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# SPOTLIGHT

People & Developments at AIDS Research Alliance of America

Winter, 1999



## Danse Macabre

### A Bal Masque

### A Smash Gala

Event honoree filmmaker John Carpenter accepts the *James Whalen Award* for outstanding contributions to the horror film genre at ARAA's October Danse Macabre at the Santa Monica Museum of Flying.

Over 450 masked partygoers, arrayed in glittering gowns, ingenious costumes, and elegant tails thronged the vast halls of the Santa Monica Museum of Flying at *Danse Macabre--A Bal Masque*, held on October 30th. The gala event was held as a fundraiser for AIDS Research Alliance of America, and to honor filmmaker, director and writer John

*continued on page 3*

## Special Late-breaking Announcement

### ARAA CEO Gregory Britt moves on

After serving as AIDS Research Alliance of America's Chief Executive Officer for six and a half years, Gregory Britt is leaving the organization at the end of December to pursue a new job opportunity in the corporate sector.

Cam Davis, Chairman of the ARAA Board of Directors, has appointed a Search Committee comprised of himself, Vice-Chair Arnie Kassoy and Robert Winters, M.D., Chair of ARAA's Medical Executive Committee. They have engaged the services of

Kittleman and Associates, an executive recruitment firm based in Chicago, to identify a new President/CEO.

According to Cam, "It is with mixed emotions that I view the departure of Gregory Britt from ARAA. While I am excited for Gregg, I am personally very disappointed to see him leave. Gregg joined us at the age of 25. In the ensuing 6 1/2 years under his leadership, ARAA has grown tremendously—from a staff of 6 to a staff of 17; a budget of \$400,000 to a budget of \$2,000,000; an organization with very little research being conducted to an organization working in partnership with virtually every major company involved in AIDS drug development." (*Spotlight will cover the CEO transition more fully in the upcoming Spring 2000 issue.*)

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page 5
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page 10



# SPOTLIGHT

PEOPLE & DEVELOPMENTS AT  
AIDS RESEARCH ALLIANCE  
OF AMERICA

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

ARAA'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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## CEO's Message

### *It's a Relay Race Rather Than a Steeplechase*



PHOTO BY JOEL MARK

I have always described working in the AIDS community as a relay race rather than a steeplechase. Working in the AIDS field is incredibly rewarding, yet incredibly intense and challenging as we work collaboratively and with unity to curtail the suffering wreaked by this epidemic. Therefore, it is each of our jobs to run as fast as we can for as long as we can with the understanding that it will likely be someone else (to whom we have handed the baton) that will cross the finish line.

With very mixed emotions, I will be leaving AIDS Research Alliance of America for a new position after the new year. Having run several legs of the relay race, it is time to pass the baton onto the next runner.

Over 6 1/2 years ago, just after the passing of our founder Dr. Paul Rothman, I became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Director of an organization then named "SEARCH Alliance". My charge from the Board of Directors at that time was to coalesce and carry forward Dr. Rothman's passionate vision of being a part of the team to put AIDS out of business. While that task is not yet complete, we have moved progressively closer to realizing that vision.

It is often said that catastrophes bring out the best in people, as they join hands to overcome adversity. That has certainly been the case with the AIDS epidemic—which has written the book on mobilizing a massive community response to a formidable crisis. Over the past 10 years of working in the AIDS community, I have met the most remarkably committed, passionate, brilliant, caring, thoughtful, compassionate people that I could ever hope to meet. To the staff, Board members, committee members, donors, volunteers and other supporters that I have the pleasure of interfacing with during my tenure... it has been a distinct honor working with and serving you.

I will continue to be your brother-in-arms in the search for an end to this epidemic.

*With much love and respect,*

Gregory Britt

## Danse Macabre A Gala Event

(Cover story continued)

Carpenter, who was presented with the *James Whalen Award* for his achievements contributing to the art of the horror film genre.

Mr. Carpenter was the creator of the now-classic *Halloween*, and directed *Escape from New York*, *The Thing*, *Starman*, and *Escape from L.A.*, among a host of others.

Highlights of the evening included a silent auction of couture designer masks & art, a tribute to John Carpenter by actor Daniel Baldwin, a film presentation of featured moments from Mr. Carpenter's films, an award presentation for the most outlandish mask, and music by *Musica Angelica* and the Art Deco "Danse Macabre" Society Orchestra. ARAA's CEO Gregory Britt received a special commendation on behalf on ARAA from the City of Los Angeles for its success in accelerating the development of HIV/AIDS treatments.

