

SELECT KEY FIGURES

The list that follows provides you with a broad range of information about individuals involved in the HIV/AIDS epidemic either as leaders of major institutions, as national and international newsmakers or as important historical figures. These are people from all over the world involved in the medical, social, political, economic and cultural aspects of the crisis. Where possible, we have provided website links that will lead you to more information about these individuals and the organizations with which they are associated.

Adurrazack (Zackie) Achmat

Achmat is a prominent South African activist who has led campaigns to end apartheid, combat discrimination against gays and lesbians and secure drug access for South Africans living with AIDS. He co-founded and chairs the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), which is an influential force in the fight to expand access to treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. For a time, Achmat, who is HIV-positive, refused to take ARVs until the government pledged to make drugs available and affordable for all in need.

www.tac.org.za

George Alleyne

Sir George Alleyne has served as the United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS for the Caribbean since 2003. That same year the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) appointed him head of a new commission to examine health issues confronting the region, including HIV/AIDS, and their impact on national economies. Sir George served for many years with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and retired as Director in 2003.

www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/Leadership/SpecialEnvoys

www.caricom.org

Kofi Annan

Annan served as Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1997 through 2006. During his tenure, Annan advocated for increased global attention to HIV/AIDS and described the epidemic as his “personal priority.” In 2001, Annan convened the groundbreaking UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. He also issued a five-point “Call to Action,” which led to the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In 2001, Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

www.un.org

Bono

Bono, lead singer of the Irish rock band U2, has long used his celebrity to draw the attention of politicians to the crises of HIV/AIDS and impoverished African nations. In 2002, he co-founded DATA, which stands for Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa. Through DATA, Bono lobbies wealthy governments to increase resources for Africa and forgive debt obligations so money can be directed to fighting AIDS and other social crises. In 2006, he created (RED), to engage consumer power in the fight against AIDS. A percentage of the profits from the sale of (RED) products goes to the Global Fund.

www.data.org

www.joinred.com

Pedro Cahn

Dr. Cahn MD, Ph.D. is Chief of the Infectious Diseases Unit, Juan A Fernandez Hospital and Assistant Professor in Infectious Diseases at the Buenos Aires University Medical School, where he received his medical degree. In 1989, Dr. Cahn founded Fundación Huésped, one of the most prestigious HIV/AIDS NGOs in Argentina, where he now serves as Director. He served as Co-Chair of the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in 2008 and is a former President of the International AIDS Society.

www.huesped.org.ar

Pedro Chequer

Dr. Chequer is coordinator of the United Nations AIDS program in Brazil. He co-founded and for several years was director of Brazil's National AIDS Program where he oversaw the implementation of Brazil's policy of universal access to treatment and prevention.

www.unaids.org/en/CountryResponses/Countries/brazil.asp

William J. Clinton

Clinton served two terms as President of the United States from 1992 to 2000. In 2003, he announced the creation of the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative (CHAI) to expand access to life-saving medicines and help developing countries systematize their approach to HIV/AIDS treatment. One of the Initiative's important, early successes was to convince five generic drug companies to dramatically reduce the costs of commonly used antiretroviral drugs for people in developing countries. In 2002, at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Mr. Clinton said, "There are still people who view AIDS as something that affects only people who are different. We all know the victims."

www.clintonfoundation.org

www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org

Jerry Coovadia

Dr. Coovadia is the Victor Daitz Professor of HIV Research and Scientific Director of the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa. He has worked extensively on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV through breast-feeding. Dr. Coovadia has had leadership roles at conferences staged by the International AIDS Society in South Africa.

www.ddcf.org

www.ias2009.org

Kevin De Cock

Dr. De Cock is the director of the World Health Organization's Department of HIV/AIDS. Previously, he served as Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Kenya. In his current role, Dr. De Cock oversees all of the WHO's work related to HIV/AIDS, focusing on initiatives to assist developing countries in scaling up their treatment, prevention, care and support programs.

