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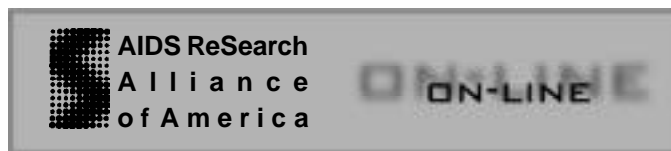
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AIDS ReSearch Alliance

SPOTLIGHT

People & Developments / Winter 2000



ARA wired www.aidsresearch.org

Our website is now up and running at full speed—catch us at <www.aidsresearch.org> and get tons of helpful information about our clinical trials, download current and back Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of ARA's research journal *Searchlight*, and *Spotlight*, and make a contribution online with our convenient and secure electronic donation form.

Designed by **Mad Macs** of Los Angeles, and funded, in part, by a generous donation from the **Joseph Drown Foundation**, the site offers clear and comprehensive information about the organization and its history, its current and enrolling trials, and the scope of ARA's services and capabilities. We keep the site visitor abreast of current fundraising campaigns

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Developments

ARA Welcomes Vincent Cummings as Development Director

AIDS ReSearch Alliance is pleased to announce the addition of Vincent Cummings to the staff as the organization's Director of Development. Vincent has a successful eight-year track record of fundraising and outreach for a variety of progressive Southern California and national organizations.



PHOTO BY JOHN SEALONY

A native of Los Angeles, Vincent was awarded his undergraduate degree *cum laude* from **UCLA**. After college, he began working at **Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund**, assisting their west-coast fundraising efforts, and overseeing the creation and implementation of the first two Los Angeles *Lambda*

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SPOTLIGHT

PEOPLE & DEVELOPMENTS AT
AIDS ReSEARCH ALLIANCE

ARA envisions a future in which HIV and its effects are eliminated from infected individuals, and a vaccine preventing new cases eradicates the virus.

ARA's mission is to find and accelerate the development of effective treatments for HIV and its complications. We do this by conducting cutting-edge research and clinical trials in order to improve the longevity and quality of life for all people with immune deficiency.

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Irl S. Barefield

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Message from the Executive Director



PHOTO BY WALTER MUDJINA

It is always enjoyable when I can write directly to ARA's incredible family of supporters because you are an audience that "gets it." You don't need to be told again and again that AIDS remains very much with us—although we thank you for continuing to listen as we remind others. You know the number of people that AIDS kills may have *slowed*, but the death of every friend still carries the same pain and frustration that it has since the beginning of our struggle. You understand that the crisis is not over, and you "get" the need for continued progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

As part of our ARA family, you have been instrumental to all of our successes in finding more effective and better tolerated therapies. Your understanding and your actions to move us closer to a preventative vaccine and a cure only strengthens our resolve to move our mission forward.

Rest assured that every key decision we make is based on the simple question: "*How does this work further our mission of ending the AIDS epidemic?*" In 2001, we'll continue our tradition of fast-track clinical research making more effective and tolerable therapies available. And we will undertake several major new pre-clinical projects that we believe hold promise for both the treatment and prevention of HIV-disease.

In this issue of *Spotlight*, we recognize support from truly diverse sources: from a late benefactor who shied away from recognition during his lifetime to significant gifts from several of the foundations who remain committed to the importance of our work; from the *Faultline* bar's continued fundraising on our behalf to a well-deserved ARA Board tribute honoring our prior Executive Director.

We know that we can count on you to continue your participation in our efforts to bring about a future free of AIDS, and we thank you in advance for taking a moment to put ARA on your holiday list along with other extended family members. None of our successes would have happened without your help, just as the work we are currently planning is possible only through your continued generosity.

During this season above all others, please know that your involvement has made and continues to make a real difference. Thank you from all of us, and have a wonderful holiday season.

With respect,

Irl Barefield,
Executive Director
irl@aidsresearch.org

(You can now visit us on the worldwide web at www.aidsresearch.org. Please let us know what you think, and remember that our website is a great way to introduce your friends to AIDS ReSearch Alliance.)

ARA Wired

cover story continued

and events, and make it easy to volunteer or donate, with pop-up email forms that send your messages to the appropriate ARA department.

Our **About ARA** section presents our vision, mission and guiding principles, gives a brief history of our organization and introduces visitors to our Board of Directors and our staff.

Current Clinical Trials presents lay-friendly descriptions of

ARA's enrolling trials, offers interested individuals the opportunity to join our *Priority Notification Program* and receive advance information on upcoming trials, and provides the tutorial "Clinical Trials 101", which thoroughly explains the basics of participating in a clinical research study.