We would like to thank the many folks who made this event such a success. While we cannot possibly name every person who contributed their time and effort to creating this special fundraiser, we would like to feature some of the major organizers and donors below. To all involved with *Danse Macabre*, and especially to Mr. John Carpenter, we offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations.

### Honorary Chairs

Karen Allen  
Daniel Baldwin  
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Charles Cyphers  
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Patrick Duffy

### Volunteers

Mindy Alberman  
Sara Ali  
Barbara Bean

continued on page 4



## Danse Macabre *A Bal Masque*

*continued from page 3*



### *Volunteers (cont'd)*

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*All photos by Walter Mladina*



## A seat at the table *AIDS Action Council*

AIDS Research Alliance of America recently joined the AIDS Action Council, the nation's leading AIDS public policy and advocacy group. Based in Washington, D.C., the council is a membership organization comprised of most of the country's largest HIV/AIDS providers and policy-makers, including AIDS Project L.A., Treatment Action Group, AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County, the Chicago Dept. of Public Health, the N.A.A.C.P. and many others.

The AIDS Action Council has been largely credited with gaining increasing support for federal HIV/AIDS funding via the Ryan White Care Act, as well as increased funding for the Office

until it's over

## AIDS ACTION

of AIDS Research. They have also been instrumental in the favorable selection of top officials at the nation's Food and Drug Administration, as well as the National Institute of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services.

ARAA's Director of Clinical Research Stephen J. Brown, M.D. serves on the council's Board of Directors, which establishes AIDS Action policy decisions.

## Not just lip service

*"Hope Shines" cause-related marketing campaign*



STILA Cosmetics and Barneys New York are teaming together to help make a difference this holiday season. STILA Cosmetics has launched a new lip gloss, called "Hope Shines", available starting this December through all Barneys New York Stores exclusively.

What makes this lip shade so different is that

STILA Cosmetics and Barneys New York are donating 100% of the gross retail sales to AIDS Research Alliance of America.

In-store launches are being held this month at the Madison Avenue store in New York City, as well as Barneys New York stores located in Chicago and Beverly Hills, California. This beautiful lip gloss will be available at Barneys New York stores throughout the country, and is timed to be launched as a holiday gift to "make the festivities shimmer."

Our thanks go to Maree Lavo at Barneys New York and Ken Lynch at STILA Cosmetics for making this generous contribution to aids research possible.

*For more information, please contact: Kara A. Kenney, ARAA's Development & Marketing Consultant at 310/821-1780.*



# 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 9/99 to 11/99*

*(Note: List does not include Danse Macabre, or Focus on AIDS8 event donors, nor Holiday card purchasers. Danse Macabre donors are listed on pages 3 & 4, and Focus on AIDS/Holiday cards will be reported on in Spotlight Spring 2000.)*

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## GRANTS

**MacDonald Family  
Foundation**

We received a \$50,000 grant from the MacDonald Family Foundation in support of our research. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Foundation's trustees and to Robert Winters, M.D., Chair of ARAA's Medical Executive Committee, for making this gift possible.

**James B. Pendleton  
Charitable Trust**

Our deep and continuing appreciation goes to the James B. Pendleton Charitable Trust for their recent contribution of \$36,550 to purchase much-needed clinical equipment and software. The funds will be used to complete laboratory work and data analysis. Our thanks to Foundation Trustees Dayle and David Ellison, as well as to Donald H. Smith, who facilitated our receipt of this grant.

**The Grace Jones Richardson Trust**

AIDS Research Alliance of America received a \$10,000 grant from the Grace Jones Richardson Trust. Our thanks to Brian and Brooke Kiger, as well as ARAA Board member H. Smith Richardson, for their continuing support of our efforts.

## HEAVENLY BODIES

**Michael Anketell:  
Author of *Heavenly Bodies***

Michael Anketell founded the California Fashion Industry Friends of People Living with AIDS benefit, and served as its event producer and chairman for the ten events produced from 1986 to 1996.

His book, *Heavenly Bodies: Remembering Hollywood and Fashion's Favorite AIDS benefit*, published by Taylor Publishing Company, gives a behind-the-scenes look at the faces and fashions involved in this fabulous event.

