



# The History of HIV—1983

**January 1:** Ward 86, the [world's first dedicated outpatient AIDS clinic](#), opens at San Francisco General Hospital.<sup>1</sup> The clinic is a collaboration between the hospital and the University of California, San Francisco, and it draws staff who are passionate about treating people with AIDS. Over time, the staff develop the [San Francisco Model of Care](#), which emphasizes treating patients with compassion and respect; providing an array of health and social services in one facility; and collaborating closely with the local health department and community organizations. The model eventually becomes the global gold standard for HIV patient care.<sup>2</sup>

**January 4:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) hosts [a public meeting to identify opportunities to protect the nation's blood supply from AIDS](#).<sup>3</sup> The meeting is heated as representatives from the blood banks, the hemophilia and gay communities, and federal staff from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) respond negatively to CDC's urgent plea to either begin testing donor blood for hepatitis B as a proxy for the virus they believe is causing AIDS or asking gay men to refrain from donating blood.<sup>4</sup> Participants fail to reach consensus on appropriate action. This will have devastating effects for people living with hemophilia and individuals who need blood transfusions and lead to a spate of lawsuits against the blood-banking industry.<sup>5</sup>

**January 7:** CDC reports the first cases of AIDS in women who are the sexual partners of men with AIDS: "[Epidemiologic Notes and Reports Immunodeficiency among Female Sexual Partners of Males with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome \(AIDS\) -- New York](#)."<sup>6</sup>

**January 23:** [Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi](#)<sup>7</sup>, a 34-year-old virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, discovers that the viral specimen taken from the lymph node of a white male patient with symptoms of AIDS is a lethal [retrovirus](#).<sup>8</sup> She is the first person to identify the retrovirus because she has taken the unusual step of adding new [lymphocytes](#)<sup>9</sup> (a type of white blood cell) to her lab cultures on a regular basis. Because the as-yet-unknown retrovirus is so incredibly efficient at killing white blood cells, it dies if not fed regularly. Barré-Sinoussi discovers what scientists at CDC and NIH miss because—although they also suspect a retrovirus is the cause of AIDS—they base their experiments on the behavior of the first human retrovirus, [human T-cell lymphotropic virus Type I](#) (HTLV-I)<sup>10</sup>, which causes a proliferation of white blood cells in cultures. Since they are not adding new lymphocytes, their viral samples keep dying.<sup>11</sup>

**February 18:** Steven Walitsch, the San Francisco toddler who was the first confirmed case of transfusion-related AIDS, dies 16 days before his second birthday.<sup>12,13</sup>

**February 19:** Researchers at the University of California, Davis, [report that they have identified a syndrome closely resembling AIDS in a group of 64 rhesus monkeys](#) at the California Primate Research Center.<sup>14</sup> Later in the year, scientists at Harvard Medical School will [report similar results in macaques](#).<sup>15</sup>



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**March 4:** CDC's *MMWR* article, "[Current Trends Prevention of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome \(AIDS\): Report of Inter-Agency Recommendations](#)," notes that most cases of AIDS have been reported among gay men with multiple sexual partners, people who inject drugs, Haitians, and people with hemophilia.<sup>16</sup> The report suggests that AIDS may be caused by an infectious agent that is transmitted sexually or through exposure to blood or blood products and issues recommendations for preventing transmission.

**March 13:** AIDS activist [Larry Kramer](#) publishes a blistering assessment of the impact of AIDS on the gay community in the *New York Native*.<sup>17</sup> The essay, [1,121 and Counting](#), is a frantic plea for the community to get angry at the lack of government support for sick and dying gay men and the slow pace of scientific progress in finding the cause of AIDS.<sup>18</sup>

**April 27:** [Dr. Matilde Krim](#), [Dr. Joseph Sonnabend](#), Nobel-prize winning scientist [Dr. David Baltimore](#), singer and AIDS activist [Michael Callen](#), and philanthropist [Mary Lasker](#) join together to [create the AIDS Medical Foundation, the first private organization dedicated to comprehensive AIDS research](#).<sup>19</sup> The foundation is created to provide seed money to researchers and scientists with promising AIDS-related projects who have been turned down for scarce government grants. Krim puts up \$100,000 of her own money to start it.<sup>20</sup> Because of the stigma attached to AIDS, the [Foundation cannot list its full name on the lobby signage](#) in the building that houses its office.<sup>21</sup>