www.who.int/hiv

Mark Dybul

Dr. Dybul served as U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator in the Bush Administration from 2006 until early 2009. As the Global AIDS Coordinator, he was responsible for overseeing, implementing and expanding the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR. He is currently a senior advisor to the Global Business Coalition and a Distinguished Scholar and Co-Director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Dybul has had a long career as a researcher and clinician in the field of HIV, with a focus on the development of U.S. and international protocols for HIV therapy.

www.gbcimpact.org

www.law.georgetown.edu/oneillinstitute

Wafaa El-Sadr

Dr. El-Sadr is the Director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), an initiative through the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. ICAP coordinates diverse initiatives for combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic in impoverished environments. Dr. El-Sadr is also founding Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Epidemiologic Research (CIDER) and Professor of Clinical Medicine and Epidemiology at the Mailman School. Dr. El-Sadr is Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Harlem Hospital Center.

www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu

www.columbia-icap.org

Max Essex

Dr. Essex is Chair of the AIDS Initiative and is the Lasker Professor of Health Sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health. He also is Chair of the Botswana–Harvard Partnership for HIV Research and Education. Dr. Essex was among the first researchers to describe the transmission mechanisms of HIV, calling particular attention to the dangers of contaminated blood transfusions. His later research into the molecular identity and genetic variations of the virus has been critical to the development of HIV diagnostic tests and vaccine research.

www.aids.harvard.edu

Paul Farmer

Dr. Farmer is Presley Professor and co-Director of the Program in Infectious Disease and Social Change in the Department of Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School; Associate Chief of the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts; and a co-founder of Partners In Health, an international organization that provides free direct health care services and undertakes research and advocacy activities on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty. He is well known for helping create innovative community-based approaches to treating HIV/AIDS and TB in resource-poor settings, particularly in Haiti.

www.pih.org

Anthony Fauci

Dr. Fauci is one of the longest-serving U.S. government officials helping to oversee HIV/AIDS research and one of the first scientists to begin studying HIV. In 1984, he became Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, which conducts extensive research to prevent, diagnose and treat infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS. He serves as one of the key advisors to the White House and Department of Health and Human Services on global AIDS issues. Dr. Fauci has made numerous contributions to basic and clinical research in the field of immune-mediated illnesses.

www.niaid.nih.gov

Peter Figueroa

Dr. Figueroa is the Chief of Epidemiology and HIV/AIDS, National HIV/STI program in Jamaica. He is a leader in HIV/AIDS care, practices and treatment and is committed to making HIV/AIDS care available to all. He also serves on the Executive Committee as Vice-Chairman of the National AIDS Committee in Jamaica.

www.moh.gov.jm

www.nacjamaica.com

Raoul Fransen

Fransen of the Netherlands has been involved in a wide range of programs to support young people with HIV/AIDS since he was diagnosed with HIV at the age of 15. He co-founded Young Positives, an international network of young people living with HIV/AIDS. Fransen is now a policy advisor at the International Civil Society Support and coordinates the Roundtable Process on HIV treatment.

www.icssupport.org/index.html

Robert Gallo

Dr. Gallo is Director of the Institute of Human Virology and Division of Basic Science at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. In the early 1980's he discovered the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS, a distinction he shares with Luc Montagnier of France, who also identified the same virus. Research by Dr. Gallo and his team also led to the development of the HIV blood test. For a time, there was great controversy about whether Dr. Gallo stole the virus from Dr. Montagnier. Eventually U.S. and French health authorities agreed that both men should share the credit for discovery of HIV. In 2002, Dr. Gallo and Dr. Montagnier announced their partnership in the Program for International Viral Collaboration, an effort to advance global HIV/AIDS vaccine research.