About Our Research explains the ways in which we implement our mission, describes our clinical

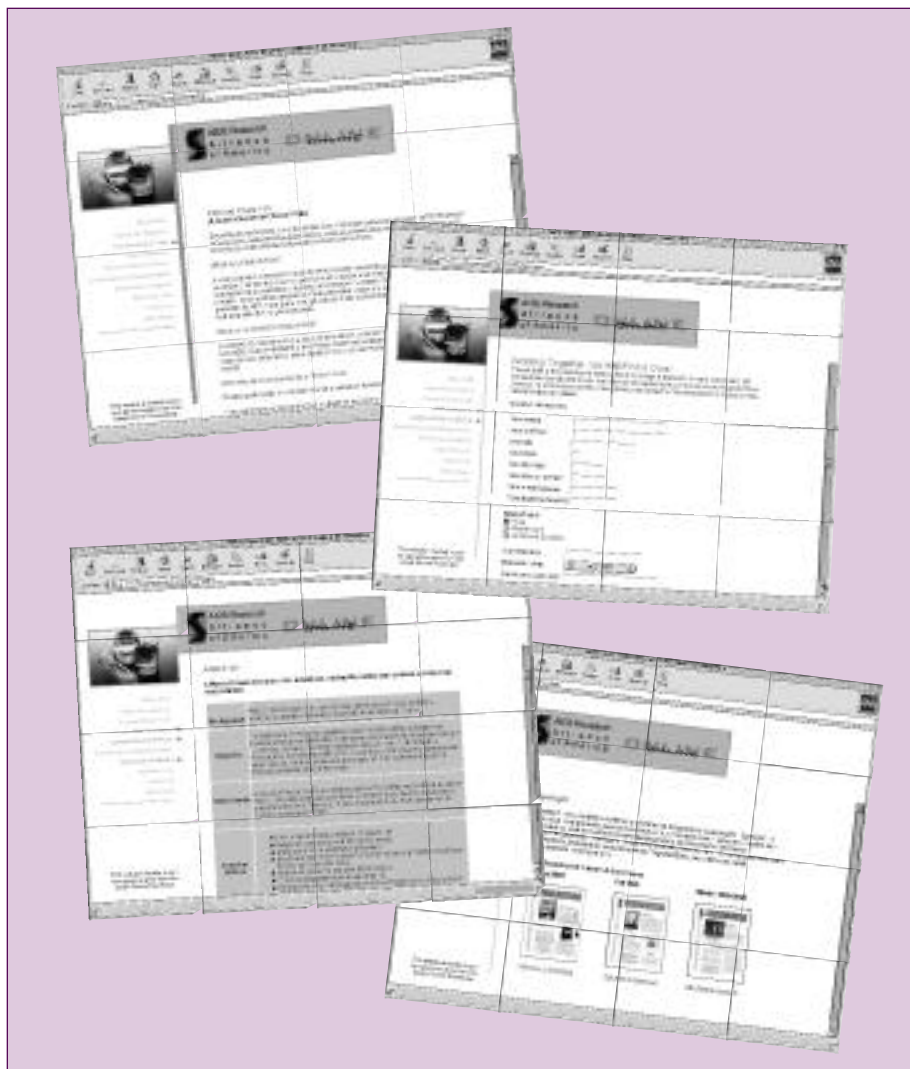
cal & patient recruitment capabilities, explains ARA's Institutional Review Board (IRB) procedures and introduces visitors to the community members and medical personnel that comprise our IRB. We also list ARA's Medical Executive Committee and explain their role in formulating our research agenda.

Información en Español translates the trial tutorial "Clinical Trials 101" and offers contact information to reach ARA staff fluent in Spanish.

ARA Publications lets visitors download current and past issues of *Spotlight* and *Searchlight* in PDF formats in their entirety, and provides key *Searchlight* articles in text files, fulfilling our goal of reaching more people who can benefit from the magazines' information and allowing for instant worldwide access to recent research developments.

We also suggest connections, in **Important Links**, to other HIV/AIDS informational sites aimed at helping clients and visitors get crucial, updated information on developments in scientific, social service and political arenas.

For our longtime supporters and friends, ARA's website not only offers a more immediate presence and comprehensive background on our research endeavors, it presents an ideal way to introduce our organization to interested potential clients, donors or volunteers.



Visitors to <www.aidsresearch.org> can donate to ARA online, view enrolling trial descriptions and learn about participating in a clinical trial, read ARA's history, sign up for our Priority Notification Program, inquire about volunteering and download PDF copies of both *Spotlight* and *Searchlight*, ARA's research periodical.



