


Chennai IAPA Bugle



International Alliance for the Prevention of Aids

----Issue #3, January 20, 2012----

Dear Friends,

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday and started the New Year 2012, on a very happy note. Once again, we are happy to present another issue of Chennai Bugle. Earlier we had planned to bring out the December issue, dedicated to HIV/AIDS pandemic, in view of the World AIDS Day that falls on December 1st. But we were not able to bring out the December issue, and hence this January issue of Chennai Bugle is being brought, as promised, dedicated to HIV/AIDS.

In this issue you will find interesting news/views and information on HIV/AIDS, which we hope would be of great interest to you. Even the jokes section is concerning HIV/AIDS. As you would be aware the theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Getting to Zero: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths". Going through the latest statistics on the epidemic, we have mixed reactions. While we are distressed at the fact that there are an estimated 34 million people are living with HIV at the end of 2010, which is up 17% from 2001, reflecting continued large number of new HIV infections, we are euphoric at the fact that the number of people dying of AIDS-related causes fell to 1.8 million in 2010, down from a peak of 2.2 million, in the mid 2000s, which is largely due to antiretroviral therapy. Hence our hopes are raised; through concerted efforts we can still get very near to the goal of "Getting to Zero". But this involves hard work without an iota of complacency, which is also, is the resolve of IAPA, as we cross into the threshold of the New Year 2012.

Thank you for your cooperation, best wishes and keep smiling.

Yours in Solidarity,
Louis
Chief Editor

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A. Louis - Chief Editor, India
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Cover Story: HIV/AIDS Epidemic

HIV Statistics from some regions of the world. People living with HIV in some important regions are provided.

Asia: 4.8 million, National adult prevalence is under 1% in all Asian countries except Thailand. Spread mostly through heterosexual mode.

- India 2.4 million (half of Asia)
- China: 740,000
- Thailand: 530,000
- Myanmar: 240,000

Eastern Europe & Central Asia: In 2010, some 1.5 million people were living with HIV, compared to 410,000 in 2001. Spread mostly through unsafe sex and IVD Use.

Latin America: Around 1.5 million people were living with HIV in at the end of 2010. The infection spread mostly by a combinations of unsafe sex (both between men, and between men and women) and injecting drug use.

USA: There are currently around 1.2 million living with HIV in the US. One fifth of these are unaware of their infection posing a high risk of onward transmission

Sub-Saharan Africa: An estimated 22.5 million people were living with HIV in at the end of 2009, including 2.3 million children.

India: An estimated 2.4 million people are infected (population 1.2 billion). The first AIDS case in India was detected in 1986. HIV epidemic is more severe in the southern half of the country and the far north-east. The highest estimated adult HIV prevalence is found in the states of Manipur (1.40%), followed by Andhra Pradesh (0.90%), Mizoram (0.81%), Nagaland (0.78%), Karnataka (0.63%) and Maharashtra (0.55%), Tamil Nadu (0.25%). In the southern states, HIV is primarily spread through heterosexual contact. Infections in the north-east are mainly found amongst injecting drug users (IDUs) and sex workers.

(NACO Report 2008)

Important Dates in the HIV/AIDS Timeline

1970 - The first clues of a strange new disease began to turn up, in certain European hospitals

1975 - A Danish doctor Dr. Gretha Rask, practising medicine in a remote hospital in Zaire, became ill and returned to Denmark

1977 - Dr. Rask dies, gasping for breath. A biopsy shows cause of death as the rare *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP)

1978-79 - Some dozen scattered cases of HIV infection or AIDS identified in the US

1972-76 - HIV cases were identified in Haiti

1980 - The first documented case of AIDS in the US identified by a young immunologist, Dr. Michael S. Gottlieb, at the University of California, Los Angeles

1981 - Gottlieb report published in CDC's weekly medical surveillance report: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)
- Cluster of cases of Kaposi Sarcoma (KS), a rare type of skin cancer, reported to CDC

1983 - HIV-1 identified by Dr. Robert Gallo, at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland
- Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute, Paris isolates HIV-2

1986 - First HIV cases identified in India (Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra)
- The famous "AIDS Quilt" was started by Cleve Jones in San Francisco

1991 - Earvin "Magic" Johnson of Los Angeles Lakers Basketball team, comes out openly about his HIV status, stunning the world

2001 - World AIDS Day observed as the 20th Anniversary of HIV/AIDS in the US.

HIV...NEWS..... HIV...NEWS.... HIV...NEWS.....

More people than ever are living with HIV, largely due to greater access to treatment. At the end of 2010, an estimated 34 million people [31.6 million - 35.2 million] were living with HIV worldwide, up 17% from 2001. This reflects the continued large number of new HIV infections and a significant expansion of access to antiretroviral (anti-HIV) therapy, which has helped reduce AIDS-related deaths, especially in more recent years. There were 2.7 million [2.4 million-2.9 million] new HIV infections in 2010, including an estimated 390 000 [340 000-450 000] among children. This was 15% less than in 2001, and 21% below the number of new infections at the peak of the epidemic in 1997.