www.umbi.umd.edu

Bill & Melinda Gates

Bill and Melinda Gates founded the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000 in the "belief that every life has equal value." The Foundation has committed billions of dollars towards improving global health overall, especially in the fields of HIV/AIDS & TB, infectious diseases, and reproductive and child health. It is committed to slowing the global spread of HIV and supports the development of vaccines and other tools and strategies with the potential to prevent tens of millions of infections and deaths. The Gates Foundation also funds comprehensive initiatives that include both prevention and treatment. It currently supports work in over one hundred countries.

www.gatesfoundation.org

Helene Gayle

Dr. Gayle is the President and Chief Executive Officer of CARE, a humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. Prior to joining CARE, Dr. Gayle directed the HIV, TB and Reproductive Health Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She has served as president of the International AIDS Society and co-chairs the Global HIV Prevention Working Group, an international panel of HIV/AIDS experts convened by the Gates and Kaiser Family Foundations. Dr. Gayle earlier served as the Director of the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

www.care.org

www.gatesfoundation.org

Elizabeth Glaser

Glaser was co-founder and Director of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation until her death in 1994. Glaser became an activist after she discovered she had received a contaminated blood transfusion in 1981 and had passed the virus on to her two children. After the death of her daughter due to HIV and frustrated by the lack of pediatric HIV/AIDS research, Glaser established the Foundation in 1988 to promote research and prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. The Foundation, which officially became the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation after her death, is a leader in the effort to treat and prevent HIV/AIDS among children in developing countries.

www.pedaids.org

Danny Glover

Glover is an American actor, AIDS activist and serves on the Board of Directors of the Black AIDS Institute. Since 1998, he has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program. In that role, he has spent time in Africa and the Caribbean, focusing his attention on young people with HIV/AIDS. Glover also supports the TransAfrica Forum, a U.S.-based organization addressing AIDS and other issues affecting Africa.

www.undp.org

www.blackaids.org

Eric Goosby

Dr. Goosby was appointed U.S Global AIDS Coordinator, which carries the rank of Ambassador, by President Obama in 2009. As the Global AIDS Coordinator, he is responsible for overseeing and implementing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR. Dr. Goosby is an international expert in the field of scaling up HIV/AIDS capacity within existing health care systems. Prior to joining the White House, he was CEO and Chief Medical Officer of Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation. During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Goosby served as the Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy in the Department of Health and Human Services and was the first director of the Ryan White Care Act which is a chief source of AIDS funding in the U.S.

www.pepfar.gov

Robin Gorna

The International AIDS Society has announced that in September of 2009, Robin Gorna will become Executive Director of the organization. The IAS is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals and organizes the International AIDS Conferences. Previously, Gorna led the Global Policy Team on AIDS in the British government's Department for International Development. She has worked in the field for 20 years.

www.iasociety.org

Geeta Rao Gupta

Dr. Rao Gupta is President of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), a Washington, D.C. based organization that undertakes policy-oriented research, technical assistance, and advocacy. The organization's focus is on women's economic roles, health and nutrition, the environment and natural resources, adolescent sexual health and women's rights. Dr. Rao Gupta has over 20 years experience in research and program development, particularly in the area of women's health, and is an international expert on women and HIV/AIDS.

www.icrw.org

Yusuf Hamied

Dr. Hamied is chairman and Managing Director of Cipla, an Indian pharmaceutical company. In 2001, Cipla announced its plans to sell generic AIDS combination therapies at vastly discounted prices, igniting widespread criticism from other pharmaceutical companies. The combination therapies consist of multiple antiretroviral medications combined into a single pill. Dr. Hamied announced that Cipla would sell these drugs for approximately US\$350 per patient per year, compared to the previous price of over US\$10,000 per patient per year.

www.cipla.com

David Ho

Dr. Ho is the Chief Executive Officer of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City and was named *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1996 for his groundbreaking AIDS research. As a medical resident in Los Angeles during the early 1980s, he saw some of the earliest cases of AIDS. Dr. Ho's subsequent research on HIV/AIDS led to the development of "AIDS cocktails," which consist of combinations of antiretroviral therapies. Dr. Ho's work includes the China AIDS Initiative, which is coordinated by the ADARC, and teams with partners to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in China.

