

National HIV & AIDS Archive

Print Media

11th to 15th September 1987

HIV Ireland
1987—2017



Body Matters

The Doctor Says You're Gonna Die

A COMMON failing of popular journalism is to display a story to the readers by pinning it down with statements of absolutes and certainties. It seems of little importance that the subject is complex and constantly changing. The printed story ends up with as little resemblance to reality as a dead animal nailed lewdly open on a dissecting board echoes its former vital self.

Aids reporting provides a wealth of examples. 'Gay Plague' is one such, but following a lot of pressure now makes only rare appearances. However other stock phrases go unchallenged. The most pernicious of these is the prefixing of 'fatal' to references to Aids as in 'the fatal disease Aids'. This favourite description doesn't say that Aids can be fatal or even that it is often fatal - it implies that Aids is always fatal. And that is the way it is perceived by the public in general and by many professionals who ought to know better.

This misconception is as dangerous as the 'gay plague' tag. If people think that everyone with Aids is going to die then they will act accordingly. That way lies nonsense like bishop Montefiore's reported statements that the NHS should not spend money prescribing AZT since it could only, at best, delay the inevitable end. To me that sounds suspiciously like 'Let the buggers die'. The bishop is more certain in his judgements and more sparing of his compassion than the God he serves but then what else is new?

The facts, however few they may be, belie this wilful threat

By Tony Whitehead

of inevitable death but these facts are curiously little reported.

I live and work with people with Aids. These people are very much alive and live in the hope of continuing life, not imminent death. It doesn't matter that half of the reported cases have died. There are people who have had Aids for 3 or more years without the remorseless deterioration that is popularly associated with the syndrome. They are the living witness to this fallacy.

People living with Aids are at the frontier between the known and the unknown. The longer they live the further this frontier is pushed. We do not know the long term prognosis for AZT or any other treatment currently being tried. Only time will tell.

I am not by any means an Aids redemptionist, promising life if you swallow this, do that

or meditate on the other. Such conviction may well prove false but hope is not. The catch phrases of journalists and some 'experts' deny hope, making every report and statement a psychological obstacle course for people with Aids. 'Do they mean me?' George said one day as the Grim Reaper leapt out of the newspaper again.

Certainly hospices are needed and terminal care must be improved. We are all going to die one day and the generation of gay men and lesbians that have forged an openly gay lifestyle will need appropriate care at the end. But we should also plan for increasing numbers of people living with Aids. Their needs and hopes risk being confounded by the attitudes fostered under inaccurate reporting.

Another worrying example of this is the deceptive use of 'Aids carrier' when referring to people who are antibody positive. I don't know whether this is done through negligence or design but it is a blatantly inflammatory image. If people think like this it is not surprising that some advocate repressive measures against everybody potentially infected with HIV. Careless talk costs lives.

Raking over the ashes

Following a recent Body Matters article about the behaviour of undertakers I received a letter from a reader in the business. He describes his shock and sadness over his colleagues' treatment of the bodies of gay men and their attitude to the grief of the bereaved. Comments along the lines of 'Got what he deserved' are the least of it. They can't wait to consign us to the flames. Some of the officiating clergy seem equally eager.

I am most grateful to that reader for his honesty. It's important to know what people are thinking out there.

Newest therapy

THE newest therapy to claim it can offer help to people with Aids is "magnetic therapy", which bases all its claims on the effects of magnetic fields and magnetic pulls. These follow aromatherapists, healers and holistic therapists, as well as acupuncturists, hypnotists and herbalists.

Visual Aids

A VIDEO for people involved in the care and counselling of people with Aids and those who are HIV antibody positive is being put together by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux. A *Positive Approach* is aimed at both professional and voluntary helpers, but producers are still looking for more funding or sponsorship to meet the £17,000 costs.

EU

VIRGIN STORE DEEFIES MILLIONAIRE Richard Branson's Virgin Megastore in Dublin will continue to stock condoms — in a defiant stand against the law on contraceptives sales.

CURB ON CONDOMS

The record store has already come under fire for selling sheaths in the Republic.

Now the Irish Family Planning Association is to be prosecuted for allegedly breaking the law at the city centre premises.

Yesterday the IFPA's Chief Executive, Christine Donaghy, said the prosecution will make Ireland the laughing stock of Europe.

Crisis

Ms Donaghy said it did not take account of the worldwide AIDS crisis and the rise in unplanned pregnancies.

She said: "We will contest the case and continue to sell condoms at Virgin. Records pending the outcome of the court hearing."

Argued

"The prosecution highlights the ludicrous nature of the contraceptive laws in this country.

She argued that the sales restrictions were medically and morally unnecessary.

By MIRROR REPORTER

The IFPA has been summoned by the Republic's Director of Public Prosecutions.

The court hearing is due to take place on October 24.

Accused

The IFPA is accused of breaching the 1985 Health (Family Planning) Act.

According to the law, condoms may only be sold in pharmacies, health boards and family planning centres over 18s.