Michael is generously donating 25% of the author's royalties from the sale of his book, which can be purchased in most bookstores and on-line through Amazon.com. He



donated 100% of the book sales at his September book launch, which raised over \$1000 for ARAA.

Michael also served as Event Coordinator for the recent Focus on AIDS Photography Auction 8 at Barneys New York, which benefited ARAA, the Focus on AIDS Foundation and Caring for Babies with AIDS. (*The Focus on AIDS auction will be covered in the Spotlight Spring 2000 issue.*)






**The Cecile and Fred Bartman  
Foundation**

We received a \$5,000 gift from The Cecile and Fred Bartman Foundation in support of our clinical trials--this is the second and largest of their donations to us over the past two years. Our appreciation goes to the foundation for their generosity, and to ARAA Board of Directors members Nancy and Sandy Bresler, who helped us receive this grant.

**Ralph & Blossom Trustman  
Philanthropic Fund**






We received a \$1,000 donation from The Ralph & Blossom Trustman Philanthropic Fund. This represents their second holiday gift to us, and we offer our thanks to them and to ARAA Board of Directors members Nancy and Sandy Bresler, who facilitated this generous donation.

AIDS Research Alliance of America conducts its human clinical trials at its clinical research facility in Los Angeles, California. Clinical trials are conducted to study promising new HIV therapies and vaccines to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Each study has its own inclusion/exclusion criteria, and they are primarily for people infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. The VaxGen AIDSVAX™ B/B vaccine, listed below, is one study in which a large number of HIV-negative participants are enrolled.

STUDY	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
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 patients. <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 patients infected with HIV-1. <i>(Antiviral &amp; 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>	Currently enrolling
Neurontin® (gabapentin)	Parke-Davis 	Assessing the efficacy of gabapentin for the treatment of painful HIV neuropathy. <i>(Treatment for neuropathy)</i>	Enrollment complete, study ongoing
Anticort™	Steroidogenesis Inhibitors, Inc. 	A pharmacokinetic and safety study of Anticort™ (an oral procaine formulation) in HIV-infected patients. <i>(Anti-inflammatory drug)</i>	Currently enrolling
Hydroxy-chloroquine <i>(in combination with hydroxyurea and didanosine)</i>	AIDS Research Alliance of America 	A study of the safety and antiviral efficacy of hydroxychloroquine in combination with hydroxyurea and Videx® (ddl or didanosine) in HIV-1 infected patients. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</i>	Currently enrolling



*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.*

STUDY	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
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 patients. <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) Cognitive impairment	Glaxo Wellcome 	A study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Ziagen™ in patients with HIV-associated neurocognitive impairment. <i>(Antiviral therapy)</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 subjects. <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

## Trial Announcement

### *Pharmacia & Upjohn's Tipranavir™*

#### Pharmacia & Upjohn's Tipranavir

Several years ago, a major breakthrough in treating HIV infection was achieved when a new generation of powerful antiviral drugs called protease inhibitors became available. Used in combination with other antiviral drugs, these "cocktails" were successful in substantially reducing AIDS deaths in the United States.

It soon became apparent, however, that cocktail therapy could sometimes fail to control HIV for extended periods. Often, this failure of therapy is due to the emergence of drug resistant HIV within treated individuals.

Resistance to protease inhibitors is particularly problematic because when HIV becomes resistant to one protease inhibitor, often it has also become resistant to other drugs of the same class. "Cross-resistance" to protease inhibitors is probably facilitated by the molecular nature of these compounds: the first generation of these drugs were all designed to inhibit the enzyme with the same molecular mechanism.

Tipranavir is an example of a new generation of protease inhibitor, with a different molecular design. In test tube experiments, HIV resistant to other protease inhibitors remains sensitive to tipranavir. If these results are also obtained in the clinic, then tipranavir potentially can be used to successfully treat HIV infection in individuals whose protease inhibitor-containing regimens has failed them.

To test this, a narrowly-defined patient group has been asked to participate in a clinical trial: volunteers currently treated with one (and only one) protease inhibitor that is failing to control their HIV viral load. Specifically, that protease inhibitor must be one of these three: indinavir (Crixivan™), nelfinavir (Viracept™), or amprenavir (Agenerase™). This study will determine if tipranavir, when used in combination with other antiviral drugs, can safely and effectively treat HIV infection in such individuals.

