H.E.A.L. meeting: Saturday Dec 15, 1990
NYC: presentation by J. Scythes.

HIV/AIDS/Syphilis fact sheet

October 14, 1990

Likelihood of two mutations for AIDS, HIV-1 and HIV-2:	very low
Varied estimates for age of HIV-1:	130-900 years
Mechanism by which HIV-1 destroys immune system:	unknown
Acceptable HIV-1 animal model after seven years of research:	no
Percent of AIDS cases tested with no HIV antigen or antibody found:	7-10%
Percent of HIV antibody positive persons developing AIDS yearly:	1.5%
Percent of HIV antibody positives not developing AIDS yearly:	98.5%
AIDS incidence in the non-gay risk groups:	varied
Number of sero-conversions or AIDS cases from accidental health care injuries (needle stick, *etc*) in Canada:	nil
The human body's rate of T-cell regeneration:	5% per 48 hours
Percent of T-cells actively infected by HIV-1:	0.01-0.1%
Percent of T-cells actively infected in animals (SIV, FIV):	60%
Efficacy of anti-retroviral therapies in some animal models:	good
Efficacy of anti-retroviral therapies in humans:	poor to fair
Possible explanation for short term AZT benefit:	accelerated care
Influence of illicit drugs in accelerating AIDS:	unknown
Annual AIDS incidence among HIV positives in Uganda:	0.1%
Annual AIDS incidence among HIV positives in USA:	1.5%
San Francisco Health Department estimate of treatment effect on AIDS incidence since 1987:	nil

Official estimate of undiagnosed syphilis in the USA (1981):	325,000
Official estimate of undiagnosed syphilis in the USA (1981) in gay males:	200,000
Likely number of cases of untreated gay male syphilis in the USA (1981):	500,000-1,000,000
Efficacy of current syphilis tests in HIV+ persons:	often inadequate
Trials establishing efficacy of various treatment regimes for syphilis in the antibiotic era:	not done
Likelihood of biological cure with penicillin-G:	very low
Immunology of chronic syphilis *vs* AIDS:	similar
Correlation between actual AIDS and the absence of a diagnosis of opportunistic syphilis:	100%, to date
Causes of 47% excess mortality in thoroughly treated and apparently cured (negative screen tests) syphilitics:	pneumonia, TB, and cancer

Co-factors? Which ones and what prophylaxis? HIV disease or AZT disease? Read all of Margaret Fischl's publications (New England Journal of Medicine, and Journal of the American Medical Association), the September 23, 1990 Miami Herald on AZT, and *Poison by Prescription, the AZT Story* by John Lauritsen. The debate is finally heating up, as it should have five years ago. Insist on open-mindedness from your advocates and care givers.

References available on request from:
John Scythes
32 Beaty Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6K 3B4

Design: Clarence Barnes