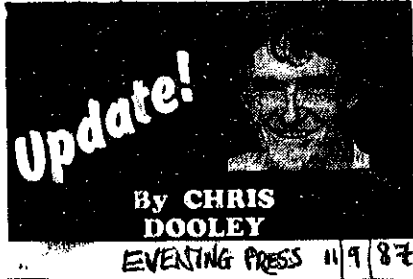
Ms Donaghy explained that the prosecution sum-

mons centred on the purchase of a packet of ten condoms at the Virgin store on January 10.

Last night, a spokesman for Family Solidarity insisted that the prosecution is an appropriate course of action.

He said it was consistent with the law which should be upheld.

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A Pogue in a Dublin time warp

★ LIKE stepping into a time machine is how Pogues guitarist Phil Chevron found his latest trip to Dublin.

Not that Phil has joined the band of emigrants-made-good who can't wait to tell us just how far behind the times we've fallen as soon as they step

off the plane. It's just that seeing those old Radiators posters has made him go all nostalgic.

While Phil says he's "really looking forward" to playing with his old mates again at Sunday night's "Aid to fight AIDS" benefit gig at Hawkins, he can't get used to seeing those yellow-and-black posters on the streets of Dublin again.

"I keep thinking 'God, what year is it?' It's a bit like being in a time warp," he told Update. The Radiators began rehearsing on Wednesday for the first time in seven years and their once-off reunion on Sunday should be one of the musical events of the year.

Aids vaccine sought in false virus made from caterpillars

By Oliver Gillie
Medical Editor

A FALSE Aids virus, which induces immunity without causing any infection, is being developed in Britain as the best means of arriving at an effective Aids vaccine.

The false virus is made from caterpillars, and will include a substance once used by Brazilian Indians to staunch poison-arrow wounds.

The false Aids virus is being made by the Medical Research Council as part of its directed research programme. Sir James Gowans, secretary of the council, said: "Two years' research in monkeys suggest that this vaccine is safe. But we think it is essential to get good guidelines worked out before we start tests in man. The first tests will just be to see how good it is at inducing immunity — tests of its efficacy as a vaccine will come later."

The false Aids virus is made using a substance called glycoprotein 120, which is found in the envelope covering the virus. To obtain this protein in large quantity the gene producing it has been transferred from the Aids virus to an insect virus which infects caterpillars.

"Caterpillars are a very convenient way of obtaining a protein," Dr William Jarrett, head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology at Glasgow University, said. "They can be grown on cabbages, or something similar, and about 25 per cent of their body weight is the protein we use in the vaccine."

The protein is combined with "Quill A" — a mixture of detergent and a substance first extracted from the Brazilian oak tree and used by Indians to staunch wounds.

"The Quill A acts as a molecular glue sticking the glycoproteins together to form particles about the same size as the Aids virus," Dr Jarrett said. "These particles are the false virus — to the body they look like a virus. They cause a much enhanced immune response."

"We have made a false virus of this type against cat leukaemia, and it is the only vaccine against this disease to produce immunity after one shot."

The Medical Research Council is also investigating other vaccines, which are produced by growing the Aids virus, in mammalian cells, in huge vats.

The disadvantage of such vaccines is that great care has to be taken to make sure that no live virus remains in them after processing.

Tests of the false virus vaccine, using 30 or 40 volunteers, will probably begin by the end of the year. Volunteers may be homosexual men who are in a steady relationship; and do not have casual partners.

New drugs which can be used to treat people with Aids are also being looked

at by the council. Professor Max Perutz, chairman of its antiviral committee, hopes that a substance extracted from the seeds of a sub-tropical Australian Chestnut tree (*Castanospermum australe*), or similar substances, may be used as an Aids drug.

The substance, castanospermine, has been found to trap the Aids virus within cells. Castanospermine has a similar shape to sugar molecules, and prevents the virus from completing the sugar part of the glycoprotein envelope. Without the envelope the Aids virus cannot escape from one cell and infect others.

"We are studying the structure of these glycoproteins and other parts of the Aids virus," Professor Perutz said. "We hope to be able to design better drugs when we know better what shape they should be."

Castanospermine is thought to be a fairly toxic substance and may prove to be too toxic for human use, but it may point the way to finding other drugs.

"The best approach may prove to be a cocktail of drugs as is used at present in cancer treatment," Professor Perutz said. "By using a cocktail it will be possible to reduce the overall toxicity."

"We have done this research immensely fast," Sir James Gowans said. "It would not have been possible if we had not spent many years developing knowledge and expertise in molecular biology."

Irish Press
11th September 1987

Tests soon on Aids vaccine?

A PROTOTYPE Aids vaccine made from the "smashed" Aids virus and a life-saving antidote used by Amazonian Indians against poisoned arrows may be injected into human volunteers in Britain within a year, it was announced yesterday.

Caterpillars could be specially "farmed" to produce one of the key ingredients of the vaccine, while a variety of Australian chestnut may help to treat people who already have Aids.

The new hope in the fight

against the killer disease comes from leading Aids researcher Professor William Jarrett, of Glasgow University, and Cambridge Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Max Perutz.

