

KEY FIGURES

The list that follows is intended to give you a flavor of the depth and breadth of some of the key individuals involved in the HIV/AIDS pandemic and their fields of expertise. These are people from all over the world, involved in the medical, social, political, economic and cultural aspects of the crisis. Some were there at the beginning and others have more recently made their mark; some are current references and contacts while others have historical significance in understanding the epidemic. Where possible, we have provided website links which will lead you to more information about each individual and the organizations with which they are associated.

Lists such as these invariably leave some readers feeling frustrated. This one is not intended to be exhaustive and does not include many of those involved in HIV/AIDS, only some of the more notable individuals. We believe, however, those described below will provide you with a good overview of many who have made a difference.

Terje Anderson

Anderson also served on the U.S. Federal Health AIDS Advisory Committee from 1994 to 2003. The Committee provides HIV/AIDS policy information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Assistant Secretary for Health. He was a member of the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS from 1995-2002 and has worked in the field of HIV/AIDS for over 20 years. Anderson has been living with HIV/AIDS for many years. (www.napwa.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

William 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/cf-pgm-hs-ai-home.htm, www.clintonpresidentialcenter.com

Jerry Coovadia

Dr. Coovadia is the Victor Daitz Professor of HIV/AIDS Research and the Director (Biomedical) of the Center for HIV/AIDS Networking at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa. In 2000, he chaired the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. Dr. Coovadia has worked extensively on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV through breast-feeding. At a public health conference in 2004 he cautioned, "We need to reinvent government to respond to public needs and the public health agenda."

www.hivan.org.za

Max Essex

Dr. Essex is chairman of the Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative, and Mary Woodard Lasker Professor of Health Sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health. He 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. In 1985, Dr. Essex and colleagues established an AIDS research and training center in Dakar, Senegal.

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

Richard Feachem

Dr. Feachem has worked in international health for over 30 years and in 2002 was appointed the first Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Upon accepting the position, Dr. Feachem said, "the Fund is positioned to make large investments in controlling these terrible diseases and improving the lives of millions of families throughout the world." Prior to joining the Global Fund, Dr. Feachem founded and directed the Institute for Global Health in San Francisco.

(www.theglobalfund.org)

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

Richard Gere

Gere is an American actor and AIDS activist. His activism began in the United States with organizations such as the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. He has extended his HIV/AIDS work to India where he founded the Gere Foundation India Trust. The Gere Foundation, in coordination with the Kaiser Foundation Family and other organizations, launched a major public awareness campaign in India in 2004.
(www.gerefoundation.org)
(www.heroesprojectindia.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

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/

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

Jim Yong Kim

Dr. Kim is the Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health and Professor of Medicine and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is also chief of the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. In his previous job as Director of the World Health Organization's Department of HIV/AIDS he helped create the 3x5 Initiative. Dr. Kim 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.pih.org

www.brighamandwomens.org/socialmedicine

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

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.tiscali.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, President of South Africa, has been a controversial and polarizing figure in the fight against HIV/AIDS. 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. In 2005, Mbeki described South Africa's HIV/AIDS program as among "the best in the world."

www.southafrica.info

www.doh.gov.za/aids

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 1986, Dr. Montagnier's 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.

<http://www.pasteur.fr/english.html>

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

Peter Piot

Dr. Piot was appointed the first Executive Director of UNAIDS in 1995 and remains in that position today. He coordinates the HIV/AIDS efforts of ten co-sponsoring organizations. Dr. Piot has longed worked in the public health arena. In 1976, he co-discovered the Ebola virus in Zaire. In the 1980s, he contributed to an understanding of the epidemic's spread in Africa. As Executive Director of UNAIDS he has said, "Investment in AIDS will be repaid a thousand fold in saved lives and communities held together."

www.unaids.org

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

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/

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

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/