## Spotlight to be biannual

*from the Editor*

In looking back on the development news we have reported in the past year in *Searchlight*, and then in the first issue of *Spotlight*, 1999 has clearly been an exciting year of growth in our organization. And in considering the large volume of research conducted by ARAA in 1999, it has been a very productive year for us, as we continue to hammer away at this disease.

One telling measure of the pace of our work: even with a quarterly production schedule, it has been possible to report on at least two new research projects in each issue of *Searchlight* this year.

However, the pace at which development news arises is better suited for twice yearly reporting. Thus, as of this issue *Spotlight* will be brought to you twice per year.



We will continue to provide *Spotlight* readers with news of various developments at ARAA including general overviews of our work in progress, fundraising, staff and advisory board developments, foundation announcements, and donor acknowledgements.



## AIDS RESEARCH ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

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## SPOTLIGHT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ARAA says good-bye to BOD and MEC Member David Hart M.D.

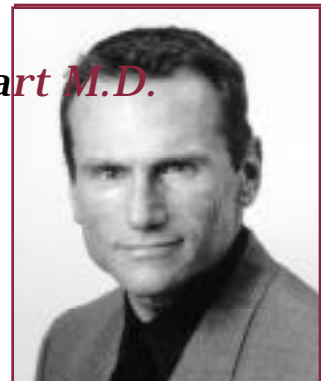


PHOTO BY JOEL MARK

David Hart, M.D.

It is with sadness that we announce the departure from the Board of Directors and the Medical Executive Committee of one very special, longtime supporter of AIDS Research Alliance of America.

Board member David Hart, M.D., well-known in the Los Angeles area as a longtime HIV medical practitioner and HIV/AIDS activist, has served on the Board of Directors and Medical Executive Committee since 1993. David participated in numerous research projects and served as the Principal Investigator in ARAA's Alpha-fetal protein antibody trial, as well as Sub-Investigator on the HGP-30 and the Multikine Leucocyte Interleukin studies.

Dr. Hart began exclusively treating HIV patients and conducting HIV/AIDS-related research in 1988, and was among the most active members of the Medical Review Board of "Search Alliance" since its founding in 1990.

He has decided for personal reasons to pursue other interests at this time, feeling that he can contribute more to the fight against HIV/AIDS by working on a different aspect of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

He will continue to be an active supporter of ARAA, maintaining his connections with the Board and MEC and continuing his long-time participation in ARAA events and fundraising.

We thank Dr. Hart for his many years of service to ARAA and wish him well in his future endeavors.

### *Volunteers! AIDS Research Alliance is looking for you.*



If you have a few hours you can dedicate every week to help us out in our administrative offices, you can join the team of a leading-edge, rapid-response HIV/AIDS research organization. *Be a part of the team that's searching for the cure!*

Contact Karen J. Wellenkamp 310/358-2423.

# 'Tis The Season To Be Giving

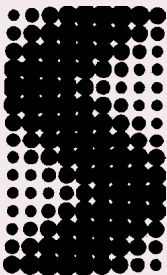
During this holiday season, and especially as we enter the new millenium, we need your help to speed up the next research breakthroughs in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention.

Many advances have been made, yet HIV+ individuals undergoing treatment with existing medications are still grappling with unacceptable side effects, complicated regimens and increasing viral resistance.

AIDS deaths reached a record 2.6 million worldwide in 1999 and new HIV infections continue unabated, with an estimated 5.6 million adults and children worldwide becoming infected in 1999.

We need to aggressively pursue and identify more effective, better-tolerated treatments. And we need your help to do it.

*Start the millenium off right by helping to support the search for a cure.*



AIDS Research  
Alliance  
of America

I would like to contribute to the next HIV/AIDS treatment breakthrough and receive a free *Searchlight & Spotlight* subscription with my contribution of \$35 or more.

☐ \$1000   ☐ \$500   ☐ \$250   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$50

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ My check is enclosed

☐ Please bill my credit card

☐ one time   ☐ monthly   ☐ quarterly

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ card type \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please mail this form to the address noted below attn: Karen J. Wellenkamp or call 310/358.2423.  
Call to inquire about donating appreciated securities (stock transfers) and planned giving.*

AIDS Research Alliance of America, 621 N. San Vicente Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90069  
310/358-2423 (Admin.) 310/358-2429 (Clinic)