Prof. Jarrett said yesterday that tests on monkeys showed the vaccine produced neutralising antibodies to the Aids virus, but the real proof could only come by giving it to people. He said: "There is no shortage of volunteers. We are simply waiting for the guidelines to go ahead."

AIDS virus in geriatric patient

THE first case of the AIDS virus in a geriatric patient in Ireland has been reported in a Dublin hospital, the Department of Health confirmed yesterday. The patient, a man in his 70s, was found to be HIV positive having been admitted to the acute geriatric assessment unit of St James's Hospital.

A Department of Health spokesman said yesterday that although this was the first such case in Ireland, it was not uncommon elsewhere. In the latest issue of the *Irish Medical Times*, the Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, Dr Davis Coakley, said that the case emphasised the necessity to take AIDS into account when making a diagnosis. It was also necessary to take a sexual history from geriatric patients, he maintained.

The Department of Health has also extended its definition of AIDS following a recommendation from the US Centre for Disease Control. The definition now includes AIDS Related Complexes (ARCs), AIDS dementia and AIDS related TB. Three Dublin doctors have reported on three cases of patients with suspected TB who are also antibody-positive for the AIDS virus.

Research chief is prepared to be
guinea-pig during trials next year

Britain to test Aids vaccine on volunteers

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By Andrew Veitch,
Medical Correspondent

An experimental Aids vaccine will be tested on British volunteers next year, Sir James Gowans, head of the Aids research programme, said yesterday.

Developed primarily by scientists at Glasgow University, it will be given to up to 40 people in a one to two-year trial to see if it triggers the right immune responses without unacceptable side-effects.

The guinea pigs for these phase 1 trials are expected to be other scientists. Unlike the United States, where tests on a vaccine are now beginning, homosexuals are unlikely to be asked to volunteer.

Sir James, Medical Research Council secretary and director of the council's £14.5 million

next step is to screen different strains of the Aids virus to find one which can be used to defend against all strains.

Prof Jarrett's team, and others in the MRC collaborative programme, are waiting for new high-security laboratory facilities to do this testing. They are expected to be installed within the next few weeks.

The final step will be to apply for Committee on Safety of Medicines approval for the trials.

Rules for testing and manufacturing this and all other Aids vaccines are being drawn up by scientists at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control at South Mimms, Hertfordshire.

Proposals that the researchers should test it on themselves first have been scrapped as there could be no guarantee that they had not been infected in the laboratory, Prof Jarrett said.

His warning was underlined by the first report, published in Nature yesterday, of an American laboratory worker being infected with the virus.

Prof Jarrett and Sir James Gowans said they were wary of asking homosexuals to volunteer for fear that they might be infected from other sources.

Sir James, who retires at the end of this month, volunteered himself as a guinea pig yesterday.

Prof Jarrett said he had letters from would-be volunteers who included life prisoners, terminally ill patients and "charitable people."

Professor Jarrett's Iscoms could put Britain ahead of the world in the race to develop an Aids vaccine. Trials of the first American vaccine are now beginning.

If next year's phase one trials work, the vaccine will be given to several hundred people at risk of infection to see if it protects against the virus in real life. These could take place in African countries such as Uganda which have been hardest hit by the epidemic, Professor Jarrett said.

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Aids programme, said yesterday: "Phase 1 trials will start within 12 months. I am quite certain of that."

If the trials are successful it will take at least another five years before the vaccine is generally available.

The vaccine is being made by Professor Bill Jarrett and team at Glasgow with the help of a £1-million five-year MRC grant.

They are sticking protein molecules from the outer coat of the Aids virus (HIV) onto a delivery system which although harmless, tricks the body into thinking it is being invaded by a real virus.

The delivery system, called an immune stimulating complex (Iscom), is made from the bark of a Brazilian oak tree — a substance used by Amazon Indians as an antidote against poison darts.

The protein molecules from the Aids virus stick out from the Iscom surface like spikes on a hedgehog. The body's immune system spots the spikes and produces defensive antibodies.

Tests on monkeys have shown that the system generates defensive antibodies, Prof Jarrett said yesterday. The

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Humans set to test experimental Aids vaccine next year

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

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The first human tests of an experimental vaccine against Aids could be carried out in Britain next year, one of the leading researchers said yesterday.

The vaccine, developed from part of the virus which causes the disease, employs a substance extracted from trees by Amazonian Indians as a traditional treatment for wounds.

The extract from the bark of the Brazilian oak has been modified already to produce a "100 per cent successful" vaccine against leukaemia in cats, a disease similar to Aids, and to develop another vaccine for influenza in horses.

Professor William Jarrett, the head of veterinary pathology at Glasgow University, who is leading the research, said that he and colleagues were almost ready to carry out the first, small-scale human trials of the candidate vaccine.

Trials of the product in monkeys and other animals showed it produced antibodies which neutralized the Aids virus. But it remained to be seen whether the same would happen in people, Professor Jarrett said.

"The human being is really the final arbiter of whether it will work or not."

Professor Jarrett was speaking at a Medical Research Council news conference to report progress on Aids projects being funded over the

next three years with £14.5 million in government grants.

