

January 21, 1993

TOTAL            Disbursed  
AWARD            in 1992

THE AARON DIAMOND FOUNDATION  
AIDS GRANTS

The following medical, education and civil liberties grants focus on AIDS research, prevention and treatment, and the rights of people living with AIDS. The list includes all AIDS-related grants awarded by the Foundation through the end of 1992.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Special Initiatives

The Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center  
for the City of New York  
455 First Avenue, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10016

Start-up grant for the establishment of an AIDS research facility in New York City. (One-year grant in 1988)	\$3,000,000	
General support for the completion and operation of the AIDS Research Center, David D. Ho, M.D., director.	\$5,000,000	\$3,000,000

The AIDS Research Center, with eight laboratories and up to 50 scientists when fully staffed, is one of the world's largest laboratories devoted to AIDS research. It consists of 20,000 square feet of laboratory and administrative space, including a 4,000-square-foot level III containment facility for biohazardous work. Investigators under the direction of Dr. Ho are studying the mechanisms by which the HIV virus infects cells, causes disease and damages organ systems, as well as searching for

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effective treatments and a vaccine. The Center is a collaborative effort of the Foundation, the Department of Health of the City of New York, the School of Medicine at New York University and the Public Health Research Institute. (Three-year grant: \$1,000,000 in each of 1989 and 1990 and \$3,000,000 in 1991)

<i>Renewed general support for The Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center. (Two-year grant: \$500,000 in 1993)</i>	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000
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**The Aaron Diamond Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**  
5 Penn Plaza, Room 308  
New York, NY 10001

<i>General support for a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship program in AIDS or drug abuse, Margaret Brown, Ph.D., program director.</i>	\$16,689,476	\$1,914,628
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The research fellowships are awarded to recent M.D.'s and Ph.D.'s in the biomedical and social sciences for research on AIDS or drug abuse. In addition to encouraging increased research into these urgent public health problems, the fellowship program seeks to improve the research climate in New York by supporting outstanding junior scientists who will go on to become independent investigators and continue their research careers in the city. The program requires an applicant to form a mutually acceptable research plan with a mentor already established in New York. As part of their commitment the mentors offer research training in their own facility as well as arrange for the fellows to work in other laboratories or facilities where complementary research is being conducted. The first group of 25 fellows was selected in 1991, the second in 1992, and the third and final group will be chosen in 1993. Each fellowship is for two to three years. The program is administered by the New York State Health Research Council. (Seven-year grant: \$100,000 in 1990, \$217,973 in 1991, \$3,608,599 in 1993, \$5,324,850 in 1994, \$3,614,561 in 1995 and \$1,898,865 in 1996)

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Basic Research

**CUNY Medical School**  
 Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education  
 138th Street and Convent Avenue  
 New York, NY 10031

*AIDS research on the communication pathways linking the immune and nervous systems in the brain,*  
**Patricia A. Broderick, Ph.D., and Richard F. Coico, Ph.D.,** principal investigators.

\$143,500

\$70,500

Using *in vivo* electrochemistry, the investigators will explore possible connections between interleukin-1 (IL-1) and quinolinic acid, both of which are elevated in AIDS patients with neurological impairments such as dementia. New therapeutic approaches could result from a better understanding of how IL-1, which is produced by the immune system, affects the production of quinolinic acid, which is toxic to neurons. (Two-year grant: \$73,000 in 1993)

**Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory**  
 P.O. Box 100  
 Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

*Study of the three-dimensional structure of the TAT protein of the HIV virus using X-ray crystallography,* **John E. Anderson, Ph.D., and Chiu Kwong Cheung, Ph.D.,** principal investigators.

\$200,000

Drs. Anderson and Cheung are studying the TAT protein, which is essential to activating the HIV virus in the host cell, leading to replication of the virus and death of the cell. They are attempting to prepare purified quantities of the protein in order to elucidate its three-dimensional structure through X-ray crystallography. Knowing the structure of the protein will lead to a better understanding of the protein's function. (Three-year grant: \$60,000 in 1988, \$80,000 in 1989 and \$60,000 in 1990)

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**Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons**  
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics  
630 West 168th Street  
New York, NY 10032

<i>Structural studies on the involvement of the human T-cell co-receptor CD8 in the body's immune response, Daniel J. Leahy, Ph.D., and Wayne A. Hendrickson, Ph.D., principal investigators.</i>	\$152,400	\$74,400
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Investigations into fundamental aspects of immunology are essential to understanding and treating AIDS. The researchers believe that CD8 may be involved in the depletion of CD4 cells in people with AIDS, causing a deficiency in their immune systems. Modulating CD8 function could affect the process of CD4 depletion. (Two-year grant: \$78,000 in 1993)

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<p><b>Columbia University, College of Physicians &amp; Surgeons</b>            650 West 168th Street            New York, NY 10032</p>		
<p><i>Research into the molecular mechanisms of latency in the AIDS virus infection, Israel Lowy, M.D., Ph.D., principal investigator.</i></p>	\$88,550	
<p>Using recombinant DNA techniques, Dr. Lowy has developed defective HIV genomes by replacing essential structural genes with indicator genes while leaving the regulatory loci intact. These defective HIV genomes have opened up new avenues to discovering how the virus transforms itself from a dormant state to a virulent disease. (One-year grant in 1988)</p>		
<p><i>Renewed support for research into the molecular mechanisms of latency in the AIDS virus infection. (Two-year grant: \$100,000 in 1989 and \$90,000 in 1990)</i></p>	\$190,000	
<p><i>Renewed support for research into the molecular mechanisms of latency in the AIDS virus infection. (Final two-year grant: \$72,000 in 1991)</i></p>	\$148,000	\$76,000
<p><i>Support for a visiting AIDS researcher from China, Liu Gen-qi, M.D., D.S., in the laboratory of Harold S. Ginsberg, M.D., principal investigator.</i></p>	\$85,440	
<p>Dr. Ginsberg and his colleagues are investigating the molecular mechanisms that lead to replication of the HIV virus by focusing their attention on macrophages and endothelial cells. By assisting in this research, Dr. Liu of the Institute of Virology in Beijing will acquire a knowledge of current AIDS research, which he will apply on his return to China. (Two-year grant: \$41,450 in 1989 and \$43,990 in 1990)</p>		
<p><i>Renewed support for visiting AIDS researcher Dr. Liu Gen-qi. (Final one-year grant: \$25,000 in 1991)</i></p>	\$25,000	