**May:** Richard Berkowitz and Michael Callen—both men living with AIDS—publish a booklet on “safer sex” titled [How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: One Approach](#). It advocates condom use for gay men and focuses on self-empowerment for those living with AIDS.<sup>22</sup>

**May 2:** The [Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation](#) sponsors the first [AIDS candlelight vigils](#).<sup>23</sup> Ten thousand people turn out for the San Francisco march; 5,000 turn out for the march in New York. There are also marches in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.<sup>24</sup> It is the first time that people with AIDS come together in public demonstrations. Photos of the events are circulated around the world—shedding some of the first light on the growing health crisis and humanizing those who are affected.

**May 18:** The U.S. Congress passes the first bill that includes funding specifically targeted for AIDS research and treatment—\$12 million for agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>25</sup>



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**May 20:** Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and her colleagues at the [Pasteur Institute](#) in France publish the first scientific paper to report the discovery of a [retrovirus](#) that could be [the cause of AIDS](#).<sup>26</sup> In 2008, she will [be awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine](#) for this discovery, along with the director of her lab, [Dr. Luc Montagnier](#).

**May 25:** The *New York Times* publishes its [first front-page story on AIDS](#): “Health Chief Calls AIDS Battle ‘No. 1 Priority.’” The article reports on the federal response to the growing AIDS epidemic.<sup>27</sup>

**June 12:** Eleven gay men living with AIDS take over the plenary stage at the [National AIDS Forum in Denver](#).<sup>28</sup> They issue a statement on the rights of people living with AIDS to be at the table when policy is made, to be treated with dignity, and to be called “people with AIDS,” not “AIDS victims.” The statement becomes known as [The Denver Principles](#) [PDF, 19KB], and it serves as the charter for the founding of the National Association of People with AIDS.<sup>29</sup>

**July 1:** The U.S. Public Health Service opens the [National AIDS Hotline](#) to respond to public inquiries about the disease.<sup>30</sup> The first day, the phone line has 13,000 callers. By July 28, the hotline has to be [expanded](#) from three phonelines to eight, because 8,000-10,000 callers are phoning daily.<sup>31</sup>

**July 25:** After a petition by psychiatric nurse [Cliff Morrison](#)<sup>32</sup>, San Francisco General Hospital opens [Ward 5B](#), the first dedicated in-patient AIDS ward in the U.S. Within days, its 12 beds are fully occupied.<sup>33</sup> The ward is run by Morrison and an all-volunteer staff—from nurses to janitors—who offer compassionate, holistic care for AIDS patients.<sup>34,35</sup>

**August:** The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases begins publishing an informal newsletter, the [AIDS Memorandum](#) [PDF, 1.1MB], through which scientists can share unpublished research findings. This publication [lasts for two years](#), until mainstream scientific journals begin expediting publication for articles on AIDS.

**August 1-2:** The U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Government Operations holds [hearings on the federal response to AIDS](#).<sup>36</sup> The members invite three men, Michael Callen (New York), Roger Lyon (San Francisco), and Anthony Ferrara (Washington, DC), to open the hearing by testifying about their experiences living with AIDS. [Lyon ends his testimony with a plea to members of Congress](#): “...this is not a political issue. This is a health issue. This is not a gay issue. This is a human issue. And I do not intend to be defeated by it. I came here today in the hope that my epitaph would not read that I died of red tape.”<sup>37</sup>



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**August 8:** AIDS activist [Bobbi Campbell](#) appears with his partner, Bobby Hilliard, on the cover of *Newsweek* magazine for the story, “Gay America: Sex, Politics, and the Impact of AIDS.” It is the first time two gay men are pictured embracing one another on the cover of a U.S. mainstream national magazine.