The council has awarded grants worth more than £1 million to the Glasgow team. Professor Jarrett and other experts expressed optimism about the prospects for an effective vaccine and for new drugs to treat sufferers of the disease.

The early trials are likely to involve about 60 people, none of whom would be taken from the groups known to be at increased risk of Aids, such as homosexuals, haemophiliacs and intravenous drug abusers. Half of them would receive the vaccine, and the others a placebo.

If those tests were successful, larger trials would then be carried out either in Britain, or in parts of Africa where Aids is widespread. In any event, the availability of an approved vaccine is still some years distant, Professor Jarrett said.

The Brazilian oak extract, quilla, was used originally by Indians as a blood-clotting treatment for wounds from poisoned darts.

In the 1970s it was adapted by Swedish scientists for commercial research and formed the basis of a technique of genetic engineering. Its role is to act as a "delivery vehicle" for the vaccine and to enhance the body's immune response to infection.

Professor Jarrett and colleagues at Glasgow developed

the world's first effective vaccine against cat leukaemia from this technique, and that work has helped speed progress on the Aids project.

Other natural substances are also being investigated for potential Aids drugs. One is an extract from an Australian chestnut which appears able to inhibit the effects of the virus on human cells.

Dr Max Perutz, chairman of the Medical Research Council's antiviral study committee, said the substance, castanospermine, might be valuable when combined with AZT, the Wellcome Foundation drug, which slows the progress of Aids infection in sufferers, but which has serious side-effects.

It is being evaluated by scientists in London and Cambridge but has not been tested on humans.

Since last April, the council has decided to fund Aids research in 22 laboratories.

It is helping to define guidelines under which potential vaccines and drugs can be rigorously tested for safety before trials involving human volunteers are conducted.

"What we don't want is small, ineffective trials fired off by enthusiasts which will make us none the wiser", Sir James Gowans, secretary of the council said. "We want to do everything properly."

Wellcome's U.S. Unit to Lift Limits on Anti-AIDS Drug

Move to Expand AZT Sales Is Likely to Boost Profit For Burroughs-Wellcome

By MARILYN CHASE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
SAN FRANCISCO - Burroughs-Wellcome Co. plans to lift the lid on distribution of its AIDS drug azidothymidine—a move that likely will expand doctors' use of the drug along with company profits.

The company, a U.S. unit of Wellcome PLC of London, on Monday will phase out its strict allocation of AZT, imposed last March to ensure that the drug's limited supply reached the sickest patients. Now, instead of having to request each dose from the company, doctors can simply write a prescription to be filled at a local pharmacy.

Thus, though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved AZT—its brand name is Retrovir—for severe AIDS and AIDS-related complex, physicians may begin prescribing the drug for earlier and milder forms of infection, expanding the pool of users. A total of 41,735 cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome have been diagnosed in the U.S., including 24,019 deaths. Up to 1.5 million Americans may harbor the infection without showing any symptoms of the disease.

Wellcome's stock gained 25 pence (41 cents) a share to 462 pence (\$7.60) in late trading on London's Stock Exchange yesterday.

Manufacturing expansions now under way at the company's plants in Greenville, N.C., and Dartford, England, are boosting supply and enabling normal distribution, said company spokeswoman Kathy Bartlett. In addition, the company said it now has adequate supplies of AZT's raw material, thymidine. Once extracted from herpetine sperm, thymidine now is synthesized chemically by Pfizer Corp.

Improved Supply

"We now can supply the drug for more than 50,000 patients in the United States," and even more abroad, Mrs. Bartlett said. "The supply situation is very definitely improving." About 10,000 AIDS patients take prescription AZT, while another 2,000 get it free by participating in clinical trials, she added.

But ample supply won't mean a slash in the price of AZT, which ranks as the most expensive prescription drug in history at \$8,000 a year wholesale and \$10,000 retail. "It is still complex and expensive to produce," the spokeswoman said.

AZT has been shown to prolong the survival of AIDS patients, but it causes

anemia in almost half of those who receive it, causing some to get blood transfusions or stop the drug.

Nevertheless, doctors cheered AZT's greater availability because it expands treatment options, particularly for those patients who are less sick.

"I'm delighted," said Marcus Conant, a San Francisco physician who treats many AIDS patients. "The drug is working better than many had even hoped. We're seeing fewer side effects, particularly when we can initiate therapy before a life-threatening infection sets in."

The big question is whether patients with early infection, those with antibodies to the AIDS virus but no symptoms, will demand the drug in the hope it can stave off full-blown AIDS. Studies involving thousands of such patients are under way, but despite encouraging animal-research data, there's no proof that AZT works as a preventative in people.

"If I were infected - seropositive - I would want this drug," said Samuel Isaly, a securities analyst with S.G. Warburg & Sons in New York. But he and others said it's unclear whether private insurance companies and the U.S. Medicaid program will pick up the tab for AZT's use in infected but healthy people, pending results of the studies.

Sales Seen Soaring

Wellcome declined to comment on the expected surge in usage, but Mr. Isaly predicted sales will soar.