Annual "Cocktail Party Among Friends"

*Celebration of Hope & Progress
to thank our supporters*

On Sunday, June 25th, **Tim Corrigan**, member of ARA's Board of Directors, and **Kathleen Scheinfeld**, hosted a cocktail party for the organization's major supporters and community associates at their elegant home "Los Tiempos" in Hancock Park, California. The beautiful residence and lavish grounds, formerly the home of the late Los Angeles music patron **Dorothy Chandler**, provided a gracious setting



Andrew Korotzer, Ph.D., ARA's former Director of Scientific Communications, presents updates on ARA's independent pre-clinical research.

for the one hundred and thirty people gathered on a hot summer afternoon to review and celebrate recent advances in HIV/AIDS research. Guests were invited to stroll the grounds, partake of refreshments and view a photographic display from ARA's recent successful fundraising events, **Focus on AIDS 8** and **Danse Macabre—A Bal Masque**.



Michael Ashby, participant in ARA's Viracept™ study and longtime ARA supporter attends with his friend Lora Ely.

The party was partially underwritten for ARA, thanks to the generosity and hard work of event volunteers and vendors. **Jimmy D'z Catering** supplied a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres, live music was provided by pianist **Larry Farninholt**, and **Skyy Vodka** donated ample vodka to help thirsty guests endure the unseasonable and blazing heat. Expert bartenders **Brad Shearer** and **Pete Wainer** worked fast and furiously in the hot sun to keep up with the continual demand for liquid refreshment.



G. Ray Hawkins, Focus on AIDS Foundation Auctioneer and ARA supporter, shares a moment with his wife Susan.

Cam Davis, Chair of ARA's Board of Directors, opened the evening's brief presentation by thanking Tim & Katherine for their hospitality and introducing ARA's new Executive Director **Irl S. Barefield**. After a few opening remarks, Irl passed the torch to **Dr. Andrew Korotzer**, at that time ARA's Director of Scientific Communications, who spoke about ARA's current and upcoming studies, with particular emphasis on the organization's privately-funded independent research.



Richard Bloch and Paul Kaplan, beloved ARA volunteers, dressed in their tropical finery.



ARA's Board of Directors Development Committee Chair Bruce Cochran, Board Treasurer Chuck Williams, Board member Matt Redman, ARA Executive Director Irl Barefield, Medical Executive Committee Chair Robert E. Winters, M.D., and Board member and party host Tim Corrigan.



*ARA's Irl Barefield and Guy Yelda, former Consul General of France, take a look at **Searchlight**, the AIDS ReSearch Alliance research journal.*

THE DURBAN DECLARATION

A Declaration by Scientists and Physicians Affirming HIV is the Cause of AIDS

The time had simply come for a definitive statement of scientific consensus that HIV is the biological cause of AIDS. To some, this may initially seem like a statement directed to an audience of straw men. Those following the increasingly loud din of AIDS “denialists” know otherwise. It is easy for us in the United States to be smug about South African President Thabo Mbeki’s open questioning of the causal link between HIV and AIDS (i.e., HIV-disease). Activists, scientists, and those who have made great strides in understanding what AIDS is, how it is transmitted, and how transmission can be prevented are rightly outraged by Mbeki’s open courting of denialists such as the discredited Berkeley virologist Peter Duesberg. Worse than Mbeki’s pronouncements, his refusal to accept the offer of free medication, two doses of which would prevent most cases of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, amounts to a death sentence for many children.

But we need to recognize that Mbeki turned to the West for support of his position. The threat posed by denialists is as real at home as it is abroad. In the U.S., increasingly vocal numbers of fringe groups are recklessly promoting the claim that HIV is not causally related to AIDS. Some say that AIDS isn’t really a disease, while others say that AIDS is “over.” With studies showing unsafe sex and sexually transmitted diseases on the rise, the denialist’s message became dangerous. More than 5,000 scientists—representing nearly every country and including more than a dozen Nobel Laureates—thought it necessary to sign the Durban Declaration.

*Organized in ARA’s offices, and originally printed in the journal **Nature** to coincide with the beginning of the Durban World AIDS Conference, the Durban Declaration is a concise and elegant demonstration of the overwhelming scientific evidence and consensus that HIV causes AIDS.*

“Seventeen years after the discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), thousands of people from around the world are gathered in Durban, South Africa to attend the XIII International AIDS Conference. At the turn of the millennium, an estimated 34 million people worldwide are living with HIV or AIDS, 24 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa (1). Last year alone, 2.6 million people died of AIDS, the highest rate since the start of the epidemic. If current trends continue, Southern and South-East Asia, South America and regions of the former Soviet Union will also bear a heavy burden in the next two decades.

