

AIDS POPULAR CONSPIRACY THEORIES

AIDS TIMELINE HISTORY

**Hepatitis B Vaccine Trials
(November 1978 - October 1981)**

&

**GAYS & THE AIDS EPIDEMIC
1981-1989**

**THE REAL LIFE
"AND THE BAND PLAYED ON"**

**FOOTAGE FILMED BY
Don Eckert
(1941-2016)**

**CASTRO STREET FAIR
1982 & 1983
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

REFERENCES:

**AIDS AND THE DOCTORS OF DEATH
An Inquiry Into The Origin Of The AIDS Epidemic
ALAN CANTWELL, JR. M.D.**

&

**AND THE BAND PLAYED ON
Politics, People, And The AIDS Epidemic
RANDY SHILTS**

&

HIV.GOV

Hepatitis vaccine to be given tests

Knight-Ridder News Service

A vaccine to protect against hepatitis B will soon be given extensive field trials.

Hepatitis B is an inflammatory liver disorder sometimes called serum hepatitis or transfusion hepatitis. It is often transmitted by contaminated syringes.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, 10 Jun 1978, Sat, Main Edition, Page 7

LAST CHANCE

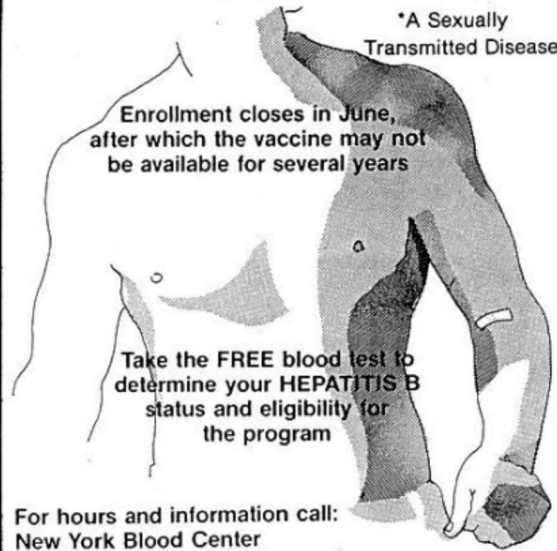
For Gay Men to Join the

HEPATITIS B* VACCINE PROGRAM

*A Sexually Transmitted Disease

Enrollment closes in June, after which the vaccine may not be available for several years

Take the FREE blood test to determine your HEPATITIS B status and eligibility for the program



For hours and information call:
New York Blood Center
570-3047

JUNE 1979

Fig. 13.2. Advertisement Placed in New York Newspapers to Recruit Homosexual Men Into Experimental Hepatitis B Vaccination Program

LAST CHANCE FOR GAY MEN TO JOIN THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE PROGRAM!



*A sexually transmitted disease

-enrollment closes in June, after which the vaccine may not be available for several years

Take the FREE blood test to determine your HEPATITIS B status and eligibility for the program.

This 1979 ad recruited volunteers for hepatitis-B vaccine experiments conducted by W. Szmuness and other investigators associated with the New York City Blood Center, Merck, Sharp & Dohme, and the CDC. Credit: *Gayweek*; Source: Lederer R. Origin and spread of AIDS: Is the West responsible. *Covert Action Information Bulletin* (Winter) 1988;29:60.

BEFORE AIDS

1978

Dr. Alan Cantwell is a dermatologist and scientific researcher in the field of cancer and AIDS microbiology.

Dr. Cantwell believes that HIV/AIDS is a man-made disease, a genetically modified organism developed by United States government scientists.

Dr. Cantwell opined that AIDS erupted in the United States, shortly after government-sponsored hepatitis B vaccine experiments (1978-1981) using gay men as guinea pigs.

The epidemic was caused by the "introduction" of a new retrovirus (the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV for short); and the introduction of a new herpes-8 virus, the virus that causes Kaposi's sarcoma, widely known as "gay cancer" of AIDS.

The origin of HIV and the KS virus came out of the experimental hepatitis B vaccine trials (1978-1981) in which thousands of healthy gay men were injected with an experimental vaccine.

In the United States, the earliest positive HIV blood tests were discovered in samples of blood donated by male homosexuals in New York City, as part of this experiment. There was no "incubation period" for HIV in the United States, the earliest HIV+ blood specimens were from 1978 - the same year the first gay hepatitis B experiments took place in Manhattan, at the New York Blood Center.

The widely accepted theory is that HIV/AIDS originated in a monkey or chimpanzee virus that "jumped species" in Africa. However, it was clear that the first AIDS cases were recorded in gay men in Manhattan in 1979, a few years before the epidemic was first noticed in Africa in 1982.

Large numbers of gay men in Manhattan donated blood for the experimental hepatitis B vaccine trial, which took place at the New York Blood Center in Manhattan in 1978.