Current annual world-wide sales now run just under \$100 million, Mr. Isaly estimated. But with its newly expanded capacity, and the hopes for AZT's use in early infection, he said its ultimate revenue potential is \$400 million a year. He estimates Wellcome's gross profit margin to be 60%, which is less than the 80% margin on its successful herpes drug Zovirax.

Meanwhile in Washington, a top U.S. health official told President Ronald Reagan's AIDS commission that Medicaid spending on AIDS will jump sixfold to \$2.4 billion annually by fiscal 1992 from \$400 million this year.

U.S. funds will have to pay for more than half the expenditures of the Medicaid program serving about 40% of AIDS patients nationwide. The balance will be paid by the states, as in all Medicaid funding. Medicaid is a federal-state health care program mostly for low-income patients.

"To care for all of these cases, we are facing some staggering health-care costs over the next several years," said William Roper, administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, which oversees Medicaid.

U.S. officials said the Medicaid costs for AZT will increase to \$150 million in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, from \$50 million this year.

S.V.

Irish Times

12th September 1987

Rock

Today: Ghost of an American Airman, Filios Bar, Christine Swoolman Band, O'Shea's Hotel, Don Baker Band, The Grattan, Bree Harris, Pat Egan's Backstage Bar, Loo O'Kelly, The Waterfront.

Tomorrow: Radiators from Space, The Real Wild West and Gavin Friday (Aid to fight AIDS), Hawkins, Conor Goff and The Crash, Jonah's Bar, Hank Hallhead and The Rambling Turkeys, The Waterfront.

Monday: Flaco Jimenez, Barry's Hotel, QED, Baggot Inn, Philip Donnelly and Guests, The Waterfront.

Tuesday: Freddie White, Pat Egan's Backstage Bar, Bree Harris, The Waterfront.

Wednesday: Blue in Heaven, Baggot Inn, Honor Hellernan Band, Pat Egan's Backstage Bar, One-Eyed Rattlers, The Waterfront.

Thursday: Hank Hallhead, The Lower Deck, Guernica, Baggot Inn, Latin Quarter, Cathedral Club.

Friday: Rusty Old Halo, Pat Egan's Backstage Bar, Shark Bait, The Source, Something Happens, Baggot Inn, Fleadh Cowboys, Olympia Theatre, 11.30 pm.

AIDS: who cares?

BRITAIN has an "I'm all right Jack" attitude to AIDS despite the British government's £20 million campaign to change people's sexual behaviour, a Gallup poll reveals.

The campaign has given people more information about the killer disease but 90 per cent of those surveyed said they were not worried about catching it.

And 89 per cent felt there was no reason to change their behaviour despite all the warnings, says the poll conducted exclusively for the Sunday Telegraph.

Up to 66 per cent felt that if someone gets AIDS it is their own fault.

In January 75 per cent feared AIDS would spread into the population at large — now that has dropped by more than half.

ALTHOUGH musical reunions generally conjure up nightmare images of Gary Glitter climbing out of the vaults, platform boots at the ready, or a well-worn Simon and Garfunkel sawing away at "The Boxer" — some reunions are an entirely different kettle of irradiated sea-life.

Amid government warnings to lock up all women, children and furry animals, The Radiators from Space will descend on Hawkins tonight for a once-off reunion benefit gig.

The Radiators kicked the Irish Punk scene into a rude awakening in the summer of 1976, with a line-up of Philip Chevron, Pete Holiday, Steve Rapid, Mark Megaray, Jimmy "Crash" Wynne.

Legendary singles such as "Television Screen", legendary albums such as "Ghosttown" and unforgettable sweaty gigs in Dublin's finest flea pits, served to establish the Radiators as Ireland's Great White Hope B.B.

ROCK: Lise Hand

(Before Bono).

However, after four years, the band all went their separate ways and it has taken a Very Good Cause to reunite all five members. The Radiators will play Hawkins tonight in support of the Gay Health Action Group as part of the Action Against AIDS campaign.

Since the demise of The Radiators, several members have remained in the spotlight. Philip Chevron may be seen pogoing with The Pogues, Pete Holiday now plays guitar with Dublin band Light A Big Fire, and Steve Rapid is better known as Steve Averill, U2's design artist.

However, for anyone too young — or too

befuddled — to recall the heady days of boverboots stomping punk, The Radiators in Hawkins — with support acts The Real Wild West and Gavin Friday — will be a night to tell the grandchildren about.

**AID
to fight
AIDS**

The Radiators are back



THE RADIATORS . . . (from left) Mark, Jimmy, Steve, Phil and Pete.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT 13/9/87

New Aids test kit to be produced in Ireland

PRODUCTS developed by a Belgian technology firm, Innogenetics, are to be manufactured in Ireland by Noctech Ltd, which specialises in the development, production and marketing of human and animal diagnostic systems.

Among the Innogenetics products that Noctech will be manufacturing is a new test for Aids. The test detects the presence of human immunodeficiency virus antigen in blood serum, plasma or culture fluid in just over two hours. HIV testing is important in early diagnosis of Aids infection. It is also used to monitor the progress of antiviral therapy. It may also be used as an additional screening technique by blood banks.

