

QUANTITY OF LIFE AND QUALITY IN LIFE

AMICUS: An Epidemic of Goodwill



AIDS orphanage, Durban, South Africa

It has become a race against time, with 6800 new HIV diagnoses worldwide each day - 16 new cases reported every minute.

Last year, over 2.1 million people died from AIDS and to date over 16 million children have been orphaned worldwide, a number expected to reach over 25 million in two years time.

It is very simple: Even if a preventative vaccine were to appear tomorrow, and this is far from likely according to industry experts, the millions already infected need help now.

Making matters worse, one large pharmaceutical company has recently abandoned their future research plans of next-generation anti-retrovirals. This company, currently a leading supplier of anti-retrovirals, stated that the decision was based on poor profit projections given the anti-retroviral generics soon expected at market in combination with political pressure to reduce product pricing.

The devastating impact of this decision can only be fully appreciated once it is understood that unless the HIV-infected individual achieves compliance 95% of the time in taking anti-retroviral medication, drug resistance is almost assured requiring the patient to move on to the next formulation. This of course assumes access to the drugs in the first instance – a recognized global health failure – and a next formulation being available – which ultimately won't be if withdrawal of future research continues.

A lesser known yet promising solution is on the horizon and could be made available soon.

T-Cell vaccination, an original, innovative immunotherapeutic technique in the treatment of HIV/AIDS is the current research subject of the Global Consortium for Immunotherapy, a collaborative effort between the Human Futures Foundation and Hadassah Medical Center.

Published pilot studies in humans indicate validity of concept and no signs of toxicity have been shown to date unlike the anti-retroviral protocols.

Phase II clinical trials are currently underway at Hadassah University Hospital. The consortium's aim is to extend these trials outside of Israel to identified clinical teams in South Africa and Brazil. However, even the current trials at Hadassah are now under threat because of lost funding due to the economic downturn.

With next significant results expected in as short as two years time, success in these trials could drastically change the treatment landscape of HIV/AIDS. This will be especially true if the planned sub-study, applying the technique in advance of anti-retroviral protocols, also proves effective.

Your financial help is needed now. Not only could success here extend quantity of life to the millions infected with HIV, but extend quality in life as well for those infected and their families.

Again, it is very simple: keep the HIV-infected parents alive in a state of health and we will be keeping families together.



Eight year old Ndu, one of the Lucky ones, at AIDS orphanage, Durban, South Africa

Your donation now helps keep this research alive so that its success can ultimately reach millions. Visit <http://www.amicus.net> to learn more

Human Futures Foundation (www.humanfutures.org) is a publically registered charity in the USA, Great Britain and Switzerland. Amicus is our public outreach program.