AIDS-related deaths are decreasing: The number of people dying of AIDS-related causes fell to 1.8 million [1.6 million - 1.9 million] in 2010, down from a peak of 2.2 million [2.1 million - 2.5 million] in the mid-2000s. A total of 2.5 million deaths have been averted in low- and middle-income countries since 1995 due to antiretroviral therapy being introduced, according to new calculations by UNAIDS. (UNAIDS World AIDS Day report | 2011)

People living with HIV, who are dependent on the life-saving second line antiretroviral therapy (ART) drugs in the city of Pune, are forced to go without it owing to the short supply of medicines. The ART centre at B J Medical College that provides second line ART drugs free of cost has been facing the shortage for a week now. There are around 60 patients who require daily dose of the drug.

Scientists have isolated the most powerful broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) against HIV so far – a major step towards finding an effective vaccine against the deadly virus. Capable of fighting a broad spectrum of variants of HIV – the virus that causes AIDS – some of the 17 antibodies discovered jointly by The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and The Scripps Research Institute blocked HIV infection of cells as much as 10 to 100 times as potently as the previously discovered bNAbs.

Community Care Centres (CCCs) meant to serve People Living with HIV (PLHIV) across Maharashtra and Karnataka are facing a huge shortage of funds that has even forced a couple of them to close down. Others may well be on their way. National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) is supposed to fund these centres. This has put a question mark on the future of 66 centres in both states.

On a lighter note, sex boosts your immunity! The principle of your mind and body's health being interrelated is best exemplified by sex. For starters, the act raises the synthesis of immunoglobulins. These are antibodies or our immunity compounds that help us fight infections. People with a more-than-basic level of sexual activities, per week, tend to retain a higher immunoglobulin concentration, making them more immune to common infections.



Quotes....What they said about HIV/AIDS

"AIDS is the most serious threat the world faces today. If it isn't checked now, it will do unbelievable damage"

-Richard Holbrooke, former US Ambassador to the United Nations

"At the moment, education and communication are the only weapons we have against HIV/AIDS"

-The late Dr. Jonathan Mann, former Director of WHO's Global program on AIDS

"A world that spent an estimated \$500 billion to tackle the elusive Y2K bug on our computers must be able to do more to tackle a tragedy (AIDS) that has already blighted hundreds of millions of lives"

- Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator UNDP

Some AIDS Slogans

"Know AIDS, No AIDS"

"Dare to Care"

"My friend with AIDS is still my friend"

"AIDS is everybody's business"

"Don't be a fool, condom is your tool"



The giggle bogle....

Be faithful

A house... in the night...wife dreaming...suddenly shouts:
"Quick, get out, my husband is back!"

Man gets up, jumps out of the window...and realizes
"Damn, I am the husband"

Wrong Dosage

Doctor to Lady: You are looking so weak and exhausted! Are you properly taking 3 meals a day, as I had advised?

Lady: Oh my God! I heard 3 males a day

On condoms....

A man was travelling in a train with 3 babies. A woman enquired: "Do the babies belong to you?"

Man: "No, I work in a condom factory and these are customer complaints"

Sales girl: "Sorry sir, you can't smoke here"

Customer: "But I bought cigarette from this shop!"

Sales girl: "We also sell condoms here, but it doesn't mean you start doing it here"

Wife to husband: "Ayo! This month we have spent rupees 300 on condoms!!, We can't afford.. why don't you just laminate it?"

Husband: !!!!!????

Condom Quiz

What is the difference between a condom and a cricketer?

A cricketer drops the catches....

A condom catches the drops.



Letters to the Editor:

Louis, How are you?!

I loved reading this, it brought back many amazing memories! Can you believe that I was part of SVP 2007!!! So long ago.. Keep up the good work!

-Prita, SVP 2007

Again, great job with the Chennai Bugle. My favorite feature this month was the HIV/AIDS News. I noticed, however, that there was no mention of the Otteri Slum Project in the list of current projects. Has the follow-up training been conducted and have the full curricula been distributed? I look forward to more updates!

Mara, SVP 2010

Great to hear from you. The newsletter is a great vehicle to keep our IAPA family engaged. Thanks for the excellent job!

Raju Singh SVP 2010

I apologize for not having sent you my thoughts on the last edition of Chennai Bugle, but it is a really excellent newsletter. I am always looking forward to hearing news about our volunteers and programs.

Trahern Jones, SVP 2007

Happy Birthday!

Chennai Bugle is happy to wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following volunteers whose birthdays fall on this month.

2nd	Sarah Smith	SVP 2008
19th	Jason Brandenberger	SVP 2008
23rd	Deepa Patel	SVP 2009
25th	Liz Marchionne	SVP 2009
27th	Cristal Gomez	SVP 2010

And the one and only Sanjay Sinha's birthday too, falls on the 24th January! Many Happy Returns of the Day, to you also, Sanjay!!