www.adarc.org

www.chinaaidsinitiative.org

Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Johnson, the former U.S. basketball star, announced in 1991 that he was HIV-positive. Since then, he has been involved in raising awareness about prevention and safe-sex practices. Johnson serves as the chairman of the Magic Johnson Foundation (MJF) which supports organizations that provide HIV/AIDS prevention and health care education to the black community and other minority communities. In 2006, MJF and Abbott, the pharmaceutical company, created the "I Stand with Magic" campaign aimed at mobilizing these communities around education and prevention.

www.magicjohnson.org

www.istandwithmagic.com

Nkosi Johnson

Nkosi was a young South African whose bravery and suffering drew renewed international attention to the HIV/AIDS crisis. Nkosi was born HIV-positive and died of an AIDS-related illness in 2001 when he was just 13. A year earlier, Nkosi spoke at the International AIDS Conference in Durban telling a global audience, "Care for us and accept us, we are all human beings." He championed many causes during his short life, including human rights and providing care and shelter for people living with HIV/AIDS.

www.nkosi.iafrica.com

Milly Katana

Katana is Senior Manager for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance at Uganda's country office. She was diagnosed with HIV in 1995 and immediately became one of Africa's leading activists. Katana was the first HIV-positive person to sit on the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She also co-founded the Pan African Treatment Access Movement, which is dedicated to getting drug treatment to all in need.

www.gatag.org/pantam.php

www.aidsalliance.org

Michel Kazatchkine

Dr. Kazatchkine of France was named Executive Director of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in early 2007. He has worked in the field of HIV/AIDS for two decades, as a doctor, researcher, policymaker and diplomat. Dr. Kazatchkine opened a clinic in Paris specializing in HIV/AIDS in 1985 and since then has held several senior positions including director of the French National Agency for AIDS Research and France's global HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases ambassador. Dr. Kazatchkine has worked closely with international organizations in the fields of health and development and served on advisory groups to the World Health Organization and several other international bodies. Prior to being named Executive Director, he held other leadership positions with the Global Fund.

www.theglobalfund.org/en/media_center/press/pr_070208.asp

Jim Yong Kim

In July 2009, Dr. Kim became President of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Previously, he was chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Director of the Xavier Bagnoud Center for Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health and Chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Kim also served as Director of the World Health Organization's Department of HIV/AIDS where he helped create the 3x5 Initiative. He is a co-founder with Dr. Paul Farmer of Partners in Health, a non-profit organization operating in many of the world's poorest regions.

www.dartmouth.edu

Allyson Leacock

Leacock, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (CBMP). CBMP unites more than 60 top broadcasters from 24 countries in the region's first coordinated media response to HIV/AIDS by sharing information and resources among broadcasters that significantly expands related programming and public education activities across the Caribbean. Leacock also serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Media AIDS Initiative (GMAI).

www.cbmphiv.org

www.thegmai.org

Stephen Lewis

Lewis has long been involved in the global fight against AIDS and is recognized as an especially articulate and passionate speaker. He is currently co-director of AIDS-Free World, a new international advocacy organization. Lewis holds positions at McMaster University in Ontario and the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York. He serves on the boards of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. He was UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa from 2001 through 2006.

www.aids-freeworld.org

www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

Graça Machel

Machel is a former first lady and former Minister of Education in Mozambique whose global activism involves issues ranging from HIV/AIDS to education to land mines. She is a member of the Board of the United Nations Foundation and is Chair of the Foundation for Community Development (FDC), an organization established to alleviate poverty in Mozambique. With her current husband, former president Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Machel continues to advance human rights in Africa through economic and community development.