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<b>Dana-Farber Cancer Institute</b>		
44 Binney Street Boston, MA 02115		
<i>The role of HIV glycoproteins in the development of the AIDS virus, William A. Haseltine, Ph.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$425,000	
Although the human immune system develops antibodies to the glycoproteins of the virus coat, these antibodies fail to destroy the virus or even inactivate it. This research at Dana-Farber involves a sophisticated identification of the structure and function of the glycoproteins as a necessary step in the development of a vaccine. (Three-year grant: \$175,000 in 1987 and \$125,000 in each of 1988 and 1989)		
<i>Renewed support for research into the role of HIV glycoproteins in the development of the AIDS virus. (Final grant in 1990)</i>	\$75,000	
<b>Harvard School of Public Health</b>		
Department of Cancer Biology 665 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02115		
<i>Research into the development of a less virulent strain of the AIDS virus, for use as a potential "natural" vaccine, Myron Essex, D.V.M, Ph.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$350,000	
Dr. Essex's research on a feline leukemia virus first identified the existence of a retrovirus critically important to an understanding of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The goal of Dr. Essex's ongoing investigation is the development of a "natural" AIDS vaccine. (Three-year grant: \$250,000 in 1986 and \$100,000 in each of 1987 and 1988)		
<i>Renewed support for research into the development of a less virulent strain of the AIDS virus. (Three-year grant: \$200,000 in each of 1989, 1990 and 1991)</i>	\$600,000	
<i>Renewed support for research into a less virulent strain of the AIDS virus. (Final grant)</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000

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**Hospital for Joint Diseases/Orthopaedic Institute**  
 Department of Molecular Immunology  
 301 East 17th Street  
 New York, NY 10016

<i>Idiotypic/anti-idiotypic strategies to block CD4-mediated infection after HIV contact with target cells, Franco Celada, M.D., Ph.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$215,315	\$71,715
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The research will attempt to thwart the growth of the HIV virus by creating a particular type of antibody that would 1) attach to the virus and prevent the virus from attaching to the cell, or 2) prevent the virus, even if it does penetrate the cell, from replicating. (Three-year grant: \$68,300 in 1991 and \$75,300 in 1993)

**New York University, Department of Chemistry**  
 100 Washington Square East  
 New York, NY 10003-6603

<i>Research on HIV-1 RNase-H inhibitors, John C. Dewan, Ph.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000
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In a novel approach to discovering an anti-HIV-1 agent, Dr. Dewan will synthesize and test compounds that are potential inhibitors of the ribonuclease-H domain of the reverse transcriptase of HIV-1.

**New York University Medical Center**  
 550 First Avenue  
 New York, NY 10016

<i>Pathophysiology of HIV-1 immune thrombocytopenia, Kenneth B. Hymes, M.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$100,000	\$50,000
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A low platelet count, the most common blood disorder in patients with HIV-1 infection, can lead to excessive bleeding and increased sensitivity to drug treatments for AIDS. Dr. Hymes will study phagocytic blood cells and their role in lowering platelet counts for a better understanding of how to prevent or reverse this disorder. (Two-year grant: \$50,000 in 1991)

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**Public Health Research Institute**  
455 First Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

*Viral integration of AIDS into human chromosomes,* \$525,000  
**Karl Drlica, Ph.D., Ellen Murphy, Ph.D., Abraham Pinter, Ph.D.,** principal investigators.

This research focuses on the manner in which the virus becomes integrated into the genetic databank, the chromosome. The key component under study is the integrase protein, which is involved in the insertion of the virus DNA into the host DNA. The ultimate objective is to find a way to block viral integration. (Three-year grant: \$175,000 in each of 1987, 1988 and 1989)

*Molecular disruption of the life cycle of the HIV virus,* \$445,000  
**Karl Drlica, Ph.D., and Ellen Murphy, Ph.D.,** principal investigators.

This project, an outgrowth of PHRI's study of the viral integration of AIDS into human chromosomes, investigates enzymes, particularly ribozyme, that can be tailored to seek and destroy viral genes, thereby preventing virus replication or the ability of HIV to infect cells. (Two-year grant: \$227,500 in 1990 and \$217,500 in 1991)

*Acid-labile interferon-alpha in lupus and AIDS patients,* \$250,000  
**Yum Keung Yip, M.D.,** principal investigator.

Interferons are almost never found in the circulation of normal healthy individuals. The discovery of acid-labile interferon-alpha in patients is linked to the development of AIDS, systemic lupus erythematosus and other autoimmune diseases. The present research focuses on the relationship between interferon-alpha and the serum of patients. (Two-year grant: \$125,000 in each of 1991 and 1993)

*Selection of efficient anti-HIV ribozymes,* \$100,000  
**Fred Russell Kramer, Ph.D.,** principal investigator.

Molecular biologists have learned to construct artificial ribozymes that will attack the RNA of the HIV virus, preventing it from spreading to other cells. Dr. Kramer's team is testing millions of different ribozymes to isolate the ones that are

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particularly efficient at destroying AIDS virus RNAs. These "super" ribozymes can then be used for treatment of the disease. (One-year grant in 1991)

*Characterization and testing of neutralizing antibodies in the V1/V2 domains of HIV env proteins, Abraham Pinter, Ph.D., principal investigator.*

\$100,000	\$50,000
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In the search for an effective HIV vaccine, Dr. Pinter's team has found that several neutralizing antibodies bind to the V1/V2 region. Further research will map key sites recognized by these antibodies and test their reactivity to sera from infected and vaccinated humans and chimpanzees. (One-time two-year grant: \$50,000 in 1993)

*Synergistically neutralizing HuMAbs for immunotherapy against AIDS, Shermaine Tilley, Ph.D., principal investigator.*

\$200,000	\$100,000
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A major problem for immunological approaches to the control of HIV is the extreme variability of the viral genome. Two human monoclonal antibodies (HuMAbs) isolated by Dr. Tilley may offer a solution to this problem by neutralizing HIV infection through their reaction with nonvariable regions of the virus envelope. The research will explore the parameters of the HuMAbs' neutralization of the virus and test methods for increased production of these antibodies. (Two-year grant: \$100,000 in 1991)

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Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10021-6399

*The immunobiology of AIDS*, Zanvil Cohn, M.D.,  
principal investigator.

