



University of California, San Diego

News

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Art for AIDS treatment in Zimbabwe

More than \$10,000 was raised for HIV/AIDS treatment in Zimbabwe through an art exhibit and sale held on Saturday, May 10, at the Mission Hills United Church of Christ. The event was co-sponsored by the ARI and the Zimbabwe AIDS Treatment Assistance (ZATA) Project.

The ZATA Project, which maintains administrative offices in Denver, purchases paintings, quilts, and masks from local Zimbabwean artists.

The ZATA Project was founded by UCSD professors and ARI members Constance Benson, MD, and Robert Schooley, MD, when they were affiliated with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver.

When the artwork is sold, a portion of the sale price is donated to clinics in Zimbabwe to defray the cost of medical care, including antiretroviral medications. A year's worth of treatment—approximately the price of one ZATA painting—costs about US\$300.

The May 10 art sale also netted some much-needed ARI funding for research, patient care, and educational activities in San Diego.

Zimbabwe is fraught with political strife and is one of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the BBC, the inflation rate as of May 2008 was an astounding 165,000 percent.

More than 25 percent of the adult population in Zimbabwe is HIV positive. Only two percent of those infected can afford antiretroviral drugs.

Many of the artists who sell their work to the ZATA Project are themselves infected with HIV and are alive today because of the Project's efforts to provide lifesaving treatment to Zimbabweans in need.

The ARI would like to thank the UCSD faculty and staff who attended the event and purchased art or donated directly to the ZATA Project.

We would also like to acknowledge Dale and Elizabeth Clegg, and their daughters, Allison and Michaela, for underwriting part of the expenses and for donating food and wine. The Clegg family and friends also prepared and served delectable appetizers based on authentic Zimbabwean recipes.

For more information about the ZATA Project, or to purchase artwork online, visit <http://www.zataprotect.org>.



Scenes from the ARI-ZATA Project Art Show. Top, from left, Dr. Constance Benson and Alexis Sexton admire ZATA quilts as Kim Schafer talks with Una Marie Pierce. Below, Zimbabwean artist Peter Kwangware's *Laundry* (reproduced with permission of the ZATA Project).

ARI-openers

- The ARI serves more than 230 members and 30 departments on the UCSD campus (page 2).
- Translational research helps improves clinical and laboratory studies (page 2).
- Fifth annual Ride 4 AIDS benefits the ARI and Being Alive San Diego (page 3).
- The ARI sponsors educational events for scientists and the general public (page 3).
- Help the ARI sponsor a project or purchase (page 4).



Douglas D. Richman, MD
ARI Director



Kimberly A. Schafer, MS
ARI Administrative Director

About the ARI

The AIDS Research Institute (ARI) was established in 1996 by the Regents of the University of California to coordinate AIDS research and clinical activities on the UCSD campus. The Institute is led by Dr. Douglas Richman, who has directed the ARI since 2000.

More than 230 UCSD faculty and staff from 30 departments are current ARI members. Our members are major contributors to HIV/AIDS research in basic science, pathogenesis, treatment, neurosciences and behavior, and healthcare utilization. Their efforts total more than \$24 million dollars in NIH-sponsored grants.

Some of the ARI's affiliated programs include the Owen Clinic, the Antiviral Research Center (AVRC), the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), and the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center (HNRC). Our affiliates serve as co-sponsors for campus and community events, and directors of several of our affiliates serve as members of the ARI's Scientific Advisory Board.

The ARI is a campus-wide and community-wide resource for HIV/AIDS research. The

many programs and Centers affiliated with the ARI have many functions:

- Host educational seminars for the campus and the community
- Supply start-up funds for laboratory equipment and pilot studies
- Support international HIV/AIDS research through education, training, and travel to and from UCSD
- Publish newsletters, brochures, flyers, and Web sites to inform the campus and the community
- Encourage translational research, that is, from laboratory to clinic, through our educational programs
- Promote staff education by sending nurses and technical staff to conferences and seminars
- Purchase furniture for clinic waiting areas
- Provide transportation vouchers for patients who do not have cars so they can attend clinic appointments

ARI Translational Research Centers

- Adolescent Medical Trials Unit
- Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group
- Antiviral Research Center
- California Collaborative Treatment Group
- California NeuroAIDS Tissue Network
- Center for AIDS Research
- Early Infection Program
- HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center
- Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Ethiopia/DOD
- San Diego AIDS Education and Training Center
- Southern California Primary Infection Program

What is translational research?

Translational research is one of the most important facets of current medical research. The term refers to the ability to use—or translate—the results of laboratory experiments when making treatment decisions about patients in clinics or hospitals.

The reverse is also true: observations made about patients are often verified by work in the laboratory.

Physicians and scientists associated with the UCSD ARI are experts at translational research. Many of our laboratory scientists have MD degrees, while many of our physicians also have supplemental degrees in science or public health.

This mutual understanding promotes collaboration and cooperation, which results in better diagnoses and

treatments for patients. When laboratory results and clinical observations are published in scientific journals, patients all over the world benefit from the ARI's research.

For example, Dr. Douglas Richman's laboratory was the first to document resistance to certain HIV drugs. This means these drugs do not work in some patients because their version of HIV has become immune to them. This finding led both to more effective anti-HIV drugs and more effective ways for patients to take their prescribed medicines.

The AIDS Research Institute includes a dozen UCSD programs that incorporate translational research into their scientific effort (see sidebar at left). You can learn more about these programs by visiting the ARI Web site at <http://ari.ucsd.edu>.

Ride 4 AIDS benefits research and well-being

The fifth annual Ride 4 AIDS was held on Sunday, April 13, 2008.

Participants began arriving at Spanish Landing Park as early as 6:00 a.m. Despite the unseasonably warm weather, everyone was eager and excited about the event.