www.unfoundation.org

www.fdc.org.mz/engl/home.html

Mercy Makhalemele

Makhalemele became the first black woman in South Africa to publicly declare her HIV-positive status and campaign to reduce the stigma associated with the disease. She is a founding member of South Africa's National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS and Treatment Action Campaign. She received the Kaiser Family Foundation's 2004 Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, for her efforts to combat stigma and advocate for increased access to treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. Makhalemele serves on the National Advisory Board of South Africa's national HIV prevention program for young people, loveLife and founded Mercy AIDS Foundation which helps women who are HIV-positive become economically empowered.

www.lovelife.org.za

www.kff.org/southafrica

Nelson Mandela

Mandela has become a strong voice in the global fight against HIV/AIDS after earlier being criticized for not urgently responding to the epidemic while President of South Africa. He created the 46664 Global Campaign to create more awareness, advocate for care and treatment and raise needed funds. In 2004, at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, he told delegates, "As former prisoner 46664, there is a special place in my heart for all those that are denied access to their basic human rights." He also has encouraged the public health community to pay more attention to the links between AIDS and tuberculosis.

www.46664.com

www.nelsonmandela.org

Jonathan Mann

Mann was an inspirational and influential figure in the fight against global HIV/AIDS. The long-time researcher and human rights champion died in a plane crash in 1998, on his way to an AIDS conference. In 1986, he helped establish and lead the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS. In that role, he established human rights as central to the WHO's HIV/AIDS strategy and persuaded health ministers from dozens of countries to do the same. In 1990, he founded Doctors of the World-USA to mobilize the health sector around issues of access to care and human rights.

www.doctorsoftheworld.org

Thabo Mbeki

Mbeki, former President of South Africa, was a controversial and polarizing figure in the fight against HIV/AIDS during his two terms in office. In 1999, Mbeki declared that HIV alone cannot lead to AIDS and he publicly questioned whether antiretroviral therapies for HIV are effective. By 2002, his government committed to intensifying prevention and treatment efforts. President Mbeki's pledge rested on the premise that HIV does cause AIDS.

www.southafrica.info

www.doh.gov.za/aids

Craig McClure

McClure became the Executive Director of the International AIDS Society in 2004. IAS is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals and organizes the International AIDS Conferences. McClure has worked in HIV policy, advocacy and education for various organizations including the World Health Organization and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

www.iasociety.org

Luc Montagnier

In 1983, Dr. Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in France discovered the virus that causes AIDS, the human immunodeficiency virus. It is a distinction he shares with Dr. Robert Gallo of the U.S. In 2008, Dr. Montagnier was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of HIV. His team also identified HIV-2, the virus that is responsible for many HIV infections in West Africa. Dr. Montagnier is currently president of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention. In 2002, Dr. Montagnier and Dr. Gallo announced their partnership in the Program for International Viral Collaboration, an effort to advance global HIV/AIDS vaccine research.

www.pasteur.fr/english.html

<http://nobelprize.org>

Julio Montaner

Dr. Montaner has been a member of the International AIDS Society since 1988 and is currently President of IAS. He also is Director of Clinical Activities at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and is a founding Co-Director of the Canadian HIV Trials Network. Dr. Montaner has authored over 300 scientific publications on HIV/AIDS.

www.iasociety.org

Peter Mugenyi

Dr. Mugenyi is the Director of the Joint Clinical Research Centre, in Kampala, Uganda, and chairman of both the Ugandan AIDS task force and the African Dialogue on AIDS. In 1996, he was one of the first African physicians to insist that his patients were capable of taking the complicated regimen of AIDS medications. By 2001, Dr. Mugenyi and his colleagues successfully pressured U.S. and European pharmaceutical manufacturers to discount AIDS medications for many poor nations. Currently, Dr. Mugenyi treats over 5,000 AIDS patients a year through his network of clinics in Uganda.