Like many other diseases, such as tuberculosis and malaria that cause illness and death in underprivileged and impoverished communities, AIDS spreads by infection. HIV-1, the retrovirus that is responsible for the AIDS pandemic, is closely related to a simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) which infects chimpanzees. HIV-2, which is prevalent in West Africa and has spread to Europe and India, is almost indistinguishable from an SIV that infects sooty mangabey monkeys. Although HIV-1 and HIV-2 first arose as infections transmitted from animals to humans, or zoonoses (2), both are now spread among humans through sexual contact, from mother to infant and via contaminated blood.

An animal source for a new infection is not unique to HIV. The plague came from rodents. Influenza and the

new Nipah virus in South-East Asia reached humans via pigs. Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in the United Kingdom came from ‘mad cows’. Once HIV became established in humans, it soon followed human habits and movements.

Like other viruses, HIV recognizes no social, political or geographic boundaries.

The evidence that AIDS is caused by HIV-1 or HIV-2 is clear-cut, exhaustive and unambiguous. This evidence meets the highest standards of science (3-7). The data fulfill exactly the same criteria as for other viral diseases, such as poliomyelitis, measles and smallpox:

- Patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, regardless of where they live, are infected with HIV (3-7).
- If not treated, most people with HIV infection show signs of AIDS within 5-10 years (6, 7). HIV infection is identified in blood by detecting antibodies, gene sequences or viral isolation. These tests are as reliable as any used for detecting other virus infections.
- Persons who received HIV-contaminated blood or blood products develop AIDS, whereas those who received untainted or screened blood do not (6).

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Durban

continued from page 5

- Most children who develop AIDS are born to HIV-infected mothers. The higher the viral load in the mother the greater the risk of the child becoming infected (8).
 - In the laboratory HIV infects the exact type of white blood cell (CD4 lymphocytes) that becomes depleted in persons with AIDS (3-5).
 - Drugs that block HIV replication in the test tube also reduce viral load and delay progression to AIDS. Where available, treatment has reduced AIDS mortality by more than 80% (9).
 - Monkeys inoculated with cloned SIV DNA become infected and develop AIDS (10).
- Further compelling data are available (4). HIV causes AIDS (5). It is unfortunate that a few vocal people continue to deny the evidence. This position will cost countless lives.

In different regions of the world HIV/AIDS shows altered patterns of spread and symptoms. In Africa, for example, HIV-infected persons are 11 times more likely to die within 5 years (7), and over 100 times more likely than uninfected persons to develop Kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer linked to yet another virus (11).

As with any other chronic infection, various co-factors play a role in determining the risk of disease. Persons who are malnourished, who already suffer other infections or who are older, tend to be more susceptible to the rapid development of AIDS following HIV infection. However, none of these factors weaken the scientific evidence that HIV is the sole cause of AIDS.

In this global emergency, prevention of HIV infection must be our greatest worldwide public health priority.

The knowledge and tools to prevent infection exist. The sexual spread of HIV can be prevented by monogamy, abstinence or by using condoms. Blood transmission can be stopped by screening blood products and by not re-using needles. Mother-to-child transmission can be reduced by half or more by short courses of antiviral drugs (12,13).

Limited resources and the crushing burden of poverty in many parts of the world constitute formidable challenges to the control of HIV infection. People already infected can be helped by treatment with life-saving drugs, but high cost puts these treatments out of reach for most. It is crucial to develop new antiviral drugs that are easier to take, have fewer side effects and are much less expensive, so that millions more can benefit from them.

There are many ways to communicate the vital information about HIV/AIDS. What works best in one country may not be appropriate in another. But to tackle the disease, everyone must first understand that HIV is the enemy. Research, not myths, will lead to the development of more effective and cheaper treatments, and hopefully a vaccine. But for now, emphasis must be placed on preventing sexual transmission.

There is no end in sight to the AIDS pandemic. By working together, we have the power to reverse the tide of this epidemic. Science will one day triumph over AIDS, just as it did over smallpox. Curbing the spread of HIV will be the first step. Until then, reason, solidarity, political will and courage must be our partners."

Signed by 5,228 physicians and scientists from 84 countries who are dedicated to the control of HIV/AIDS (see www.durbandeclaration.org)

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Trial Announcements

AnorMED's AMD-3100, Orasure's OraQuick Assay and Glaxo Wellcome's Agenerase®.

AMD-3100 (Antiviral therapy)

The AMD-3100 clinical trial represents the testing of an entirely new class of antivirals—entry inhibitors—which could potentially mean a breakthrough in how anti-HIV medication can work.

Existing HIV therapies attempt to prevent HIV replication *after* cells are infected. Entry inhibitors *prevent* HIV from infecting cells in the first place. This difference may mean that a different class of HIV medication—with completely different resistance profiles—may be available for those not currently benefiting from present HIV drugs, or for those who have developed resistance to current medications.