**September 2:** In response to growing concerns about the potential for transmission of AIDS in healthcare settings, CDC publishes the [first set of occupational exposure precautions](#) for healthcare workers and allied health professionals.<sup>38</sup>

**September 9:** In its latest edition of the *MMWR*, “Current Trends Update: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) -- United States,” CDC identifies all major routes of HIV transmission—and [rules out transmission by casual contact, food, water, air, or environmental surfaces](#).<sup>39</sup>

**September 30:** After New York City physician [Joseph Sonnabend](#) is threatened with eviction from his office building for treating patients with AIDS, the state’s Attorney General and [Lambda Legal](#) join together to file [the first AIDS discrimination lawsuit, \*People v. West 12 Tenants Corp.\*](#)<sup>40,41</sup>

**November 22-25:** The World Health Organization holds its [first meeting to assess the global AIDS situation](#) and begins international surveillance.<sup>42</sup>

**December 2:** CDC releases a new *MMWR*, “[Current Trends Update: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome \(AIDS\) among Patients with Hemophilia -- United States](#).”<sup>43</sup>

**December 22:** CDC has received [reports of 1,829 new cases of AIDS since January 1](#) [PDF, 17KB]. Of that number, 537 (29%) have died. This brings the total number of AIDS cases reported to CDC between January 1, 1979 and December 22, 1983, to 3,064 individuals—of whom 1,292 (42%) have died.<sup>44</sup> (The data for 1979 and 1980 are retrospective.)

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<sup>1</sup> AIDS Research Institute. (n.d.) Ward 86. University of California, San Francisco. Retrieved from <https://ari.ucsf.edu/clinical-care/ward-86>.

<sup>2</sup> Davis, S. (2012, July 18). The San Francisco Model of Care. University of California, San Francisco. Retrieved from [https://web.archive.org/web/20140605061741/http://www.coe.ucsf.edu/coe/patient/ucsf\\_hiv\\_care.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20140605061741/http://www.coe.ucsf.edu/coe/patient/ucsf_hiv_care.html).

<sup>3</sup> Attendees include the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks, the National Hemophilia Foundation, the National Gay Task Force, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (which represents the commercial blood-products makers), and representatives from the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration. For more information, see Shilts, R. (2007). *And the band played on: Politics, people, and the AIDS epidemic* (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ed.). New York: St. Martin's Griffin, p. 220.

See also: Institute of Medicine Committee to Study HIV Transmission Through Blood and Blood Products. (1995). *HIV And The Blood Supply: An Analysis Of Crisis Decisionmaking*. (L. B. Leveton, H. C. Sox Jr., and M. A. Stoto). Washington, DC: National Academies Press. Retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK232419/>.

See also: Threat to blood supply is discussed. (1983, January 5). *Philadelphia Inquirer*, p. 14-A. Retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com/image/174216900/?terms=blood%2C%2BCDC>.

<sup>4</sup> Shilts, R. (2007). *And the band played on: Politics, people, and the AIDS epidemic* (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ed.). New York: St. Martin's Griffin, p. 220. "Although no test for AIDS itself yet existed, [CDC virologist Dr. Thomas Spira]...had found that 88 percent of the blood from gay AIDS patients contained hepatitis core antibodies, while all the blood from AIDS patients who were intravenous drug users had the antibodies, and 80 percent of people with lymphadenopathy carried the antibodies. The test might not screen out all AIDS carriers, Spira suggested, but it would eliminate enough to sharply reduce the threat of transmitting AIDS through transfusions." Shilts reports that the blood industry representatives downplay the idea that AIDS can be transmitted by blood and the representatives from the gay community condemn any call for screening potential blood donors as "reminiscent of miscegenation blood laws that divided black blood from white."

<sup>5</sup> See White, G. C. (2010). Hemophilia: An amazing 35-year journey from the depths of HIV to the threshold of cure. *Transactions of the American Clinical and Climatological Association*, vol. 121, pp: 61-73; discussion 74-5. See also: Kastor, E. (1993, May 10). Blood feud: Hemophiliacs AIDS. *Washington Post*. Retrieved from [www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1993/05/10/blood-feud-hemophiliacs-aids/d29c660e-9d8d-467a-ab2a-e66b2232f879/?utm\\_term=.98cbb655f83a](http://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1993/05/10/blood-feud-hemophiliacs-aids/d29c660e-9d8d-467a-ab2a-e66b2232f879/?utm_term=.98cbb655f83a).