We were delighted that Whitney Southwick of NBC Channel 39/Cable 7 served as the emcee throughout the day and waved the starting flag as riders queued up for the 50-, 25-, and 10-mile courses. Each group of riders studied their maps, compared notes, and applied sunscreen as they waited for Southwick's exuberant "GO!"

The 50-mile course began at 7:00 a.m. and took riders through Cabrillo National Monument, Mission Bay, UCSD/Torrey Pines, and back.

The 25-mile course began at 8:00 a.m. and took riders through Spanish Landing Park, Seaport Village, and the Cabrillo National Monument.

Many families also took part in the 10-mile course, which started at 9:00 a.m. and took riders through the Park,

around Harbor Island, and down to Seaport Village.

A warm, beautiful morning greeted riders as they returned to music provided by a local DJ. Hungry riders were treated to hot dogs and hamburgers served by Lucky Buck's, fresh oranges and bananas from Specialty Produce, a beer garden sponsored by Sierra Nevada Brewery, and a variety of snacks, beverages, and educational booths.

The event ended on a positive note with a raffle and prizes to star fundraisers. As he did in the 2007 Ride 4 AIDS, Tyler Lonergan, MD, of UCSD's Owen Clinic, took top honors for raising more than \$4600! Thanks, Doc!

More than 480 riders participated in this year's event. As before, funds raised will be shared between the UCSD AIDS Research Institute and Being Alive San Diego.

The ARI and Being Alive San Diego are grateful to the riders, donors, sponsors, and vendors who generously gave of their time, expertise, and products.



2008 Ride 4 AIDS. Above and below: Riders at the starting line and on the road.

Mission ARI: spread the word!

The ARI promotes the exchange of knowledge among scientists at UCSD and between these scientists and the general public. We do this through a variety of scientific and community events.

The Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), the ARI's largest affiliate, schedules approximately one scientific seminar per month, as well as day-long scientific symposia once or twice each year.

The UCSD Antiviral Research Center (AVRC) conducts clinical trials in HIV/AIDS treatment. Three to four times per month, the AVRC sponsors AIDS Clinical Rounds for physicians and clinical staff. Once a month, the AVRC holds Community Advisory Board meetings, featuring ARI-affiliated speakers reporting on current research.

Every two years, the AVRC and the ARI co-present a community forum on research presented at the bi-annual International AIDS Conference, a worldwide scientific event highlighting global efforts in HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment.

The CFAR Flow Cytometry Core sponsors quarterly technical seminars that are open to UCSD faculty and staff as well as the San Diego biotechnology community.

Before and after each of these events, speakers are encouraged to talk with audience members. The ARI frequently underwrites the cost of coffee and refreshments to promote informal discussion. See the sidebar at right for more information about our programs for scientists and the general public.

ARI-supported educational events

- Center for AIDS Research seminars and symposia, contact the CFAR office at cfar@ucsd.edu.
- AIDS Clinical Rounds, contact Lauren Copfer at lcopfer@ucsd.edu.
- Antiviral Research Center Community Advisory Board meetings and community forums, contact Jack Degnan at jdegan@ucsd.edu.
- Flow Cytometry technical seminars, contact Dr. Celsa Spina at cspina@ucsd.edu.



ARI fundraisers. Top, Whole Foods Market donated more than \$4000 in January 2007 to the ARI. Below, the starting line at the 2007 Ride 4 AIDS, from which the ARI received \$6800.

ARI wish list: how you can help

Your donations are critical to the ARI's annual operations. Unrestricted donations allow us to direct your gift to areas of greatest need. You may also designate your gift to one or more of the following priorities:

Laboratory equipment: New technologies require new equipment, some of which is quite expensive and ineligible for federal grant funding.

For example, our highly utilized flow cytometry laboratory is in critical need of a new flow cytometry machine, which will cost \$450,000 to replace.

Furniture for patient care areas: Our physicians and nurses provide primary care for more than 3,000

HIV-positive individuals through UCSD's Owen Clinic.

In addition, our research clinic, the UCSD Antiviral Research Center, provides services to hundreds of people each year.

Both clinics need furniture for examination rooms, including beds, chairs, desks and small storage shelves.

International research: ARI investigators are involved in research on almost every continent. Numerous opportunities are available to foster research, training, and scientific exchange with our international partners.

Education and assistance programs: Our patient education and assistance program extends into our

local, national, and international communities. Your donation in this area could fund activities such as

- Educational newsletters and Web sites;
- Community education programs for patients, physicians, nurses, and clinic staff;
- Advanced training for our own nurses and clinic staff.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your donation.

Call Kimberly Schafer, ARI Administrative Director, at 858-534-5545, if you have any questions, or e-mail us at ari@ucsd.edu. **Thank you!**



Easy ARI support

Here are three easy ways to support the ARI:

- Designate the UCSD ARI as the beneficiary of the Ralphs' Community Contribution Program (ralphs.com). Whenever you use your Ralphs card, the ARI will receive a percentage of your purchase.

- Join igive.com, which has more than 650 participating stores. When you join, select the UCSD ARI as the beneficiary. Each time you shop through the igive.com Web site, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the ARI.

- Donate your old car to Cars 4 Causes (cars4causes.net) and designate the UCSD ARI as the beneficiary. Cars 4 Causes will pick up your old car, give you a receipt for the DMV, sell the car at auction, and donate a portion of the proceeds to the ARI.



Support the ARI today

Thank you!

YES! I want to support the research, seminars, and scientific programs of the UCSD AIDS Research Institute. Enclosed is my contribution of

___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50
___ \$100 ___ \$250 \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the UC San Diego Foundation and mail to

UCSD AIDS Research Institute
9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0716
La Jolla, CA 92093-0716