Agenerase® (Amprenavir) (Antiviral therapy)

Many people taking anti-HIV medications experience side effects, and have to deal with managing extremely large numbers of pills at high doses. Glaxo's current Agenerase study compares the effectiveness of a lower dose of the currently available amprenavir when it is combined with Norvir.

Norvir seems to increase the potency of a small amount of Agenerase. If so, the addition of norvir to the amprenavir dose might decrease the pill burden, and/or the toxicity, of those using it as part of their anti-HIV regimen.

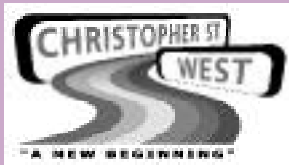
OraQuick Assay (HIV testing)

ARA is testing Orasure's new 20-minute HIV oral assay OraQuick, which tests for the presence of HIV antibodies in saliva and epithelial cells.

Oral tests created by Orasure already exist and work, but the dramatically reduced turnaround time would allow those being tested to receive risk-reduction counselling while ensuring that they are not "lost to follow-up".



(For information about participation in any of these studies, please contact Corie Castro at 310/358.2429.)



ARA in the Community *Outreach Coordinator making connections*



Photo by Jet Mask

Michelle Simek
Outreach Coordinator/
Clinical Research Assist.

Over the past 2 1/2 years, AIDS ReSearch Alliance has been making new connections in the HIV/AIDS and gay & lesbian communities, tabling area events, providing safe-sex information and condoms and teaching people in the community the basics of clinical trials. **Michelle Simek**, our Outreach Coordinator and Clinical Research Assistant, has made the driving effort behind this community activity, with the support of ARA's Executive Director **Irl S. Barefield** and Director of Clinical ReSearch, **Dr. Stephen Brown**.

A certified HIV counselor who is fluent in Spanish, Michelle represents

ARA as an active participant on the Board of the **Womens Caucus on HIV/AIDS of Los Angeles County**, which holds the annual **L.I.N.K.A.G.E.S. Conference**, providing HIV-positive women and treatment advocates with HIV information and area resources.

Her participation in community events, such as **Christopher Street West, Sunset Junction, Latin**

Pride/Hollywood, Long Beach, L.A. Valley & Pasadena Prides, allows Michelle to keep ARA informed of local community developments and provides opportunities for her to acquaint the HIV community with ARA's research opportunities. She teaches a forum entitled "Clinical Trials 101"—the text of which can be downloaded from our site <www.aidsresearch.org>. She also helps out regularly at the **Faultline's** "Proof Positive" evenings dedicated to ARA (see box page 10).

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help Michelle at area events, please contact her at 310/358.2423.

SPOTLIGHT DONORS

THANK YOU THANK YOU

We would like to salute the following donors, who recognize that much research work remains to be done in the struggle to identify more effective, better-tolerated treatments for HIV/AIDS.

*(Donor list covers from 3/00 to 11/00
Circle of Hope Donor List is for entire year.)*

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IN MEMORY OF JEAN-LOUP SIEFF

Jean-Loup Sieff: *Fashion Photographer* & *FOCUS ON AIDS* Donor

AIDS ReSearch Alliance would like to express its sadness at the recent passing of French photographer **Jean-Loup Sieff**. Mr. Sieff died in Paris on September 20th of cancer.

Mr. Sieff, a stylish and world renowned fashion and portrait photographer for fifty years, worked for **Elle**, **Glamour**, **Esquire**, **Harper's Bazaar** and **Vogue**, and captured the likenesses of such celebrities as **Yves St. Laurent** and **Charlotte Rampling**.



Jean-Loup Sieff
1933-2000

For the eight **Focus on AIDS** photographic art auctions, Mr. Sieff was generous in his contribution of artwork, donating such pieces as "Birth of Eve" (1996, silver print), and "Back is Beautiful" (pictured left) raising thousands of dollars for AIDS services and research. (ARA has been the recipient of Focus on AIDS event funds for the last two auctions in 1997 and 1999.)

Our thanks go to Mr. Sieff for his generous support of our research efforts, and our sympathy goes to his family and friends.



"Back is Beautiful",
1995, silver print,

PHOTO BY JEAN-LOUP SIEFF

PHOTO BY DAVID FINEY

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IN HONOR OF GREGG & CLAUDIA BRITT**Outstanding Service**
...and still giving

ARA's Board of Directors recently passed a resolution recognizing and thanking **Gregg and Claudia Britt** for their extraordinary years of service to ARA. Gregg served as ARA's Executive Director from 1993 to 1999, and his wife Claudia was extremely active on the Focus on AIDS Board for the **Focus on AIDS 7 and 8** events in 1997 and 1999, as well as other events.