\$336,905

The AIDS virus disables the human immune system, leaving patients vulnerable to a wide variety of bacteria and viruses that the normal immune system is generally able to destroy. In this research project Dr. Cohn and his collaborators are studying critical cells that fail to function properly when the immune system is attacked by the AIDS virus. (Three-year grant: \$110,040 in 1987, \$113,473 in 1988 and \$113,392 in 1989)

*Renewed support for research into the immunobiology of AIDS.* (Final two-year grant: \$100,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)

\$200,000

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Clinical Research

**Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
of Yeshiva University**  
1300 Morris Park Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10461

*The transmission of the AIDS virus infection in pregnant women, newborns and infants, Arye Rubinstein, M.D., principal investigator.* \$100,000

Only one-third to one-half of babies born to HIV-positive mothers are themselves infected with the HIV virus. Dr. Rubinstein and his colleagues have discovered a specific maternal antibody that may be responsible for blocking the transmission of the HIV virus *in utero*. Further research on these findings is aimed at the development of an AIDS vaccine. (Two-year grant: \$50,000 in each of 1986 and 1987)

*Renewed support for research on pediatric HIV infection. (Two-year grant: \$100,000 in each of 1988 and 1989)* \$200,000

*Renewed support for research on pediatric HIV infection. (Two-year grant: \$100,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)* \$200,000

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**Children's Blood Foundation**

333 East 38th Street  
New York, NY 10016

*Study of infants at risk for developing Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, Susanna Cunningham-Rundles, Ph.D., principal investigator.*

\$60,000

\$60,000

HIV-positive infants are more likely to contract Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia than HIV-positive adults, and less likely to recover. Twenty-five percent of HIV-positive infants die by two years of age with P. carinii as the major contributing factor to their high mortality rate. Through its study of 70 pregnant homeless women and their infants, the Children's Blood Foundation will develop a method of screening HIV-positive infants at risk for P. carinii, discover how the HIV virus affects their defenses against the pneumonia, and develop a rational treatment approach.

**HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies**

722 West 168th Street  
New York, NY 10032

*Start-up support for developmental and behavioral studies of children of addicted and HIV positive mothers, Anke A. Ehrhardt, Ph.D., principal investigator.*

\$74,918

New York City has the highest proportion of the nation's estimated 10,000 HIV-positive children, many of whom were born to women who also used drugs. These children are at high risk of developing neuropsychiatric disorders. Whether the mental abnormalities are caused by the HIV infection or fetal exposure to drugs, however, is not clear. The Center will evaluate children of drug-using mothers with a variety of symptoms ranging from no HIV infection in either mother or child to HIV infection in both. Comprehensive descriptions of the problems in these different groups of children will lead to possibilities for effective treatment and education. (One-year grant in 1991)

*Renewed support for developmental and behavioral studies of children of addicted and HIV positive mothers. (Final grant)*

\$67,848

\$67,848

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**Montefiore Medical Center**

111 East 210th Street

Bronx, NY 10467

<i>Study of infants born to AIDS-infected mothers who are also intravenous drug users, Gerald Friedland, M.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$250,000
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The purpose of the study is to learn about the transmission of the HIV infection from the mother to her baby before or during birth. Dr. Friedland's earlier research into the epidemiology of AIDS among IV drug users helped show the importance of heterosexual transmission of the HIV infection from male addicts to their female partners. (Two-year grant: \$125,000 in each of 1986 and 1987)

<i>Renewed support for a study of infants born to AIDS-infected mothers who are also intravenous drug users. (Two-year grant: \$209,416 in 1988 and \$231,496 in 1989)</i>	\$440,912
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<i>Renewed support for a study of infants born to AIDS-infected mothers who are also intravenous drug users. (Two-year grant: \$290,067 in 1990 and \$306,328 in 1991)</i>	\$596,395
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**Mount Sinai Medical Center**

One Gustave L. Levy Place  
New York, NY 10029-6574

*Research on AIDS reduction in East Harlem, David N. Rose, M.D. (Department of Community Medicine), principal investigator.* \$450,000

The prevalence of AIDS is high among the Latino and African-American populations of East Harlem, with many young adults, adolescents and newborn babies suffering from the infection. Mount Sinai's new AIDS clinic links the latest biomedical research with an educational program teaching prevention through safe sex and drug-related practices. (Three-year grant: \$150,000 in each of 1988, 1989 and 1990)

*Renewed support for research on AIDS reduction in East Harlem. (Three-year grant: \$75,000 in 1991 and \$150,000 in 1993)* \$375,000 \$150,000

*Study comparing neuropsychological testing methods on HIV-infected IV drug abusers, David Dorfman, M.D. (Department of Psychiatry), principal investigator.* \$14,250

In detecting and characterizing central nervous system dysfunctions, neuropsychological testing frequently provides the earliest evidence of AIDS Dementia Complex. This study will compare the accuracy of a rapid and easily administered new testing method against three standard methods. (One-year grant in 1991)

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**The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center**  
 Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases  
 525 East 68th Street  
 New York, NY 10021

*Clinical trials on gamma interferon as a possible treatment for AIDS, Henry W. Murray, M.D., principal investigator.* \$100,000

Gamma interferon, which activates a critically important defense cell against AIDS, has been shown by Dr. Murray to be diminished or absent in the T lymphocytes of AIDS patients, increasing their susceptibility to opportunistic infections. Treatment of AIDS patients with gamma interferon may stimulate monocytes to exhibit increased antimicrobial activity. (Two-year grant: \$50,000 in each of 1988 and 1989)

*Pathogenesis and interaction of human T cell leukemia virus type (HTLV-I) with the AIDS virus, Mark Stoeckle, M.D., principal investigator.* \$300,000

An increasing number of intravenous drug users are infected with both the leukemia virus, HTLV-I, and the AIDS virus HIV-1. The two viruses together may accelerate the development of clinical AIDS. This research will determine the frequency of the coinfection, the mechanism by which HTLV-I begins to proliferate, and the impact of the double infection on the development and progression of AIDS. (Three-year grant: \$100,000 in each of 1989, 1990 and 1991)

**The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center**  
 Department of Medicine, Clinical Epidemiology Unit  
 515 East 71st Street, S-919  
 New York, NY 10021

*Research and education program to increase voluntary HIV testing among women of child-bearing age, Kathy Ales, M.D., principal investigator.*

This research project had planned to study the beliefs and behaviors of high-risk inner-city women in order to create an effective educational program for HIV testing. (One-year grant in 1990) \$24,857