Before the United States government took an interest in the health of gay men, there were no "strange fatal diseases" of obscure origin found in homosexuals. As soon as they signed up for government-sponsored gay vaccine experiments, the community was doomed and ravaged with the AIDS epidemic and the concomitant Kaposi's sarcoma epidemic.

Promiscuous gays were avidly sought as volunteers to test the efficacy of a newly developed hepatitis B vaccine manufactured by Merck and the National Institute of Health (NIH).

By 1977, over 13,000 Manhattan gays were screened to secure the final 1,083 men who would serve as guinea pigs to test the hepatitis B vaccine.

The vaccine was manufactured from the combined plasma of 30 highly selected gay men who carried the hepatitis B virus in their blood. Developed over a period of 65 weeks

during 1977-1978 and tested for six months in chimpanzees, the first group of gay men were inoculated at the New York Blood Center in November 1978.

That same year, a final cohort of 6,875 homosexual men at the San Francisco City Clinic was assembled to study hepatitis B virus sexual transmission in that city.

An additional 1,402 volunteers were finally selected to participate in similar vaccine experiments in Los Angeles, Denver, Chicago and St. Louis, beginning in March 1980.

Before 1978 there was no stored blood anywhere in the United States that tested positive for HIV or the KS virus. There were no cases of AIDS and no cases of "gay cancer" in young men.

The first cases of AIDS appeared shortly after the experiment began in Manhattan. In June 1981, the epidemic became official and was quickly labeled the "gay related immune deficiency syndrome", later known as AIDS.

The final group of 1,083 selected for the first experiment at the Blood Center were inoculated from November 1978 until October 1979. Each gay man was given three (3) inoculations of the vaccine over a period of three (3) months. The vaccine proved successful, with 96% of the men developing protective antibodies against the hepatitis B virus.

When Dr. Robert Gallo's blood test for HIV became available in the mid 1980s, the New York Blood Center's stored gay blood specimens were reexamined.

20% of the gay men who volunteered for the hepatitis B experiment in Manhattan were discovered to be HIV-positive in 1980 (one year before the AIDS epidemic became "official" in 1981).

At the beginning of November 1978, the gays in San Francisco were at the height of their political power, but the murder of Harvey Milk was a bad omen.

When the hepatitis B commercial vaccine became available in July 1982, many people refused to be injected with it.

JUNE 10, 1978 - PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

"Hepatitis Vaccine Test to be Given"

Male homosexuals in Phoenix and New York have volunteered to act as test subjects for a new vaccine against hepatitis B. Dr. Wolf Szmunes is a director of the epidemiology laboratory of the New York Blood Center and professor of epidemiology at Columbia University School of Public Health.

NOVEMBER 1978

In November 1978, the experimental hepatitis B vaccine trials began in Manhattan. And it was the beginning of the end of American gays.

In November 1978, the first gay man was inoculated at the New York Blood Center. By October 1979, all the men in Dr. Szmunes' study were inoculated.

1979

In January 1979, two months after the hepatitis B experiment began, purple skin lesions began to appear on the bodies of young white gay men in New York City.

In January 1979, the first case of AIDS was discovered in a young gay man living in New York City.

FEBRUARY 16, 1979 - ARIZONA REPUBLIC

In November 1978, the first round of experimental hepatitis B Vaccine trials began on 1,082 men at the New York Blood Center.

The second round of trials took place in 1979, and again were only performed on homosexual men at the New York Blood Center.

In March of 1980, 1,420 gay men from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and St. Louis began testing the vaccine.

The first reports of HIV like symptoms started being reported in early 1979 in Manhattan, which was a couple of months after the first trials began, and which was also where the testing station was.

The first reported case outside of New York was in San Francisco in the fall of 1980, which was just months after the hepatitis B trials in that city began.

Before the AIDS epidemic, "classic" Kaposi's sarcoma was a rare form of cancer, found primarily in people whose familial origins stemmed from Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

Theories began that the AIDS virus was introduced into gays via the hepatitis B vaccine trials.

Much of the scientific knowledge that has accumulated on the "spread" of AIDS in America has come from the surveillance and blood testing of large groups of gay and bisexual men who volunteered as human test subjects in the original hepatitis B vaccine trials, which took place in six (6) American cities during the years 1978-1981.

Was it coincidental that those were the beginning years of the new mystery disease in gays, and the years just before AIDS became "official?"

In the mid 1970s, hepatitis B became the "gay" sexually transmitted disease which most intrigued the government scientists.

Dr. Wolf Szmunes was the mastermind who planned the hepatitis B vaccine trials in gay men. He was the professor of epidemiology at the Columbia University School of Public Health and chief of epidemiology at the New York City Blood Center in Manhattan.