In honor of their contributions to ARA, Board member Matt Redman proposed that each Board member make a substan-



Claudia and Gregg Britt at the Focus on AIDS Photographic Art Auction 8 in 1999.

tial gift in honor of the Brittts, which was overwhelmingly seconded by the Board of Directors. As Chairman of the Board of Directors Cam Davis stated in his resolution and gift announcement to the Brittts, this recognition "is deeply felt and universally shared."

Irving & Nellie Geldin
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continued on page 10

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THANK YOU THANK YOU

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FAULTLINE FUNDRAISERS



Faultline: *Partying for a cause*

Since December of 1998, owners, staff and patrons of Silver Lake's **The Faultline** bar have been playing host to and supporting an ongoing benefit for AIDS ReSearch Alliance. Thanks to owners **Bill Hobson** & **Shawn Farnsworth**, Manager **Nick Golden**, and bartender **Oscar Cruz**, among others, the Faultline has helped ARA raise over \$5,000 towards our clinical trials.

ARA has been just one of the beneficiaries of their "Proof Positive" Wednesdays, during which patrons give voluntary donations, participate in raffles and pull together to raise money and awareness for AIDS Service Organizations throughout the area.

Many staff members and patrons participate in and helped

recruit volunteers for the VaxGen AIDSVAX™ B/B vaccine trial currently underway at ARA.

We thank everyone at the Faultline for their continuing generosity, as well as patron **Don Hicks** and ARA staff members **Geoff Wilson**, **Michelle Simek**, **Stephen Brown, M.D.**, **Irl Barefield**, **Don Levy** and Vincent Cummings for working at these events.

*Anyone interested in helping us out by working at one of Faultline's "Proof Positive" evenings dedicated to ARA (third Wednesday of every month) can call 310/358-2423 for more information. Anyone interested in **The Faultline** can call 323/660.0889 or go to their website <www.faultlinebar.com>.*

GRANTS

Entertainment Industry Foundation

We have received \$33,000 from the **Entertainment Industry Foundation** towards their \$50,000 grant to us for the year 2000, and we offer our thanks to **Lisa Paulsen**, President and CEO of EIF and to ARA Board of Directors members **Nancy and Sandy Bresler**, who facilitated this critical donation.

The Grace Jones Richardson Trust/ The Challenge Fund

AIDS ReSearch Alliance received grants totalling \$14,500 from long-time supporters **The Grace Jones Richardson Trust** and **The Challenge Fund**. Our heartfelt thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. David Paynter**, and **Brooke Johnson** as well as ARA Board Chair **Cam Davis** and former Board member **H. Smith Richardson**, for their continuing support of our research.

Video Industry AIDS Action Committee (VIAAC)

Jeff Jenest, Chair of the **VIAAC** Beneficiary Committee helped ARA secure a \$5,000 grant. A **Playboy Entertainment Group** V.P., Jeff is a member of **APLA's** governing Board and a long-involved and ardent supporter of AIDS research activity. We would also like to thank ARA Board member **Tim Engel**, who was instrumental in our receipt of this grant.

BEQUESTS

The Estate of Matthew Rushton

We received an additional \$23,427.75 in funds from the **Estate of Matthew Rushton**, one of AIDS ReSearch Alliance's founders and former Chairman of the Board of Directors. This brings

IN MEMORY OF THOM GUTTIEREZ

We would like to express our sorrow at the sudden passing in April of **Thom Gutierrez, Jr.**, longtime ARA supporter and friend, of heart failure.

An accomplished hair stylist, each year during the holidays Thom would ask his clients to donate money to ARA in lieu of holiday gifts to himself. Since 1991, Thom and his clients, friends and family have helped raise close to \$10,000 in support of our research.

Thom, an unassuming and generous man, repeatedly refused our requests to mention his generosity in our publications, preferring to remain anonymous and out of the spotlight.

William Escalera, Thom's longtime life partner and business partner in their Beverly Hills hair salon, *Menage Á Trois*, and Thom's friend **Robert Rueff** arranged for donations in Thom's memory be sent to ARA in April and May of this year. William says of Thom, "He enjoyed life and love to the fullest, and is sorely missed by his many friends and clients."



PHOTO BY FRANK CARRIO

His friends, clients and family responded generously in his name. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the donors listed below. We'd also like to express our condolences to all who mourn his passing, especially to **Doug O'Connor**, Thom's life partner at the time of his death.

Cynthia Blum, Marjorie & Bennett Brachman, Alfred & Doris Dubin, Sheila Field, Toby Flaxman, Hakudo Isoda, Melinda Keppler, Phyllis Kesner, Deborah Lanni, Betty S. Lethe, Deanie & J. Paul Levine, Richard & Myra Mannheimer, Janet Marx, Ramah Mingail, Belle Owens, Seema Pollack, Herbert & Janet Rosenthal, Deborah & Robert Rosenthal, Stella Stricke, Joel Zuckerbraun

the total amount received from this continuing bequest to over \$233,300 in service of the work Matthew began in 1989.