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<b>New York University Medical Center</b>		
550 First Avenue		
New York, NY 10016		
<i>AIDS transfer factor in immunotherapy, H. Sherwood Lawrence, M.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$442,444	
Dr. Lawrence discovered a complex entity known as the "transfer factor," which could restore immune capacity to children with immunodeficiency diseases. Research with AIDS patients suggested that this factor might inactivate the virus or interfere with its ability to be incorporated into the host genome. (Three-year grant: \$139,028 in 1987, \$147,311 in 1988 and \$156,105 in 1989)		
<i>Renewed support for transfer factor research. (Final two-year grant: \$50,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)</i>	\$100,000	
<i>Pulmonary disorders and immune responses in HIV-infected individuals, William Rom, M.D., M.P.H., principal investigator.</i>	\$250,000	
Between 60 to 80 percent of AIDS patients develop the pulmonary infection produced by <i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> , which frequently leads to respiratory failure. Studying inflammatory cells from the lungs of these patients, Dr. Rom targets cells whose failure to function in the immune system may contribute to the susceptibility to <i>P. carinii</i> and other infections. (Two-year grant: \$125,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)		
<i>Impact of the AIDS virus on human immunodeficiency, Fred T. Valentine, M.D., principal investigator.</i>	\$433,288	
The lymphocytes in patients with AIDS fail to produce antibodies to fight off the virus. Dr. Valentine is investigating the mechanisms of antibody production in AIDS lymphocytes with the objective of overcoming this defect. (Three-year grant: \$188,637 in 1987, \$119,269 in 1988 and \$125,382 in 1989)		
<i>Chemotherapeutic AIDS research, Fred T. Valentine, principal investigator, in conjunction with Ernest Kun, M.D., San Francisco State University. (One-year grant in 1989)</i>	\$85,000	
<i>Collaboration of Dr. Valentine with Dr. Kun on a new type of anti-HIV compound. (Final grant in 1990)</i>	\$160,000	

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**Public Health Research Institute**  
455 First Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

*Development of a more sensitive test for HIV infection using recombinant-RNA hybridization probes, Fred Russell Kramer, principal investigator.*

\$200,000

Current tests for the AIDS virus, which depend on the production of antibodies by the infected individual, cannot detect infection in its earliest stages. If the proposed research is successful, the new AIDS assays would be a thousand times more sensitive in identifying asymptomatic carriers of the AIDS virus. (Two-year grant: \$100,000 in each of 1989 and 1990)

**St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center**  
Antenucci Research Building  
432 West 58th Street, Room 709  
New York, NY 10019

*Virological and immunological studies in a HIV-1 seronegative healthy individual with a seven-year history of HIV-1 infection, David J. Volsky, Ph.D., principal investigator.*

\$305,000

\$80,000

The course of HIV-1 infection generally includes a long period of relative health accompanied by active immune responses, followed by progressive immune and nervous system deterioration, culminating in death due to opportunistic infection or malignancy. Unlike the majority of HIV-1 infected persons, the health of Dr. Volsky's subject has improved since 1984 when he suffered from enlarged lymph nodes, a clinical manifestation of AIDS, and tests showed he carried the HIV-1 infection. In 1991 he was HIV-1 seronegative and healthy. The key appears to be a particular gene, designated Vif, which may retard the replication of the virus. These studies, which include other seronegative and healthy seropositive persons, will attempt to explain the phenomenon and possibly derive therapeutic applications. (Three-year grant: \$150,000 in 1991 and \$75,000 in 1993)

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<b>SUNY, Health Science Center at Brooklyn</b>		
450 Clarkson Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11203		
<i>Women's Services Program for HIV-infected women at Kings County Hospital Center. More than 21 percent of Brooklyn's AIDS cases are women, yet the HIV clinic at Kings County is not set up to serve the particular needs of women. This new program of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology reorganizes clinical services to include two sessions for women only, provide gynecological care, and offer child care. (Two-year grant: \$35,000 in 1991)</i>	\$70,000	\$35,000
<i>HIV Primary Care Program. This masters-in-nursing program will focus on the health needs of minority women, particularly those at greatest risk of contracting AIDS. (One-year grant in 1991)</i>	\$50,000	
<i>The Informed School Project. A growing number of parents of HIV-infected children seek to disclose their children's condition to insure proper treatment in schools. The Informed School Project provides ongoing assistance, training and support to parents, administrators and teachers at schools where such disclosures occur. (Two-year grant: \$50,000 in 1993)</i>	\$100,000	\$50,000
 <u>Prevention</u>		
 <b>Asian and Pacific Islanders Coalition on HIV/AIDS</b>		
17 Murray Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10007		
<i>General support. The Coalition provides HIV/AIDS-related support, advocacy and prevention services for Asians and Pacific Islanders in New York City while working to increase access to existing health care services. (Two-year grant: \$20,000 in 1991)</i>	\$40,000	\$20,000

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**Association for Drug Abuse Prevention  
and Treatment (ADAPT)**

236 East 111th Street  
New York, NY 10029

<i>General support.</i> ADAPT, which operates storefronts in Harlem and the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, provides AIDS education and distributes needle sterilization and safe sex kits to intravenous drug users. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)	\$50,000
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**Black Leadership Commission on AIDS**

105 East 22nd Street  
New York, NY 10010

<i>General support.</i> The Black Leadership Commission on AIDS organizes and provides assistance to social service agencies, clergy and others working with Black people with AIDS. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)	\$50,000
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<i>Renewed general support and support for the Rites of Passage Program.</i> The Rites of Passage Program organizes youth and parents to reduce adolescent HIV infection. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)	\$50,000
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**Citizens Commission on AIDS**

Fund for the City of New York  
121 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10013

<i>General support for efforts to increase public understanding of AIDS.</i> (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in 1987 and 1988)	\$50,000
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<i>Renewed general support.</i> (One-year grant in 1990)	\$25,000
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**CUNY, Hunter College: School of Health Sciences**  
 Brookdale Health Science Center  
 425 East 25th Street  
 New York, NY 10010

<i>Renewed support for the Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health. The Center brings together existing programs in nursing, health sciences and psychology to develop more effective methods for teaching the prevention and treatment of AIDS and drug abuse. The Center's CUNY AIDS Prevention Initiative trains Hunter students to serve as peer educators in colleges and high schools. (Two-year grant: \$50,000 in 1993)</i>	\$100,000	\$50,000
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**Hispanic AIDS Forum**  
 121 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 505  
 New York, NY 10013

<i>General support. The Hispanic AIDS Forum provides AIDS prevention and education services, including bilingual materials and a hotline, to the city's Latino population. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)</i>	\$50,000	
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**Latino Commission on AIDS**  
 c/o New York Community Trust  
 Two Park Avenue  
 New York, NY 10016