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control. (1983, January 7). Epidemiologic notes and reports immunodeficiency among female sexual partners of males with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) -- New York. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 31(52), pp. 697-8. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00001221.htm>. In a harbinger of things to come, the two women discussed in the report are Black and Latina, respectively.

<sup>7</sup> Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, born in 1947. (n.d.). Pasteur Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.pasteur.fr/en/institut-pasteur/history/francoise-barre-sinoussi-born-1947>

<sup>8</sup> **Retrovirus:** A type of virus that uses RNA as its genetic material. After infecting a cell, a retrovirus uses an enzyme called reverse transcriptase to convert its RNA into DNA. The retrovirus then integrates its viral DNA into the DNA of the host cell, which allows the retrovirus to replicate. HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is a retrovirus. Retrieved from <https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/glossary/retrovirus>

Retroviruses are discovered in 1908 by the Danish physician-veterinarian team of Vilhelm Ellermann and Oluf Bang, who show that chicken leukosis, a form of leukemia and of lymphoma, is caused by a virus. Over a period of decades, scientists gradually discover cancer-causing retrovirus in higher mammals. In the 1960s, these discoveries intensify the search for human cancer viruses. The first human retrovirus, human T-cell leukemia virus 1 (HTLV-1), is

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identified in 1977. For more information on retroviruses, see Coffin, J. M., Hughes, S. H., and Varmus, H. E., editors. (1997). *Retroviruses*. Cold Spring Harbor (NY): Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. Retrieved from:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK19376/>

<sup>9</sup> **Lymphocyte:** A type of white blood cell. Most lymphocytes can be classified as T lymphocytes (T cells), B lymphocytes (B cells), or natural killer cells. Lymphocytes are found in the blood, lymph, and lymphoid tissue and help the body fight infection. Retrieved from <https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/glossary/lymphocyte>

<sup>10</sup> **Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus Type I (HTLV-I):** A retrovirus that infects only T lymphocytes (T cells). Human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) is transmitted through exposure to contaminated blood, through sexual contact, and from a mother who has the virus to her child at birth or through breastfeeding via breast milk. HTLV-1 is prevalent mostly in Japan, Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and South America. HTLV-1 can cause adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma, a rare and aggressive cancer of the white blood cells. Retrieved from <https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/glossary/human-t-cell-lymphotropic-virus-type-i-htlv-i>

<sup>11</sup> Shilts, R. (2007). *And the band played on: Politics, people, and the AIDS epidemic* (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ed.). New York: St. Martin's Griffin, p. 229.

<sup>12</sup> The *New York Times* erroneously reported the toddler's death on December 10, 1982. See Schmenk, H. M. (1982, December 10). Infant who received transfusion dies of immune deficiency illness. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/1982/12/10/us/infant-who-received-transfusion-dies-of-immune-deficiency-illness.html> But the December 10 date is when CDC published the *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report* that established a definitive link between the infant and the man who donated the blood used to transfuse the baby after his birth. See Centers for Disease Control. (1982, December 10). Epidemiologic notes and reports possible transfusion-associated acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) – California. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 31(48), pp. 652-4. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00001203.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> Steven Walitsch's father goes public with his name and story in 1996. See Walitsch, J. (1996, December 27). Healing Lessons. *Chicago Tribune*, p. 7. Steven Walitsch's death certificate is available here: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/409248:2118>.

<sup>14</sup> Henrickson, R. V. et al. (1983, February 19). Epidemic of acquired immunodeficiency in rhesus monkeys. *Lancet*, 321(8321), pp. 388-390. Retrieved from [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(83\)91503-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(83)91503-9).

A 1995 article claims that the first simian AIDS cases at the New England center occurred among a group of macaques that had been obtained from University of California, Davis, in 1970. See: Mansfield, K. G., Lerche, N. W., Gardner, M. B., and Lackner, A. A. (1995) Origins of simian immunodeficiency virus infection in macaques at the New England Regional Primate Research Center. *Journal of Medical Primatology*, 24(3), pp. 116-122.

