

December 17, 2009

Dear Friend:

It's time to start talking about a cure for AIDS again.

We're a group of experienced AIDS advocates and strategists who have launched a new project to **light a fire under AIDS cure research.**

This year, researchers identified promising avenues for developing viral eradication therapies. Yet the National Institutes of Health, which supports this research, has been underfunded since 2003. Innovative research remains unfunded, and young scientists have considered leaving the field. President Obama has designated some stimulus money for this fight, but it's a temporary fix.

Money and attention for HIV eradication research is sorely lacking.

In the early years of the AIDS crisis, grass-roots activists successfully forced government and business institutions to develop treatments for those dying.

We need your help now to create a new movement to push for HIV viral eradication – a cure for AIDS.

Outside of medical research circles, a cure for AIDS is rarely discussed. There is no special organization or department at the National Institutes of Health dedicated to a cure. There are no editorials in the press calling for more research into "HIV eradication." There is no annual research update on the subject for the general public or annual prize for the most promising work in the field - even though 33 million people have HIV and 25 million have died of it.

To cure AIDS, funding must be available for promising research projects on a continuing basis - for both mainstream approaches and brashly innovative ideas, for new researchers and for those who have devoted their careers to finding a cure. The funding process must be streamlined so that researchers can easily apply for the money.

Our work has begun. We are educating and organizing activists, meeting with researchers, introducing our campaign to allies and meeting with members of Congress.

Our goals:

- More money for promising HIV cure research.
- To put AIDS cure research in the public eye and make it a high priority for decision makers.
- To build awareness in AIDS-affected communities of the need to increase political will for an AIDS cure and recruit volunteer activists to join this campaign.

- To create dialogue and collaboration between viral eradication researchers and community activists and advocates.
- To help streamline the process for applying for research funding.
- To prepare an annual “State of AIDS Cure Research” report so that advocates, funders, the media, and the general public can track and understand the world’s progress toward a cure for AIDS.
- To support the efforts of our colleagues (many of us also work in HIV prevention and treatment). We support effective prevention, treatment, *and* HIV eradication.

While our campaign is new, we’ve already made serious progress. We’re moving fast, and we’re in this for the long haul. We have gathered together activists with decades of past experience reforming the NIH, launching the campaign that got AIDS drugs into Africa, speeding the approval of the first highly active retrovirals, and fighting for life-saving treatments, such as organ transplants, which had long been denied to people with HIV.

Help us make history. Heck, make some history yourself. Please make a year-end gift to the AIDS Policy Project to advance AIDS cure research.

Please contribute to the Edward Zold Fund. We’re raising money in the name of our friend and comrade, Edward Zold, a young activist who died this November.

How much? \$1,000 \$500 \$300 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other amount

We know this is a very tough year financially. You can also help by donating the proceeds from a house party or other event. We have speakers available. Everything helps, and everything is deeply appreciated.

We’ll use the money to convince members of Congress to care about a cure for AIDS, interview researchers, badger reporters, write white papers on AIDS research, pay Kinko’s bills, and do whatever else is necessary to put the AIDS cure on the front burner. As grassroots activists, we know how to squeeze a penny until it squeaks. We’ll send you a monthly email to tell you what we’re doing and where the money is going.

We’re building a movement. We want you to be a part of it.

Please send a tax-deductible check to:

The AIDS Policy Project
5120 Walton Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Please write *Edward Zold Fund* in the left-hand corner. You can also donate through our web site: www.AIDSPolicyProject.org. Or call us at (215) 939-7852. Then help us get the word out to others who can support us in this fight.

Until there’s a cure (which we hope to speed up),

Kate Krauss, Stephen LeBlanc, Jose Demarco, and the rest of the AIDS Policy Project team