Matthew was the Executive Producer of the blockbuster movie *Mrs. Doubtfire*, and passed away from complications arising from AIDS in 1995. Our appreciation goes to **William Zimmerman**, trustee of Mr. Rushton's estate and former ARA Board member, for facilitating these disbursements. We also extend our thanks and good wishes to Matthew's parents **Marjorie** and **Arthur** for their continued support of our work.

The Estate of Robert Tashjian

AIDS ReSearch Alliance received a \$85,000 donation from the **Estate of Robert Tashjian**. This is the final distribution from an estate that has previously given us \$190,00.

Our thanks go to his brother, **Allan**, ARA Board Vice-Chair **Arnold Kassoy, Esq.**, and ARA staff members **Katherine Gunther** and **Stu Walter** for facilitating this bequest.

Mr. Tashjian's significant gift is critical to ensure that his wish to further AIDS research is realized.

STUDY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Pre-clinical & basic research AIDS RESEARCH ALLIANCE	ARA pursues an extensive preclinical research agenda not reflected in this chart. We include this information here to ensure that our supporters know that this chart reflects only a part of our mission-driven work to ameliorate and, we hope, one day end the epidemic. <i>(Various)</i>	Ongoing
OraQuick Assay ORASURE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	A study testing the effectiveness of the OraQuick oral HIV-1/2 assay using both HIV+ and HIV- volunteers. If approved, OraQuick would be able to determine when someone is infected within 20 minutes of an oral swab. <i>(HIV testing)</i>	Currently enrolling
Agenerase® GLAXO WELLCOME	A study comparing the safety and efficacy of standard dose Agenerase® with low dose Agenerase® and Norvir®, both combined with other background antiretroviral drugs, in HIV-1 infected volunteers. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Currently enrolling
AMD-3100 ANORMED, INC.	A study testing the safety and antiviral activity of AMD-3100 administered by intravenous infusion to HIV-1 infected volunteers. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Currently enrolling
Tipranavir™ PHARMACIA & UPJOHN	A study comparing combination therapy (tipranavir and ritonavir vs. saquinavir and ritonavir) used with two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors in single protease inhibitor-experienced HIV-1 volunteers. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Currently enrolling
Remune™ AGOURON PHARMACEUTICALS	A study to compare the virologic and immunologic effect of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) plus REMUNE™ versus HAART plus Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA) on antiretroviral-naïve volunteers infected with HIV-1. <i>(Antiviral & immunologic therapy)</i>	Currently enrolling
Zerit® (Stavudine, d4T) BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB	A study to evaluate and compare the safety and efficacy of extended-release stavudine compared with standard stavudine for antiviral activity. <i>(Antiviral drug/improved dosing)</i>	Enrollment complete, study ongoing

STUDY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Anticort™ STEROIDOGENESIS INHIBITORS, INC.	A pharmacokinetic and safety study of Anticort™ (an oral procaine formulation) in HIV-infected volunteers. <i>(Anti-inflammatory drug)</i>	Currently enrolling
Hydroxychloroquine (in combination with hydroxyurea and didanosine) AIDS ReSEARCH ALLIANCE	A study of the safety and antiviral efficacy of hydroxychloroquine in combination with hydroxyurea and Videx® (ddl or didanosine) in HIV-1 infected volunteers. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Currently enrolling
PMPA Prodrug GILEAD SCIENCES, INC.	A study of the safety and antiviral activity of the addition of PMPA Prodrug to combination antiretroviral regimens in treatment-experienced HIV-infected volunteers. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Enrollment complete, study ongoing
AIDSVAX™ B/B VAXGEN, INC.	A trial to evaluate the efficacy of the AIDSVAX™ B/B vaccine in adults at risk of sexually transmitted HIV-1 infection. <i>(Preventative HIV vaccine)</i>	Enrollment complete, study ongoing
Ziagen™ (abacavir) combination GLAXO WELLCOME	A study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of 3TC/AZT/Ziagen™ vs. 3TC/AZT/Crixivan in HIV-infected antiretroviral-naïve volunteers. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Enrollment complete, study ongoing
Viracept™ (nelfinavir) AGOURON PHARMACEUTICALS	A study of nelfinavir in combination with AZT+3TC versus AZT+3TC alone. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Long-term extension phase continuing

For information about enrolling in any of our studies, contact **Corie Castro** at **310/358.2429**. Transportation to our clinical research facility is available on request. For priority notification of new/enrolling clinical trials, sign up for our **Priority Notification Program**. Para información en español, llame 310/360.3876.