<sup>15</sup> Letvin, N. L., King, N. W., Daniel, M. D., Aldrich, W. R., Blake, B. J., and Hunt, R. D. (1983, September 10). Experimental transmission of macaque AIDS by means of inoculation of macaque lymphoma tissue. *Lancet*, 322(8350), pp. 599-602. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0140673683906827>

<sup>16</sup> Centers for Disease Control. (1983, March 4). Current trends prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS): Report of inter-agency recommendations. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 32(8), pp. 101-3. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00001257.htm>. CDC includes Haitians as a risk group because they appear to be overrepresented in the early case reports, without any of the already established characteristics/behavior-related risks of other groups (i.e., homosexuality/bisexuality, injection drug use, or hemophilia). But for Haitian men, cultural shame/stigma around homosexuality is a powerful barrier to self-identifying as gay/bisexual to healthcare providers. And there is an economic factor that will not become obvious until later. For complex historical, political, and geographical reasons (almost all of which are grounded in white supremacy/racism), Haiti has long been the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere. But Haiti is a top tourist destination for gay men from the U.S.—and this includes “sex tourism.” Engaging in sex work is a way for some Haitians to provide for their families; Haitian men who have sex with American tourists for pay do not consider themselves gay/bisexual. In an early (1983) study of people living with AIDS in Haiti, researchers found “...that 74 percent of all men with opportunistic infections lived in greater Port-



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au-Prince, home to approximately 20 percent of all Haitians. Curiously, 33 percent of all AIDS patients lived in a single suburb, Carrefour. This finding was underscored because several of the patients interviewed by [Dr. Jean] Pape and other researchers reported that they had been remunerated for sex.” See also: Farmer, P. (1992). *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, California: University of California Press, pp. 127-128. In 1980, over half the Haitian population earned (on average) less than \$135/year. Designating Haitians as a risk group will devastate the Haitian economy, as tourism drops by almost 90% in the following year.

<sup>17</sup> For more information on Larry Kramer, see: Specter, M. (2002, May 6). Larry Kramer, public nuisance. *New Yorker Magazine*. Retrieved from <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2002/05/13/public-nuisance>.

See also Leland, J. (2017, May 19). Twilight of a difficult man: Larry Kramer and the birth of AIDS activism. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/19/nyregion/larry-kramer-and-the-birth-of-aids-activism.html>

<sup>18</sup> Kramer, L. (1983, March 14-27). 1,112 and counting. *New York Native*, issue 59. Retrieved from [http://bilerico.lgbtqnation.com/2011/06/larry\\_kramers\\_historic\\_essay\\_aids\\_at\\_30.php](http://bilerico.lgbtqnation.com/2011/06/larry_kramers_historic_essay_aids_at_30.php)

<sup>19</sup> Occomb, K. (2018, January 18). amfAR’s Mathilde Krim dead at 91. *Washington Blade*. Retrieved from [www.washingtonblade.com/2018/01/18/amfars-dr-mathilde-krim-obituary](http://www.washingtonblade.com/2018/01/18/amfars-dr-mathilde-krim-obituary). See also: Reflections on 30 Years of amfAR: The TREAT Asia Report Interview: Dr. Mathilde Krim. (2015, November 16). *TheBody Pro*. Retrieved from <http://www.thebodypro.com/content/76680/reflections-on-30-years-of-amfar.html>

<sup>20</sup> By the time of Krim’s death on January 15, 2018, the Foundation has “raised and awarded an estimated \$517 million for thousands of programs.” See: McFadden, R. D. (2018, January 16). Mathilde Krim, mobilizing force in an AIDS crusade, dies at 91. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/16/obituaries/mathilde-krim-mobilizing-force-in-an-aids-crusade-dies-at-91.html>

<sup>21</sup> Occomb, K. (2018, January 18). amfAR’s Mathilde Krim dead at 91. *Washington Blade*. Retrieved from [www.washingtonblade.com/2018/01/18/amfars-dr-mathilde-krim-obituary](http://www.washingtonblade.com/2018/01/18/amfars-dr-mathilde-krim-obituary)

<sup>22</sup> Callen, M., and Berkowitz, R. (1983) *How to have sex in an epidemic: One approach*. New York: News from the Front Publications. Retrieved from <https://richardberkowitz.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/hths-pg-a-b.jpg>

<sup>23</sup> For video of the San Francisco march, see Cyberski, C. (1983, May 3). 1983 AIDS candlelight vigil and march in San Francisco, California. San Francisco, CA: Charles Cyberski Collection, Gay and Lesbian Historical Society. Retrieved from <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/glb/bundles/238691> Cyberski was only 24 when he shot this footage. He would die of AIDS-related complications on September 28, 1993.