www.jcrc.co.ug

Yoweri Museveni

Ugandan President Museveni has led a campaign against HIV/AIDS in his country, which is often held up as a model for the rest of Africa. Soon after assuming the presidency in 1986, Museveni became the first African leader to speak openly about the epidemic. His government's campaign is based on ABC: Abstinence, Be faithful, Condom use. There is much discussion over what has been the main driver of Uganda's success. Museveni is sometimes criticized by those who believe he minimizes the importance of condoms in the ABC program.

www.statehouse.go.ug

www.health.go.ug

Nikolay Nedzelskiy

Nedzelskiy is an advocate for Russians living with HIV/AIDS. He was among the first activists to step forward in the early 1990s. Nedzelskiy was the Director of INFO-Plus Center in Moscow which was a clearinghouse for information about HIV/AIDS. Nedzelskiy is now an independent expert on the subject of AIDS in Russia.

www.aids.ru

Peter Piot

Dr. Piot was appointed the first Executive Director of UNAIDS in 1995 and held that position until early 2009. He has since been named Director of the newly created Institute for Global Health at Imperial College London. Dr. Piot has long worked in the public health arena. In 1976, he co-discovered the Ebola virus in Zaire. In the 1980s, Dr. Piot contributed to an understanding of the epidemic's spread in Africa.

www3.imperial.ac.uk

Vadim Pokrovskiy

Dr. Pokrovskiy is the Director of Russia's Federal AIDS Center. He has warned that the real number of those infected with HIV in Russia is higher than official statistics indicate. Dr. Pokrovskiy has encouraged the government to develop a more coordinated response to the epidemic.

www.pcr.ru

Gracia Violeta Ross

Ross is a young Bolivian who became an activist after being raped and infected with HIV. Today she is the National Chair of the Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (REDBOL), as well as a member of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS. In her public appearances, she encourages women to become more involved in political, cultural and gender issues. In 2006, she served as co-chair of the Community Program Committee for the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto.

www.icw.org

Jorge Saavedra

Dr. Saavedra has led the National HIV/AIDS Program in Mexico (Censida) since 2003 and launched the program aimed at universal access to AIDS medications. He previously served as a board member of the Global Fund. In 2000, Dr. Saavedra founded the first Ambulatory Care AIDS Clinic in Mexico City, which has become Mexico's largest such care center. As the first openly gay person to hold a senior position in the Mexican government, Dr. Saavedra has advocated for the rights of gay people who are HIV-positive.

www.salud.gob.mx/conasida

Jeffrey Sachs

Professor Sachs, currently Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York, is one of the world's foremost economists. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He is known for his work with governments and international agencies to promote poverty reduction, disease control and debt reduction for poor countries. Professor Sachs warns that AIDS is "exploding. Its consequences will make the world quake." Previously, he spent 20 years at Harvard University.

www.earth.columbia.edu

David Serwadda

Dr. Serwadda is the director of the Institute of Public Health at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. He also serves on the steering committee of The Global HIV Prevention Working Group, an international advisory panel of nearly 50 public health experts and scientists involved in HIV/AIDS. Dr. Serwadda is the Ugandan principal investigator on the ongoing NIH-funded "Trial of Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention". He is an expert in the fields of epidemiology, evaluation of health interventions and disease surveillance, and is a leading authority on the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

www.globalhivprevention.org

www.iph.ac.ug

Michel Sidibé

Sidibé was appointed Executive Director of UNAIDS in early 2009. In that capacity, he coordinates the HIV/AIDS efforts of ten co-sponsoring organizations. Sidibé, a native of Mali, has been involved in global health and development issues for over a quarter of a century. He joined UNAIDS in 2001 and was the organization's Deputy Executive Director of Programmes before being named Executive Director.

www.unaids.org

Suniti Solomon

Dr. Solomon and her colleagues saw the first cases of HIV/AIDS in India in 1986. In response to the disease, Dr. Solomon created the first voluntary testing and counseling center and an AIDS research group in Madras, India. In 1993, she founded the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education. YRGcare is a non-profit center that offers HIV and sex education, voluntary counseling and testing services, and care for people living with HIV. It also conducts medical and behavioral research. She currently serves as President of the AIDS Society in India and is a member of the advisory board of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative-India.