<i>General support. The Commission educates the public and officials about the severity of the Latino AIDS crisis, working to improve policy and increase funding and services. (Two-year grant: \$15,000 in 1991)</i>	\$30,000	\$15,000
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<b>Mount Sinai Medical Center, Adolescent Health Center</b> 19 East 101st Street, Box 1005 New York, NY 10029-6574		
<i>AIDS prevention and treatment program.</i> The Adolescent Health Center uses a theater company of young people to educate predominantly Black and Latino youth about AIDS, following up with a new program aimed at changing risk-taking attitudes and behavior.	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>Women and AIDS Resource Network (WARN)</b> 55 Johnson Street, Suite 303 Brooklyn, NY 11202		
<i>General support.</i> WARN's education and advocacy programs focus on helping women and children infected with HIV. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in 1991)	\$50,000	\$25,000
 <u>Miscellaneous</u>		
<b>American Foundation for AIDS Research</b> 1515 Broadway, Suite 3601 New York, NY 10036-8901		
<i>General support.</i> In attempting to fill unmet needs in AIDS research and education in projects throughout the country, AmFAR has initiated a special grants program for community-level clinical research so that more patients will have early access to promising new AIDS treatments. (One-year grant in 1990)	\$25,000	
<i>Scholars Program.</i> AmFAR awards three-year scholarships to outstanding young investigators doing research on AIDS. (One-year grant in 1990)	\$25,000	
<i>Benefit support.</i> (One-year grant in 1988)	\$25,000	

	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease</b> Mount Sinai Medical Center One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1052 New York, NY 10029		
<i>Conference on "HIV, AIDS, and the Brain," on December 4-5, 1992, in New York City.</i>	\$7,000	\$7,000
 <b>CUNY, Lehman College: Department of Health Services</b> Bedford Park Boulevard West Bronx, NY 10468-1589		
<i>Conference on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York City's Puerto Rican community and in Puerto Rico, November 1992.</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000
 <b>Fund for the City of New York</b> 121 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor New York, NY 10013		
<i>Expanded HIV/AIDS Education Program, Including Condom Availability, of the Board of Education. The Board's program develops AIDS education activities at every grade level and assures the availability of condoms in high schools. (Three-year grant: \$150,000 in 1991 and \$50,000 in 1993)</i>	\$450,000	\$250,000
 <b>Funders Concerned About AIDS</b> 130 West 42nd Street, Suite 801 New York, NY 10036		
<i>General support. Funders Concerned About AIDS serves as a central resource and catalyst to the AIDS funding activities of more than 700 private grantmakers. (Two-year grant: \$10,000 in 1991)</i>	\$20,000	\$10,000

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	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>God's Love We Deliver</b> P.O. Box 1776 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10113		
<i>General support for meal delivery program serving housebound people with AIDS. (One-year grant in 1991)</i>	\$5,000	
<b>Health Research, Inc./AIDS Institute</b> Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd Tower, Room 1683 Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12237		
<i>Second Annual Statewide Conference on HIV/AIDS, October 1991.</i>	\$5,000	
<i>Third annual statewide conference on HIV/AIDS, "Partners in Policy: Facing the Future of HIV Prevention and Care," October 1992.</i>	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>International Partnership Program</b> 1515 Broadway, 51st Floor New York, NY 10036		
<i>Second New York/Italy Medical Symposium on preventive methodologies for AIDS and cancer, 1989.</i>	\$10,000	

TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
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**Montefiore Medical Center**

Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine  
111 East 210th Street  
Bronx, NY 10467

<i>Research program on infectious diseases and drug abuse at Rikers Island, Stephen R. Zoloth, Ph.D., M.P.H., and Eran Bellin, M.D., principal investigators.</i>	\$470,000	\$117,500
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The Rikers Island Correctional Facility is the primary jail for New York City with more than 120,000 persons detained annually. In this epidemiological research program, Montefiore, which provides health care services at Rikers, will collect data on the health status of all detainees and assess the relationship among infectious diseases, including AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea and tuberculosis, and drug abuse. (Three-year grant: \$235,000 in 1990 and \$117,500 in 1991)

**Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc.**

Administration and Fiscal Affairs  
251 New Karner Road  
Albany, NY 12205

<i>International Working Group on AIDS and Drug Abuse. The Group facilitates communication between policy makers, researchers and service providers working on AIDS among drug users. (One-year grant in 1990)</i>	\$10,000
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**The Nation Institute**

72 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10011

<i>Symposium on issues involving HIV/AIDS prevention, including needle exchanges. (One-year grant in 1991)</i>	\$5,000
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January 21, 1993

	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>National Medical Fellowships</b>		
254 West 31st Street New York, NY 10001		
<i>Planning grant for a program for minority physicians and scientists. (One-year grant in 1989)</i>	\$15,000	
<b>New York AIDS Coalition</b>		
150 West 26th Street, Room 603 New York, NY 10001		
<i>General support. This coalition of some 500 groups and individuals campaigns to secure government policies and increased funding for AIDS services. (Two-year grant: \$10,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)</i>	\$20,000	
<b>The New York City AIDS Fund</b>		
c/o The New York Community Trust Two Park Avenue New York, NY 10016		
<i>Collaborative grantmaking effort by foundations in New York City to support AIDS services at the community level. (One-year grant in 1989)</i>	\$30,000	
<i>Renewed support. (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in 1991)</i>	\$60,000	\$30,000
<b>Open Door Family Health Center</b>		
165 Main Street Ossining, NY 10562		
<i>General support for AIDS counseling program. (One-year grant in 1990)</i>	\$5,000	
<i>Renewed general support. (Two-year grant: \$5,000 in 1991)</i>	\$10,000	\$5,000

TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
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EDUCATION

**Academy for Educational Development**  
100 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10011

<i>Assessment of the Board of Education's plan to implement the HIV/AIDS program. (One-year grant in 1991)</i>	\$11,188	
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**Association for the Help of Retarded Children**  
New York City Chapter  
200 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10003

<i>Preschool program for HIV-infected children. In 1988, 1 out of 13 newborns in the South Bronx was found to be infected with the HIV virus as compared to 1 out of 77 in New York City. The Association's preschool program addresses the special educational and medical needs of these children. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in 1990 and \$40,000 in 1991)</i>	\$65,000	
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**Association to Benefit Children**  
316 East 88th Street  
New York, NY 10128