See also: Emfinger, D. (1983, May). An AIDS candlelight march poster. Retrieved from <https://clapart.com/2017/06/an-aids-candlelight-march/>

<sup>24</sup> Walker, D. (1983, May 3). Gays march against AIDS. United Press International. Retrieved from <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1983/05/03/Gays-march-against-AIDS/5689420782400/>

<sup>25</sup> “Second fiscal 1983 supplemental bill cleared.” In *CQ Almanac 1983*, 39<sup>th</sup> ed., pp. 509-15. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1984. Retrieved from <http://library.cqpress.com/cqalmanac/cqal83-1199829>

<sup>26</sup> Barré-Sinoussi, F., Chermann, J. C., Rey, F., Nugeyre, M. T., Chamaret, S., Gruest, J., Dautet, C., Axler-Blin, C., Vézinet-Brun, F., Rouzioux, C., Rozenbaum, W., & Montagnier, L. (1983, May 20). Isolation of a T-lymphotropic retrovirus from a patient at risk for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). *Science*, (New York, N.Y.), 220(4599), pp. 868–871. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.6189183>

<sup>27</sup> Pear, R. (1983, May 25). Health chief calls AIDS battle ‘no. 1 priority.’ *New York Times*, pp. A1, A19. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/1983/05/25/us/health-chief-calls-aids-battle-no-1-priority.html>

<sup>28</sup> The men were: Phil Lanzaratta, Richard Berkowitz, Tom Nasrallah, Mathew Sarner, Bobby Reynolds, Artie Felson, Bill Burke, Dan Turner, Michael Callen, Bobbi Campbell, and Bob Checci. As of June 6, 2021, only Berkowitz is still alive.

<sup>29</sup> The National Association of People with AIDS will play a vital role in advocating for people living with HIV for 30 years—including starting National HIV Testing Day and National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day—before it ceases operations and files for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on February 15, 2013. See: TerMeer, T. Letter to the community: History compiled by A. Paige Baker

Last updated: June 7, 2021

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Goodbye from the National Association of People with AIDS. Retrieved from

<https://sdgln.com/commentary/2013/02/15/letter-community-national-association-people-aids>.

<sup>30</sup> Dating comes from: *Federal response to AIDS Hearings Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, Ninety-Eighth Congress, First Session, August 1 and 2, 1983*, p. 602.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015039034338;view=1up;seq=3>.

<sup>31</sup> AIDS phone line expanding. (1983, July 28). *New York Times*, A12. HHS spokesperson Shelbia Lengel was tasked with setting up the phone lines. According to her 2018 obituary in the *Washington Post*, Lengel set up a system that offered a taped message about AIDS that ran 24 hours a day. Personnel from CDC, FDA, and NIH fielded calls during business hours. On the first day of operation, phone lines were reportedly swamped by 13,000 callers. Many operators referred callers to another toll-free AIDS hotline staffed by what was then the National Gay Task Force, whose employees could make medical referrals.

See: Shelbia Lengel, who set up national toll-free AIDS hotline, dies at 81. (2018, September 5). *Washington Post*.

Retrieved from [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/shelbia-lengel-who-set-up-national-toll-free-aids-hotline-dies-at-81/2018/09/05/ae2bea9c-af9b-11e8-a20b-5f4f84429666\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/shelbia-lengel-who-set-up-national-toll-free-aids-hotline-dies-at-81/2018/09/05/ae2bea9c-af9b-11e8-a20b-5f4f84429666_story.html)

<sup>32</sup> Clifford Morrison, M.S., M.N., R.N., F.A.A.N., "Organizer of the AIDS Ward, San Francisco General Hospital", an oral history conducted in 1995 and 1996 by Sally Smith Hughes in *The AIDS epidemic in San Francisco: The response of the nursing profession, 1981-1984, Volume III*, Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 1999. Retrieved from [https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt2m3n98v1&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire\\_text](https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt2m3n98v1&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire_text)

<sup>33</sup> San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library, *Finding aid to the San Francisco General Hospital AIDS Ward 5B/5A Archives, 1983-2003*. Retrieved from <http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8bc3x0q>