"The Innogenetics HIV test is the only one to detect the Aids antigen, as distinct from Aids antibodies," Dr Michael Brougham of Noctech told the *Sunday*

Tribune last week. An antigen is a protein, different from the body's own proteins, which provokes the formation of antibodies. The antibodies then combine with the antigen to inactivate it.

Noctech operates from a new 14,000 sq ft, IDA-supported manufacturing, research and development facility at Parkmore industrial estate in Galway and from Deansgrange industrial estate in Dublin.

The company now employs 45 people, 15 of whom are directly involved in research and development. Dr Brougham is the animal products manager and Denise Sutton is the human products manager.

Another product that detects antigens is a test for human delta hepatitis. Noctech recently received patent acceptance in the US for the kit. The delta hepatitis strain was first isolated about eight years

ago. This is said to be the only existing test for Delta hepatitis antigen. It was developed at University College Dublin, and is manufactured and sold under exclusive licence to Noctech.

Noctech's products are exported to other European countries and to the United States. About 95% of output is exported.

Sunday World
13th September 1987

***Radiators
re-form for
big gig***

WARNING for all punk fans and Sex Pistol heads out there: tonight is the gig of the week at Hawkins Club in Hawkins Street, Dublin. Because tonight, at 7.30, legendary Dublin punk band, the Radiators from Space are re-forming for one last mega gig.

The now-defunct Radiators, breeding ground for a Pogue (Phil Chevron) and one LABF man (Pete Holiday) have re-formed for this charity bash for Aid To Fight AIDS.

The gig, which was arranged by Gay Health Action, will include Gavin Friday and the Real Wild West in the line-up, and all proceeds are going to the groups working on AIDS. Tickets are available at the door for £5. Don't miss it!

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AIDS vaccine test 'within year'

A PROTOTYPE AIDS vaccine made from the "smashed" AIDS virus and a life-saving antidote used by Amazonian Indians against poisoned arrows may be injected into human volunteers in Britain within a year, it was announced yesterday.

Caterpillars could be specially "farmed" to produce one of the key ingredients of the vaccine, while a variety of Australian chestnut may help treat people who already have AIDS.

The new hope in the fight against AIDS comes from leading researcher Prof. William Jarrett, of Glasgow University, and Cambridge Nobel Prize winner Dr. Max Perutz.

Prof. Jarrett said tests on monkeys showed the vaccine

produced neutralising antibodies, to the AIDS virus, but the real proof could only come by giving it to people.

Prof. Jarrett, 59, said: "There is no shortage of volunteers. We are simply waiting for the guidelines to go ahead."

Gay group launches AIDS fund-raising drive

By Carol Coulter

LAST NIGHT the Dublin band, the Radiators, reunited for the first time in seven years to perform at the first benefit concert for the Gay Healthy Action group's fund-raising campaign, 'Aid for AIDS.' They were joined by Gavin Friday and a Finglas group, the Real Wild West.

The benefit, held in a city centre club, was the culmination of a weekend of fund-raising activity including a flag day on Saturday with the cast of the play 'The Normal Heart,' among the participants. At the centre of activity was the GHA's spokesman, Mr Mick Quinlan.

His involvement in Gay Health Action arose from his experiences in the Dublin Gay Collective and, on a more personal level, when he went to hospital in 1984.

"I had been living in Denmark, and I became aware that AIDS

existed," he said, "I came back here in 1983 and I was involved in the Dublin Gay Collective. Then in 1984, when I was a publicly gay man, I had occasion to go to hospital.

"While I was there I felt pressurised into getting a certain test done (not an HIV Test, which he hasn't had done). That sparked off the fear that I might have AIDS, a fear which grew. I was able to handle it, but I came out feeling that support and education on AIDS were needed. Some of the campaigns on AIDS actually induce fear.

Gay Health Action was set up early in 1985 by the Dublin and Cork Gay Collectives, the National Gay Federation and the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association. It produced the first leaflet on AIDS in April, 1985, with funding from the Health Education Bureau. This leaflet is the only bit of GHA activity that

has received any support from any Government agency, according to Mr Quinlan.

"We have got some recognition for our work from people like Dr. James Walsh, of the Department of Health, but we have got no funding or real practical co-operation," he said. Despite this the group has produced and distributed 200,000 pieces of literature on AIDS, advocating safe sex.

One of these is 'Aids Action News,' the newsletter of the group, which criticises the Government campaign on AIDS as 'simplistic, ineffective, moralising, more concerned with reinforcing traditional moral values than with combating the spread of AIDS.' In it Mr Quinlan writes: "The Government's campaign states, 'Casual Sex spreads AIDS,' when in reality it's 'Unsafe Sex that spreads AIDS.'"

Other publications of the group state that it is not the number of sexual encounters, but the kind of sex practised, that causes the spread of the disease.

"There's a lack of sex education in Ireland," Mr Quinlan said. "We found people were glad to be told about safe sex, without moralising."