www.yrgcare.org

www.iavi.org.in

Luis Soto-Ramirez

Dr. Soto-Ramirez is co-chair of the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. He is head of the Molecular Virology Unit at the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Medicas y Nutricion Salvador Zubiran. For several years, Dr. Soto-Ramirez has been a member of the International AIDS Society's Governing Council and is the regional IAS representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

www.iasociety.org

Paulo Teixeira

Dr. Teixeira previously was Director of the World Health Organization's (WHO) HIV/AIDS Department. He gained worldwide recognition for his work on HIV/AIDS in Brazil and Latin America. Dr. Teixeira was director of the National STD/AIDS Program at the Ministry of Health in Brazil, where he created the first national AIDS program in 1983. Dr. Teixeira pioneered Brazil's program for free, universal distribution of ARVs, which has become a model for other developing countries dealing with HIV/AIDS. He is now involved in environmental issues.

www.who.int/hiv

Mechai Viravaidya

Mechai is a Senator in the Parliament of Thailand and is affectionately known as the "Condom King" because of his strong and public support for the use of condoms as a way of preventing HIV transmission. Senator Mechai is the founder and chairman of the Population and Community Development Association, one of Thailand's largest private, non-profit development organizations. He was appointed Ambassador for UNAIDS in 1999 and has received numerous awards. In 2007, he received the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Gates Award for his pioneering work in family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention.

www.thaigov.go.th/eng

www.sli.unimelb.edu.au/pda

Ryan White

American Ryan White became an unwitting international symbol of HIV/AIDS. White was born in 1971 with hemophilia and became infected with HIV in 1984 after receiving contaminated blood during a transfusion. He was shunned by his community but embraced by celebrities such as Elton John. White died in 1990 and soon after then-President George Bush enacted landmark legislation named the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency Act which provides care, treatment and services to people with HIV/AIDS in the United States.

www.careactdatasupport.hrsa.gov

Phill Wilson

Wilson is founder and the Executive Director of the Black AIDS Institute, based in Los Angeles, California. It is the only black HIV/AIDS think tank in the United States. Wilson has said the goal of the Institute is to “reduce the HIV health disparities between people of African descent and other racial ethnic groups by engaging black folks in efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.” The organization’s motto is, “Our people, Our problem, Our solution.” Wilson also helped create the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

www.blackaids.org

Wan Yanhai

Dr. Wan is China’s most prominent AIDS activist. He now serves as the director of China’s principal AIDS-awareness group, the Beijing Aizhixing Institute of Health Education. Dr. Wan established the first telephone hotline for HIV/AIDS information and went on to create a widely used website. His activism led to his dismissal from China’s Health Ministry. In recent years, he has twice been detained by the government. In 2005, Dr. Wan organized a landmark conference between Shanghai University Law School and Human Rights Watch, an international watchdog organization, to discuss how to tackle the growing threat of HIV/AIDS in China.

www.aizhi.org/en/

Debrework Zewdie

Dr. Zewdie is the Director of the Global HIV/AIDS Program for the World Bank. Her career has been spent working on HIV/AIDS with a particular emphasis on Africa. Prior to her current position, Dr. Zewdie managed the World Bank’s AIDS Campaign Team for Africa (ACTAfrica). Before joining the World Bank in 1994, she managed AIDS programs in 16 African countries for Family Health International.

www.worldbank.org/aids

Winstone Zulu

Zulu is an AIDS activist in Zambia who publicly declared his HIV-positive status along with a later diagnosis of tuberculosis. Zulu has lost four brothers and sisters to AIDS and TB and, in his work, emphasizes the close link between the two. Zulu actively campaigns for more effective and accessible drugs. He told a reporter, “For me and my family, HIV and TB have always been seen together conspiring and collaborating to steal away our health.”

www.winstonezulu.com