<sup>34</sup> In a break with traditional hospital policy, Ward 5B patients are allowed to have their partners or friends stay with them and even pets are allowed to visit. Nurses on the ward do not wear gloves unless they are dealing with a patient's body fluids, and they touch and treat people with AIDS as they would any other patients. For some patients, this is the first human touch they have encountered since their diagnosis. Head nurse Allison Moed says: "Before we understood the trajectory of the disease, we'd try to cure someone's pneumonia or an acute exacerbation of an infection, but then something else even more horrible would happen after that," she said. "We realized it was running away from us and we couldn't control it. So what *could* we do? We could put our arms around someone. Hold their hands. Look into their eyes and tell them, 'I'm here. What do you need?' We couldn't cure, but we could care." See Zack, J. (2018, November 8). SF General nurses make history with care for AIDS patients in '5B'. *San Francisco Chronicle Datebook*. Retrieved from <https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/movies-tv/sf-general-nurses-make-history-with-care-for-aids-patients-in-5b>.

<sup>35</sup> In 2018, director Dan Krauss releases the documentary film "5B," which tells the story of the creation of Ward 5B and features first-person accounts by the nurses and medical staff who worked on the ward. See <https://5bfilm.com/>.

<sup>36</sup> *Federal response to AIDS* [microform]. (1983, August 1-2). Hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, Ninety-eighth Congress, first session. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31210012873582>.

<sup>37</sup> American Social History Project/Center for Media & Learning, City University of New York, and the Center for History and New Media, George Mason University. (n.d.). History matters: The U.S. survey course on the web: "*This Is not a gay issue. This is a human issue*": *Early AIDS patients recount their experiences with the disease*. Retrieved from <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6894/>

Anthony Ferrara died of AIDS-related illness on June 4, 1984. See Knudson, M. (1984, June 5). AIDS 'battler' yields to 20-month siege. *Baltimore Sun*, p. A. Retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com/image/377620692/>

Roger Lyon died of AIDS-related illness on November 4, 1984. See Texas Obituary Project. (n.d.) Roger Lyon, November 4, 1984, Age 36, San Francisco, Houston, AIDS. Retrieved from <http://www.texasobituaryproject.org/120784lyon.html>



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Michael Callen died of AIDS-related illness on December 27, 1993. See Dunlap, D. W. (1993, December 29). Michael Callen, singer and expert on coping with AIDS, dies at 38. *New York Times*, p. D19. Retrieved from <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1993/12/29/919093.html>

<sup>38</sup> Centers for Disease Control. (1983, September 2). Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS): Precautions for health-care workers and allied professionals. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*, 32(34), pp. 450-1. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00000133.htm>

<sup>39</sup> Centers for Disease Control. (1983, September 9). Current trends update: Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) -- United States. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*, 32(35), pp. 465-7.

<sup>40</sup> Shenon, P. (1983, October 1). A move to evict AIDS physician fought by state. *New York Times*, Section 1, p. 31. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/1983/10/01/nyregion/a-move-to-evict-aids-physician-fought-by-state.html>

<sup>41</sup> Sonnabend serves as the medical advisor to Michael Callen and Richard Berkowitz as they develop *How to have sex in an epidemic: One approach*. Retrieved from <https://richardberkowitz.com/category/4-how-to-have-sex-in-an-epidemic/>

<sup>42</sup> See also Altman, L. K. (1983, November 29). AIDS now seen as a worldwide health problem. *New York Times*, pp. C1, C7. Retrieved from [www.nytimes.com/1983/11/29/science/aids-now-seen-as-a-worldwide-health-problem.html](http://www.nytimes.com/1983/11/29/science/aids-now-seen-as-a-worldwide-health-problem.html)

<sup>43</sup> CDC. (1983, December 2). Current trends update: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) among patients with hemophilia -- United States. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00000181.htm>

<sup>44</sup> CDC. (1983, December 22). *Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Weekly Surveillance Report - United States*, p. 3. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-1983.pdf> [NOTE: The number of AIDS cases and deaths vary widely, depending on the sources. These numbers are drawn from primary source materials, but because case definitions and reporting standards were not well-defined until much later (and changed over time), the data should be considered estimates.]