<i>Early childhood programs for homeless children and children with AIDS and their families. (Two-year grant: \$40,000 in each of 1988 and 1989)</i>	\$80,000	
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<i>Renewed support for early childhood programs. (Two-year grant: \$40,000 in 1991)</i>	\$80,000	\$40,000
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January 21, 1993

	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>Citizens Committee for Children of New York</b> 105 East 22nd Street New York, NY 10010		
<i>Health care initiatives.</i> Citizens Committee for Children is working to ensure effective implementation of federal legislation concerning services for children with developmental delays, including AIDS, and state legislation coordinating health care for Medicaid recipients. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in 1993)	\$50,000	\$25,000
<b>Citizens Committee for New York City</b> 3 West 29th Street New York, NY 10001		
<i>Youth Force.</i> This citywide youth leadership program organizes neighborhood projects to combat youth unemployment, teen pregnancy, AIDS, drugs and racism. (Two-year grant: \$15,000 in 1991)	\$50,000	\$35,000
<b>Creative Arts Team</b> New York University, Gallatin Division 715 Broadway, 5th Floor New York, NY 10003		
<i>General support.</i> This student theater troupe's original productions and participatory workshops in junior and senior high schools help students explore critical issues such as AIDS, bias-related violence and substance abuse. (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in each of 1989 and 1990)	\$60,000	
<i>Renewed general support.</i> (Final two-year grant: \$20,000 in 1991)	\$40,000	\$20,000

January 21, 1993

TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
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**The Hetrick-Martin Institute**  
401 West Street  
New York, NY 10014

<i>General support.</i> Hetrick-Martin operates the Harvey Milk School, an alternative high school for gay teenagers, and provides counseling, HIV and general medical services, and AIDS education and prevention programs to lesbian and gay youth, homeless teens and adolescents with HIV infection. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)	\$50,000
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<i>Renewed general support and support for the youth leadership internship program.</i> (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)	\$60,000
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**Inwood House**  
320 East 82nd Street  
New York, NY 10028

<i>Teen Choice.</i> This program, located in nine junior and senior high schools, offers pregnancy prevention, counseling, human sexuality, AIDS education and parenting services. (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in each of 1988 and 1989)	\$60,000
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<i>Renewed support for Teen Choice.</i> (One-year grant in 1990)	\$32,500
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	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>New York Academy of Medicine</b> 2 East 103rd Street New York, NY 10029		
<i>Being Healthy! Junior High School Demonstration Project.</i> The Academy, which developed the Growing Healthy comprehensive health education program now mandated by the Board of Education for all elementary schools, has created a similar program for intermediate and junior high schools. The new program includes lessons on substance abuse prevention, nutrition, adolescent growth and development, AIDS prevention and emotional health. (Two-year grant: \$50,000 in each of 1988 and 1989)	\$100,000	
<i>Expansion of Being Healthy!</i> (Two-year grant: \$75,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)	\$150,000	
<i>Renewed support for the Being Healthy! Junior High School Demonstration Project.</i> (Final two-year grant: \$40,000 in 1993)	\$80,000	\$40,000
<b>Planned Parenthood of New York City</b> 380 Second Avenue, 3rd Floor New York, NY 10010		
<i>AIDS prevention in Central Harlem (one-half) and renewed general support (one-half).</i> Planned Parenthood provides comprehensive pregnancy prevention services to high-risk teenagers throughout the city. Its AIDS prevention program includes education on sex and drug abuse. (Three-year grant: \$100,000 in each of 1989, 1990 and 1991)	\$300,000	
<i>Renewed general support.</i> (Two-year grant: \$100,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)	\$200,000	

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	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>Project Reach</b>		
1 Orchard Street, 2nd Floor New York, NY 10002		
<i>Renewed general support. Project Reach's crisis counseling and empowerment work focuses on youth at the extremes: attempted suicides, drug abusers, runaways, gang members, pregnant teens, dropouts, and children of parents with AIDS/HIV-related illnesses. (Two-year grant: \$50,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)</i>	\$100,000	
<b>New York Black Women's Health Project</b>		
P.O. Box 401037 Brooklyn, NY 11240-1037		
<i>General support. The New York chapter organizes self-help groups for HIV-positive Black women and for women with HIV-positive family or friends. (Two-year grant: \$20,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)</i>	\$40,000	
<b>SUNY, Health Science Center at Brooklyn</b>		
450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 1203 Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098		
<i>Infant and Child Learning Center. The Center provides services to children up to five years old who suffer developmental delays due to prematurity, neurologic impairments, congenital anomalies and, increasingly, HIV infection and in utero exposure to toxic substances. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)</i>	\$50,000	
<b>Students Organizing Students</b>		
1600 Broadway, Suite 404 New York, NY 10019		
<i>New York City high school organizing project. SOS provides students with sources for birth control, AIDS education and treatment, sex education and condom availability.</i>	\$5,000	\$5,000

	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>Union Settlement</b> 237 East 104th Street New York, NY 10029		
<i>General support.</i> Union Settlement offers a range of educational programs in East Harlem, including Head Start, an adolescent resource center, and preschool and community AIDS education programs. (Two-year grant: \$55,000 in 1991)	\$110,000	\$55,000

CULTURE: THE ARTS; HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Arts

**Hospital Audiences, Inc.**  
220 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor  
New York, NY 10036

<i>HIV Improvisational Theater Program.</i> Hospital Audiences uses improvisational theater techniques to educate public school adolescents about AIDS prevention and drug addiction. (One-year grant in 1990)	\$30,000	
<i>Renewed support for the HIV Improvisational Theater Program.</i> (Two-year grant: \$20,000 in 1991)	\$50,000	\$30,000
<b>Irondale Ensemble Project</b> 782 West End Avenue, Suite 74 New York, NY 10025		
<i>AIDS Improvisation Team Project.</i> Team actor/teachers conduct in-school theater workshops to educate students in alternative high schools about AIDS. (Two-year grant: \$15,000 in 1991)	\$35,000	\$20,000