Despite their high profile on the issue, the GHA is anxious to show that AIDS is not a gay disease. In Ireland gay sufferers are in a minority. Of the 630 people identified as antibody-positive in Ireland, almost 100 were women, he said.

"GHA can only fulfil a certain part of the fight against AIDS. What is needed is funding for groups at risk, like the gay community, IV drug users and haemophiliacs. At the moment we spend most of our time trying to raise funds when we should be out trying to spread the word."



Mick Quinlan

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The Irish Times
14th September 1987

AIDS: little worry

BRITAIN has an "I'm all right Jack" attitude to AIDS despite the Government's £20 million campaign to change people's sexual behaviour, according to a Gallup poll. The campaign has given people more information about the killer disease but 90 per cent of those surveyed said they were not worried about catching it.

And 89 per cent felt there was no reason to change their behaviour despite all the warnings, said the poll.

Despite the lack of concern for themselves, most of those questioned felt AIDS victims should be treated with compassion and 66 per cent said they should not mind working next to a sufferer.—(PA).

London Times
14th September 1987

Aids virus mutations detected

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Scientists are divided over whether new strains of the Aids virus pose increasing problems in preventing the spread of the disease.

Reports from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, suggest that the virus is mutating its genetic code up to five times faster than influenza.

"The viruses now manifest themselves as a complex family tree, sprouting new branches, apparently very quickly", Mr Gerald Myers, one of the Los Alamos researchers said.

However, leading British researchers believe mutations of the virus could make it less, rather than more infectious.

Professor William Jarrett, who is leading Aids vaccine research at Glasgow University, told a Medical Research Council meeting in London last week that there were good prospects of developing a vaccine that would be effective against all strains of the virus.

Pope urges compassion for AIDS victims and visits children

POPE JOHN PAUL, in his first reference to AIDS since arriving in the United States, yesterday said Catholics must show love and the compassion of a good Samaritan to victims of the disease.

Speaking in Phoenix, Arizona, on the fifth day of his U.S. tour, he also strongly defended the Church's stance on medical ethics, including its opposition to test-tube babies, abortion and euthanasia.

The Pontiff, who meets AIDS victims for the first time on Thursday in San Francisco, said the spread of AIDS was a crisis of

immense proportions.

Reviewing the Church's stance on moral issues in medicine and research, the Pope told Roman Catholic doctors and health workers that they faced new challenges and new needs.

"One of them is the present crisis of immense proportions of AIDS," the Pope said. "As you courageously affirm and implement your moral obligation and social responsibility to help those who suffer, you are, individually and collectively, living out the parable of the Good Samaritan," he said.

On the plane bringing him to Miami to start his U.S. tour, the Pope had said homosexuals — a primary target of AIDS — were not outcasts but were in the heart of the Church.

In other appearances, the Pope again drummed home a constant theme of his visit — the wealth of the United States gives it a heavy responsibility to help the poor and reject the evils of materialism.

Earlier, Pope John Paul visited the paediatric ward of St. Joseph's Hospital in Arizona, holding a girl of a teenage boy with a brain

born three months prematurely and touching a 15-year-old boy with a brain tumour and a girl left paraplegic by a drunken driver.

The Pope went directly to the hospital from the airport, where he arrived from San Antonio, Texas, on the fifth day of his ten-day, nine-city tour of the United States.

The Pope took into his arms a baby girl, who weighed only one pound, five ounces when born on June 29. "Wonderful," he said and kissed the infant.

The Pope stopped at the bedside of a teenage boy with a brain

tumour and watched while his mother tried unsuccessfully to rouse him.

He also stopped by the wheelchair of a six-year-old, paralyzed in a wreck caused by a drunken driver. In her lap for him to see was a scene she had drawn, using her mouth.

It was the first stop in another long day that included a meeting with about 16,000 Indian Catholics and an evening Mass in Sun Devil Stadium at Arizona State University.

Secret service agents yesterday in Los Angeles arrested a homeless

activist who fasted for almost a week beside the cathedral where Pope John Paul II will stay, when the man refused their orders to leave the skid row area.

Evening Herald
15th September 1987

Aids fear has Penn hiding in prison solitary



MADONNA'S jailed husband Sean Penn is terrified of catching Aids from fellow prisoners in his Los Angeles jail.

Penn, 27, is so determined to avoid mixing with the other convicts that he is refusing to leave his cell except to phone his wife.

He has his food brought in by friends and doesn't even go outside for exercise.

He told warders: "This place is a breeding ground for Aids and I sure as hell don't want to take any chances.

"I'm just going to sit in my cell and not let anyone get near me. Just keep everyone away."

There is an Aids sufferer in the cell next to him.

The "Brat Pack" actor was jailed for 60 days after punching a film extra. He started his sentence in a small, private prison but was released to complete a film and chose to finish his term in Los Angeles County Jail.

"He wanted to demonstrate to the world that he would take his sentence like a real man in a real jail," said a policeman.



WELL DONE RADS

★ **THOUGH** we had to wait seven years to witness it, the reunion of one of Dublin's great bands, The Radiators (From Space) was well worth waiting for. The 'Aid To Fight Aids' benefit gig at Hawkins, Dublin, was packed out and also witnessed great sets by The Real Wild West and Gavin Friday and friends.