Don Levy joined ARA in March 2000. He modifies, designs and troubleshoots ARA's computerized databases, and provides technical support and technical design for our website, <www.aidsresearch.org>. He also maintains an independent consulting practice specialized in working with Macintosh computers, making him a natural addition to our all-Mac computer environment.



PHOTO BY CHUCK RESACO

Don is a Los Angeles native, a graduate of **Beverly Hills High School**. He got his B.A. at **USC** in psychology and his Masters at **California State University/Los Angeles**, also in psychology. During the nearly 15 years between the two degrees, he built a career in marketing and sales and a reputation as an innovator.



PHOTO BY JOEL MARK

Kristin J. Allen
ARA's IRB administrator

ARA thanks former Administrative Coordinator *Continues as IRB Administrator*

Kristin Allen, ARA's Administrative Coordinator/QA-QC and Institutional Review Board (IRB) Administrator since January 1999, has left ARA to take a full-time IRB administrator position.

She recently joined the staff of **St. John's Health Center** in Santa Monica, California, but will retain the part-time position of IRB Administrator here at ARA.

All clinical research studies involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the AIDS ReSearch Alliance IRB, which consists of local medical experts and community members who oversee trials and ensure the equitable and ethical treatment of all trial participants.

As an IRB Administrator, Kristin maintains the records of all decisions taken by the IRB, ensuring that the IRB and ARA records are in compliance with federal laws.

Our thanks go to Kristin for her fine work here at ARA, and we wish her happiness and success during her tenure at St. John's.

(Anyone interested in becoming a member of the AIDS ReSearch Alliance IRB should contact us at 310/358.2423.)



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SPOTLIGHT

S T A F F

ARA Welcomes Vincent Cummings

cover story continued

Liberty Awards. Vincent moved on to the **Los Angeles Women's Foundation** as their Special Events Coordinator and Volunteer Manager, where he produced all fundraising and programmatic events. After leaving LAWF, he took over coordinating the private fundraising efforts of **Ocean Park Community Center**—a Santa Monica based umbrella agency consisting of individual shelters for homeless adults, mentally ill women and domestic violence survivors.

Most recently, Vincent served as a Special Projects Manager at the **Directors Guild of America**, where he increased the Guild's efforts to develop affirmative access in the Hollywood industry for minority Guild members.

"I'm one of seven kids and my parents did a super job of drilling into all of us this cool mix of personal responsibility tempered with social obligation. I think that's what drew me to a career helping fund programs that strengthen the social safety net."

Vincent has also served as a volunteer on numerous event committees including **L.A. Shanti's** "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" and **Asian Pacific Aids Intervention Team's** "Exploration in Strings" events with the **Los Angeles Philharmonic**. He currently sits on the Resource Board of **Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children**.

He is looking forward to his new position at ARA and overcoming pessimistic reports of donor fatigue in the AIDS community. "This is such a critical time in the history of this pandemic. Twenty years into the crisis, the people who have remained committed to fighting HIV have been successful at buying some time, but there's an incredible urgency for aggressive research to create answers. The work being done at ARA is some of the most exciting and important in medical research, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it."

ARA says goodbye to former Searchlight editor

Andrew Korotzer, ARA's Director of Scientific Communications, has left ARA for a clinical research position on the East Coast. For over two years, Andrew has been editor of *Spotlight's* sister publication *Searchlight*, ARA's research periodical, and has contributed in numerous ways to the development of several research projects.



PHOTO BY JOEL MARK

His decision to leave was based largely on his desire to live once again near some of his family members. ARA thanks him for his contributions to HIV/AIDS research, and wishes him luck in his new job.

'Tis the season to be giving.

For the past 11 years, we've been speeding up the development of better treatments for HIV and its complications with cutting-edge research and innovative clinical trials. We all recognize the urgency of helping all people with HIV live longer and healthier lives, and preventing anyone else from infection.

Nobody has found a cure or a vaccine yet. That's why we continue to aggressively pursue and find better-tolerated treatments and focus our resources on testing new antiretroviral medications, finding a preventative vaccine, and exploring immune restoration therapies.

We won't stop because HIV hasn't. During this holiday season, and throughout the entire year, you can play a key role in helping us move promising studies from the lab and into clinical trials. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of people with HIV throughout the world.

Research works.

Please give.
You can help find
another breakthrough.



Please mail your donation to the address noted below or call Vincent Cummings at 310/358.2423.

Call to inquire about donating appreciated securities (stock transfers) and planned giving.

AIDS ReSearch Alliance, 621-A N. San Vicente Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90069
310/358.2423 (Admin.) 310/358.2429 (Clinic)