

Dr. Philip B. Berger
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Toronto, Ontario M4J 3H9

October 8, 2023

To whom it may concern:

Re: John Scythes

I write to support Mr. Scythes application to hold his papers and archived material at Queen's University.

I was a physician in Toronto for HIV infected patients since the epidemic began in the early 1980s. I had one of the largest HIV practices in Toronto with hundreds of patients.

In the late 1980s Mr. Scythes approached me about his views on the relationship between syphilis and HIV and proposed a research project. He knew a lot more than I did. He asked that I order syphilis blood tests for consenting patients and provide him and his co investigators with the results.

Since then, Mr. Scythes has published over a dozen peer reviewed abstracts on syphilis and HIV including for the VIII and IX International AIDS Conferences. He has persisted with his analyses through continuing research and communications with experts in the field.

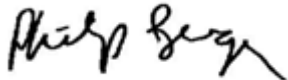
What is singularly remarkable about Mr. Scythes is that he accomplished all this as a self taught lay person. I am aware of many citizens who are active in groups devoted to different diseases. None come close to Mr. Scythes' particular method of contending with medical issues - one based in science. He has tread where few have gone, as a self educated researcher into the scientific community's study of disease.

Mr. Scythes' contributions did not end there. During the years of hopelessness and despair arising from the AIDS epidemic, Mr. Scythes gave hope to people infected with HIV. He was a sought after speaker in the AIDS community. He never misled people. He simply postulated about the role of syphilis in HIV infection and the potential for treatment. Mr.

Scythes provided people with HIV the possibility of a treatment when none existed. His interventions were critical in coaxing people with HIV to live on.

Mr. Scythes is part of AIDS history in Canada and beyond. His papers and archives should be safeguarded and be made available to anyone investigating the role of lay people in the study of disease. Mr. Scythes is the exemplar.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Berger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Philip" being more prominent than the last name "Berger".

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