Be kind to AIDS victims - Pope

POPE JOHN PAUL has described the present AIDS crisis as being of immense proportions and called on health workers ministering to its victims to ensure that they show kindness and love.

In the first reference to the disease during his U.S. tour, which has now reached the half-way point, the Pontiff yesterday told Catholic health representatives that as they implement their moral obligation and social responsibility to help those who suffered, individually and collectively, they were living out the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Thousands of well wishers again lined the streets, giving the Pope a warm welcome as he drove through in the bullet-proof Popemobile in searing heat, with temperatures in the high 90s.

At another meeting with American Indians, who wore their tradi-

tional colourful costumes, the Pope encouraged them to preserve their language and tradition and recognised that in the past not all members of the Catholic Church had lived up to their responsibilities to the Indian peoples.

However, he told them that today they were called upon to learn from the mistakes of the past and encouraged them to work for reconciliation and healing.

When he met the health workers, the Pope said that while the Church encouraged all genuine advances in knowledge, it also insisted on the sacredness of human life at every stage and in every condition.

His words gave great support to groups in the United States who are trying to persuade the government to make abortion illegal.

When he met the Indian people, their spokesperson, Mrs. Alfredda

Antone in a hard-hitting address, said that history stood as a witness to the use and abuse Indians had experienced in their homelands.

She asked that "our people be recognised, respected and treated as equals," that they should be allowed determine their own destiny, develop their own lands and resources, plan and make their own decisions in all matters that were properly their own and that sacred ways of prayer be respected.

Mrs. Antone hoped that all might learn how to live in harmony, as brothers and sisters and that racism, bigotry and a sense of superiority be laid to rest in our times.

In asking the Pope to ensure that their lands were safeguarded, she said that Indians must get just compensation for their lands "which were taken illegally through theft or violation of treaties with our ancestors."

Show compassion to AIDS victims—Pope

IN HIS first reference to AIDS since arriving in the United States, Pope John Paul II yesterday invoked the Parable of the Good Samaritan when calling on Catholics to "show the love and compassion of Christ" to victims of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Speaking in Phoenix, Arizona, on the fifth day of his US tour the Pope also strongly defended the Catholic Church's stance on medical ethics, including its opposition to abortion and euthanasia.

The Pope, who will meet AIDS victims for the first time on Thursday in San Francisco, told leaders of the Catholic Health Care Association yesterday that they must deal with "the present crisis of immense proportions, which is that of AIDS and AIDS-related complex."

"Besides your professional contribution and your human sensitivities toward all affected by this disease, you are called to show the love and compassion of Christ and his Church," the Pope told

Sanctuary movement encouraged: page 5; US Catholics spurn Papal megastar: page 10.

the 2,400 leaders of the nation's 920 Catholic hospitals and health care facilities, which make up the largest health system in the US under single ownership.

"As you courageously affirm and implement your moral obligation and social responsibility to help those who suffer, you are, individually and collectively, living out the Parable of the Good Samaritan," he said.

The Pope said the Good Samaritan in the New Testament Book of Luke showed compassion to the injured man by taking him to an inn and giving of his own material means.

The Pope has spoken publicly about AIDS only once before and that was in response to journalists' (Continued on page 5)

Show sympathy to AIDS victims —Pope

(Continued from page 1)

questions last Thursday during his flight from Rome to Miami.

"The Church is doing all that is possible to heal and especially prevent the moral background of this disease," he said on the plane, brushing aside the view that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuals.

In reiterating the Church's opposition to abortion and euthanasia, the Pope said the "Church constantly proclaims and defends the dignity of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death," adding that it was in the light of this fundamental truth that we see the great evil of abortion and euthanasia.

Regarding test-tube fertilisation and genetic engineering, he said the Church encouraged "all genuine advances in knowledge" but also insisted on the "sacredness of human life at every stage and in every condition. The cause she serves is the cause of human life and human dignity."

On his arrival in Phoenix from San Antonio, the Pope went directly to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he visited the pediatrics ward. He took into his arms Brooke Johnson, who weighed only 21 ounces when she was born on June 29th, three months prematurely.

He stopped in the room of Johnny Adrian, a 15-year-old Phoenix resident who is terminally ill with a brain tumour. Johnny, who is blind and nearly deaf, gave no indication he was aware of the Pope's presence despite his mother's gentle attempts to rouse him.

The Pope's speech to the crowd on the square outside St Mary's was unusually tough talk for a ceremonial greeting and appeared aimed at entrepreneurs and industrialists.

"The temptation toward avarice is certainly not restricted to any one nation or group of people," he said. "In fact, it is part and parcel of our human condition which stands in need of constant conversion."

"Yet," he asked, "does not the temptation present itself more forcefully to those who have received a larger share in the material goods of the earth?"

Secret Service agents arrested a demonstrator in Los Angeles yesterday and forced some two dozen homeless people to leave the Skid Row area in which the Pope will stay during his visit today and tomorrow. — (AFP, UPI, Reuter)