romans Embrace Cinema Against AIDS

Inaugural Event Raises \$1.35 Million

Opening up a new frontier in its highly successful Cinema Against AIDS benefit event series, amfAR held its inaugural Cinema Against AIDS Rome on October 26 during the Rome Film Festival.

The event raised \$1.35 million for the Foundation's HIV/AIDS research programs and attracted a glittering roster of Italian and American celebrities, led by amfAR Global Fundraising Chairman Sharon Stone. Other supporters included Asia Argento, Zoe Cassavetes, Sofia Coppola, Valeria Golino, Eva Herzigova, Bar Rafaeli, Riccardo Scamarcio, Mira Sorvino, Julie Taymor, and Elliot Goldenthal.

The evening opened with remarks by amfAR CEO Kevin Frost about the Foundation's expanding global reach and the importance of supporting AIDS research. Stone then hosted the gala's live auction with characteristic panache, at one point auctioning off the necklace she was wearing for \$50,000. Pink Martini performed several songs during the course of the evening, and *Across the Universe* star Dana Fuchs sang "Let It Be" and "The Rose," accompanied by Thomas Lauderdale on the piano.

Cinema Against AIDS Rome was presented by Fendi and co-sponsored by de Grisogono and Studios SRL, with *Vanity Fair* as the media partner. ■



Clockwise from top left: Sharon Stone, Mira Sorvino helping auction earrings from de Grisogono, Bar Rafaeli. (Photos: WireImage)

amfAR™
AIDS RESEARCH

www.amfar.org

The Foundation for AIDS Research

Newsletter Staff

Andrew McInnes
Director, Public Information

Constance Herndon
Senior Staff Writer

Carolyn Hanson
Natalie Jacobs
Winnie McCroy
Jennifer Samuels
Contributors

Raoul Norman-Tenazas
Creative Director

Yolande Hunter
Production Artist

Offices

120 Wall Street, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3908
tel: (212) 806-1600
fax: (212) 806-1601

1150 17th Street, NW, Suite 406
Washington, DC 20036-4622
tel: (202) 331-8600
fax: (202) 331-8606

TREAT Asia
Exchange Tower
21st Floor, Suite 2104
388 Sukhumvit Road
Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110
Thailand
tel: (+66) 2 663-7561
fax: (+66) 2 663-7562

1-800-39-amfAR

amfAR is one of the world's leading non-profit organizations dedicated to the support of AIDS research, HIV prevention, treatment education, and the advocacy of sound AIDS-related public policy.

**amfAR is a member of
Community Health Charities.**



The Board of Trustees of amfAR recognizes American Airlines for its long-standing commitment to the fight against AIDS and its generous support of amfAR's mission.

Sign Up for amfAR News by E-Mail
For the latest on HIV/AIDS and amfAR's programs and events, sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter. You can also subscribe to an electronic version of the *TREAT Asia Report*. Sign up on the web at www.amfar.org/subscribe.

calendar

Please note that all events are subject to change. Up-to-date event listings can be found at www.amfar.org.

Thursday, January 31

amfAR NEW YORK GALA

The annual amfAR New York Gala, a black-tie benefit to be held this year at Cipriani 42nd Street, will pay special tribute to Carine Roitfeld, editor in chief of *French Vogue*; artist and filmmaker Julian Schnabel; and Bobby Shriver, chairman of PRODUCT (RED). The event is chaired by Daniel Battsek, Kenneth Cole, Diane Von Furstenberg, Lou Reed, Natasha Richardson, Sharon Stone, Dame Elizabeth Taylor, and Stanley Tucci. It includes cocktails, dinner, and an awards ceremony. Contact Kate Fitzsimons at (212) 806-1612 for more information.

Sunday, February 3

**Gift for Life
16th Annual Celebration**

Gift for Life will celebrate its 16th anniversary with a party at New York's Strata nightclub. The evening, held in conjunction with the New York International Gift Show, will feature an awards presentation, dancing, and both silent and live auctions. This year's event honors Paulette Cole of ABC Carpet & Home; Will Little of George Little Management, LLC; and Sheila Charton of 7W New York. Two-time Tony-Award-winner Sutton Foster, currently seen in Mel Brooks's Broadway musical *Young Frankenstein*, will perform. Gift for Life is a committee of senior executives from the gift and home industry who have helped raise more than \$4 million for amfAR. Contact David Yu at (212) 806-1615 for more information.

Thursday, May 22

**Cinema Against AIDS
Cannes 2008**

The annual Cinema Against AIDS benefit has become the most eagerly anticipated event of the Cannes Film Festival and has raised nearly \$30 million for AIDS research. This year's black-tie benefit, featuring cocktails, dinner, and a live auction, promises to follow in the glamorous footsteps of its predecessors, which have showcased appearances by Sharon Stone, Sir Elton John, Ringo Starr, George Clooney, and many more. Contact Kate Fitzsimons at (212) 806-1612 for more information and to reserve your seat now.