January 21, 1993

	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>Plays for Living</b> 49 West 27th Street, Suite 930 New York, NY 10001		
<i>AIDS prevention play.</i> The half-hour play <i>Live Wire</i> will be performed in New York City public schools, followed by a group discussion exploring the audience's thoughts and fears about AIDS. (Two-year grant: \$10,000 in 1991)	\$25,000	\$15,000
<b>WNYC Foundation</b> One Centre Street New York, NY 10007		
<i>"Teens Talk AIDS" education campaign.</i> "Teens Talk AIDS" is a half-hour program featuring teenagers discussing experiences, fears and facts about AIDS. WNYC is distributing the videotape and educational materials to organizations serving at-risk youth.	\$25,000	\$25,000
 <u>Civil Liberties</u>		
<b>AIDS Service Center of Lower Manhattan</b> 80 Fifth Avenue, Suite 405 New York, NY 10011		
<i>HIV Law Project.</i> The project provides free legal services to poor people with AIDS, challenging discrimination in evictions, custody hearings, access to health benefits. (Two-year grant: \$20,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)	\$40,000	

January 21, 1993

TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
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**American Civil Liberties Union Foundation**  
132 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036

*AIDS Project.* Through litigation and public policy development, the AIDS Project works to ensure access to medical treatment and services for people living with AIDS. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)

\$50,000

*Renewed support for the AIDS Project.* (Two-year grant: \$35,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)

\$70,000

*AIDS Project insurance study.* The study investigates insurance company practices that exclude AIDS from coverage or limit reimbursements for AIDS-related medicines. (Two-year grant: \$20,000 in 1991)

\$40,000

\$20,000

**ACLU Foundation, The National Prison Project**  
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20009

*AIDS Education Project for prison inmates.* (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1989 and 1990)

\$50,000

*Renewed support for the AIDS Education Project for prison inmates.* (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in 1991)

\$60,000

\$30,000

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	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>Correctional Association of New York</b>		
135 East 15th Street New York, NY 10003		
<i>The AIDS in Prison Project.</i> The Correctional Association seeks to improve medical care for inmates with AIDS/HIV and to train prison staff and inmates in AIDS education and prevention. (Two grants of \$10,000 each in 1988)	\$20,000	
<i>Renewed support for the AIDS in Prison Project.</i> (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in each of 1989 and 1990)	\$60,000	
<i>Renewed support for the AIDS in Prison Project.</i> (Two-year grant: \$75,000 in 1991)	\$150,000	\$75,000
<i>Renewed support for the AIDS in Prison Project.</i> (Three-year grant: \$85,000 in each of 1993, 1994 and 1995)	\$255,000	
 <b>Gay Men's Health Crisis</b>		
129 West 20th Street New York, NY 10011		
<i>Music for Life Benefit Concert.</i> The Gay Men's Health Crisis provides education, advocacy and direct services for people with AIDS. (One-year grant in 1990)	\$25,000	
<i>Music for Life Benefit Concert.</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000
 <b>Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund</b>		
666 Broadway New York, NY 10012		
<i>AIDS Project.</i> Lambda initiates legal challenges to AIDS-related discrimination and seeks to educate the public about AIDS and HIV infection. (Three-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1989, 1990 and 1991)	\$75,000	

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	TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
<b>Legal Action Center</b>		
153 Waverly Place New York, NY 10014		
<i>HIV Legal Services Project.</i> Clients infected by HIV due to drug abuse or a relationship with a drug abuser receive free legal help from the Center, the only organization in New York City currently providing these vitally needed services. (Two-year grant: \$20,000 in each of 1989 and 1990)	\$40,000	
<i>Renewed support for the HIV Legal Services Project.</i> (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in 1991)	\$50,000	\$25,000
<b>The Legal Aid Society</b>		
15 Park Row New York, NY 10038		
<i>Prisoner's Rights Project.</i> Through a class action suit, the nation's oldest and largest legal services organization is attempting to protect the rights of New York State prisoners infected with the HIV virus, and to secure appropriate treatment and services. (One-year grant in 1990)	\$25,000	
<i>Renewed support for the Prisoner's Rights Project.</i> (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in 1993)	\$60,000	\$30,000
<b>MFY Legal Services</b>		
41 Avenue A New York, NY 10009		
<i>AIDS Project.</i> MFY provides legal representation to poor people with AIDS, including assistance with access to housing, treatment and benefits. (Two-year grant: \$10,000 in each of 1990 and 1991)	\$20,000	
<b>The Safer Society Program</b>		
RR 1, Box 24-B Orwell, VT 05760		
<i>Prisoner Rape Prevention/HIV Education Project.</i> The project distributes educational materials on rape and sexual assault to prisoners and prison staff. (Two-year grant: \$10,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)	\$20,000	

January 21, 1993

TOTAL AWARD	Disbursed in 1992
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Volunteers of Legal Service  
17 Varick Street, Room 1504  
New York, NY 10013

*General support.* Pro bono attorneys offer help to minorities and the poor on issues such as AIDS, public education, child welfare, immigration and housing. (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in each of 1989 and 1990)

\$50,000

*Renewed general support.* (Two-year grant: \$25,000 in 1991)

\$50,000

\$25,000

*Renewed general support.* (Two-year grant: \$30,000 in each of 1993 and 1994)

\$60,000

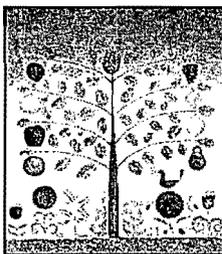


IRENE DIAMOND

*I*RENE AND AARON DIAMOND GRANTED  
*T*HEIR FOUNDATION A 10-YEAR  
*L*IFESPAN — AND WITH IT THE FREEDOM  
*T*O TAKE MORE RISKS PARTICIPATE  
*M*ORE DIRECTLY AND MAKE A  
*B*IGGER IMPACT IN A SHORTER TIME



## FAMILY



FOUNDATIONS

# OUT WITH A BANG



BY KENNETH C. DANFORTH

**F**rom the point of view of the Aaron Diamond Foundation, the challenge was almost custom built. The chancellor of the financially strapped New York City schools wanted to set up a program for AIDS education that included distributing condoms to high school students, and had sent out a plea for money.

In a twist on St. Matthew, many foundations were called to contribute but only one responded. It was not one of the big foundations people have been hearing about for the past quarter-century. It was instead one which announced at its founding that its \$150 million endowment was going to be spent in 10 years—every cent of it.

People knowledgeable about New York's mammoth and multifaceted world of philanthropy could have guessed: The one foundation president most likely to stride right into such a controversial endeavor as offering free condoms for teenagers—and offer \$450,000 to show she was serious—would be none other than Irene Diamond, age 82.

“When we started the condom program, some of the people on the school board threw everything they could at us,” says Diamond. “Even now, when we’ve got the program going, they’re fighting us, trying to block us at every turn. They say the answer is abstinence. They preach abstinence while people are dying!”

That sense of controlled outrage is typical of Irene Diamond, who breezes into her Rockefeller Center office every weekday and spends enough energy on the causes she believes in to exhaust a crusader of 28. Energy and money, that is: lots of both, and the combination is electric. The Aaron Diamond Foundation is driving hell-for-leather into some of philanthropy's most disputatious programs.

For example, many people do not even like to think about AIDS, a potential pandemic. Diamond went straight at it, funding the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, the largest laboratory in the world designed specifically for AIDS/HIV research. The New York-based facility is well on its way toward its goal of eight working laboratories staffed by 50 scientists. The center concentrates on viral molecular biology and basic immunology as the most promising path toward understanding and controlling the virus.

The big research center is not the only AIDS program supported by the foundation. During its first five years, the Diamond foundation awarded over \$29 million for AIDS research out of a total medical-research outlay of more than \$55 million. In all, it has funded over 30 AIDS research programs and an equal number of education, prevention, and civil liberties groups working in the field.

Medical research, with emphasis on AIDS and drug abuse, is one of the foundation's three priorities. The

other two are minority education (focused on public school systems) and culture. Altogether, more than 300 organizations receive funds from the Aaron Diamond Foundation each year.

Nearly all of the foundation's programs are in New York City, which Diamond says is appropriate: "My husband made his fortune in New York City real estate. Long before he died, he was saying that he wanted to give back to the city that had given so much to him."

#### PLANNED DEMISE

The answer to why the relatively small foundation is so aggressive lies not only in its leader's personality, but in the character of the small number of "spend-out" foundations in general (i.e., foundations that deliberately plan to spend themselves out of existence over a designated period of time). It was not for the absence of children or available family members that the foundation was limited in duration. Rather, "It was my husband's idea that we would finish everything in 10 years," says Diamond, who played an active role in setting up the foundation right from its inception and who has run the foundation in her husband's name ever since his sudden death in 1984.

The decision to spend out was a wise one, says Irene Diamond, particularly because "foundations gain from being an intimate part of the lives of the people who

found them. We want to make an impact. We want to see that impact."

The date of her foundation's demise was written on the day the foundation went active—January 1, 1987. It will self-destruct on December 31, 1996. Thus, six of its 10 years have already passed, years that a perpetual foundation might have spent just getting out of first gear. If the Aaron Diamond Foundation tried to make its \$150 million last indefinitely, it might spend only \$7 million a year. Diamond has spent as much as \$27 million in a year, and plans to lay out at least \$20 million in each of its final four years.

"Knowing that we have a limited time in which to get our work done is central to our philosophy and our mode of operation," says Vincent McGee, Diamond's executive director. "We devote our resources to making as big an impact as possible in a short length of time," he says. "Over the course of only a few years we will have been able to focus on a large number of small grants and also on some very big individual grants. We have the ability to look closely at a problem and not be distracted by worries about long-term job security or a budding bureaucracy."

#### SOME FLAK, NO FOLDEROL

The choice of Vincent McGee to direct her foundation says a great deal about Irene Diamond. During the Vietnam War, McGee, a theology student and



*TWO APPROACHES TO FIGHTING AIDS: The Diamond foundation funds an improvisational theatre program encouraging condom use for high school students, left, and has given millions of dollars to AIDS/HIV research through its fellows program, right, and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center.*

anti-war activist, burned half his draft card and mailed the other half to President Johnson. He was indicted and convicted for draft resistance and refusal to be inducted because he argued that cooperation was consent. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, he took his appeal to the Supreme Court in 1971, lost, and spent 11 months in the minimum-security federal prison in Allenwood, Pennsylvania. (While in jail, McGee was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. President Gerald Ford pardoned him in 1975.)

"Allenwood was the equivalent of a graduate degree in learning how things work," says McGee, betraying no trace of bitterness. "I couldn't take anything I'd learned in the past for granted. The experience gave me a good context for work with non-profits. One danger of foundation work is that people get arrogant and tell the grantees what they should be doing. Foundation people need to be good listeners. You need to keep reminding yourself that you're not the expert."

McGee shuns the caution that might be considered seemly in a person in his position. On the subject of free condoms, for example, he casually remarks, "This gets the cardinal jumping up and down." Thinking about what he has said, he adds, "An awful lot of foundations get too thin-skinned about criticism. Our point of view is, if you're not getting flak you should scratch your head and worry about whether you're doing a good job."

The Aaron Diamond Foundation has 12 full-time employees, which is fairly lean for an operation that gives away \$20 million a year and conscientiously evaluates hundreds of applications. The lack of bureaucratic baggage is evident.

"We don't have a big application form," says McGee. "We just ask people to write out in their own words what it is they hope to accomplish. We don't encourage long treatises or jargon. If they can't say it in a few words, something is wrong. And we don't keep them hanging with a lot of folderol. If we're going to



VINCENT MCGEE

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ACCOMPLISH.*

do it, we do it. If not, we say 'no' quickly. Of course that's easier with our small organization."

McGee's role as chief operating officer complements that of Diamond's who, as president, concentrates on overseeing policy. The two also serve on the foundation's board of directors (McGee is ex officio), with nine nationally known leaders—Children's Defense Fund's Marian Wright Edelman, Brown University's Vartan Gregorian, and medical experts Lewis Thomas, Alfred Gellhorn, and Howard Hiatt, among others. Directors, who are uncompensated, are elected to one-year terms, with no limit on number of terms served.

The board meets three times per year, once for a two-day retreat. At Irene Diamond's encouragement, they play a very active role in planning, policy and review of program. In fact, when outvoted recently, Diamond remarked, "It's great we have a working board and not a passive crew of yes-people."

Irene Diamond works in a large corner office 26 stories above Radio City Music Hall. With 42 years in the motion-picture business to her credit, she is a lot more than the widow of a charitable millionaire. As head of the story department at Warner Brothers, she reviewed hundreds of scripts and wielded great power over whose stories got filmed and whose got ignored. Thirty readers worked under her direction. (Her best-known coup came after she had moved to New York City and was working for producer Hal Wallis.

One day a play titled "Rick's Bar" came across her desk. She pushed it hard, against considerable skepticism. It eventually made movie history as "Casablanca.")

Ever philosophical, Diamond even espies a similarity between scouting good motion-picture stories and running a foundation. "In the movies, you find a good property and you go with it. It's the same way with foundations. The essence is not too different." □

A freelance writer based just outside of Washington, D.C., Ken Danforth is a former correspondent for *Time*.