In planning the hepatitis experiment, it was necessary to enrol a group of people who were at high-risk for the disease.

Dr. Szmuness made the scientific requirements for the participation in the New York City hepatitis vaccine study very specific.

Only men under the age of 40 were permitted to enter the study. They had to be either homosexual or bisexual. Straight men were excluded.

In order to eliminate men who were at lower risk for hepatitis, Dr. Szmuness would not allow gay men over the age of 40, or gays who were monogamous.

Only homosexuals who were young, healthy, and promiscuous were wanted for the experiment.

The men had to be willing to receive a series of three (3) vaccinations, and to donate blood ten (10) times. They were required to provide name, address, and telephone number for contact.

The experimental hepatitis B vaccine trials were largely supported by grants from government agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

After screening the blood of almost 10,000 men, a final group of 1,083 were selected to participate in the first Hepatitis B Vaccine Study.

The experiment took place at the New York City Blood Center in Manhattan during November 1978.

Characteristics of the gay men who were selected for the final experiment included the following: The average age was 29; the men were healthy; more than half had NO history of venereal disease; most were white and college educated.

The vials were coded. Only a few people who controlled the experiment knew the secrets of the code. And the experiment would not be decoded until the last gay man in the experiment was injected.

The men in the experiment who would receive the three (3) injections were from a segment of society that was the most hated and despised group in America.

When the young, healthy homosexual men lined up for their experimental injections, their faith and trust in the medical profession was implicit.

WITHIN A DECADE, MOST OF THE MEN IN THE EXPERIMENT WOULD BE DOOMED TO DIE OF AIDS.

In the United States, unexpected maladies from a mysterious new syndrome would be traced back to 1979.

SEPTEMBER 1979 - NEW YORK CITY

Rick Wellikoff was sent to Dr. Linda Laubenstein for blood-studies. Rick had a generalised rash that resisted treatment, and had enlarged lymph nodes all over his body.

A dermatologist told Dr. Laubenstein that Rick Wellikoff's rash was a skin cancer called Kaposi's sarcoma.

Rick Wellikoff was a New York schoolteacher and was gay.

Two weeks later, September 1979, Dr. Laubenstein received a call from a colleague at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in New York, about another case like Rick Wellikoff.

The man was 37 years old, homosexual, and in the strangest twist, the pair shared mutual friends.

Among their acquaintances of Rick Wellikoff and the man, was a dreamy flight attendant from Canada, Gaetan Dugas.

The first two gay men to be diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma in New York City had told Dr. Linda Laubenstein, in September 1979, "You should talk to Gaetan, because he's got this rash too."

Doctors in Manhattan first began to recognise cases of "gay" cancer in young homosexual men in Manhattan in 1979. As the number of cases mounted, the astute physicians were convinced they were seeing a new and fatal disease.

By 1979, government epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had finished a preliminary investigation of 4,000 young gay men, in preparation for additional experimental hepatitis B vaccine trials to be held in five (5) more American cities.

The names and addresses of the gays were garnered from government Venereal Disease (VD) clinics, which functioned as health care facilities for homosexuals.

Blood specimens were taken and answers to detailed questionnaires on homosexuality were required from the men under surveillance.

This large epidemiological study was undertaken at the following Venereal Disease (VD) clinics:

- The Howard Brown Memorial Clinic in Chicago
- The Gay Community Services Center in Los Angeles
- The San Francisco City Clinic
- The Denver Metro Health Clinic
- The St. Louis Sexually Transmitted Disease Center

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study ended in July 1979. Over 60% of the men had blood "markers" for hepatitis. San Francisco men had the highest blood marker rate (75%); St. Louis the lowest (50%).

These preliminary hepatitis B studies paved the way for the second series of experimental vaccine trials in five (5) more American cities.

The SECOND hepatitis B study group included 1,402 gay men recruited from gay VD clinics in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, St. Louis and Chicago.

The group was similar to the New York City group in that the average age was 29. The men were healthy, and most were white (89%), and well educated.

The five (5) city hepatitis B experiments were supervised by a group of physicians headed by Donald Francis, an epidemiologist from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

1980

OCTOBER 1, 1980 - DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Michael Maletta, hair stylist was admitted.

October 1980, Michael Maletta had been sick all year with malaise, FUO - fever unknown.

OCTOBER 31, 1980 - NEW YORK CITY

Enno Poersche took his lover Nick to the hospital for collapsing and threw up clear, yellowish liquid. Nick had suffered mysterious diarrhoea, vague fatigue and stubborn rashes.

NOVEMBER 1, 1980

Dr. Michael Lange of St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, found three massive lesions on Nick's brain during a CAT scan and high fevers.

The experimental vaccine trials in these five American cities began in March, 1980 (approximately 1.5 years after the New York City trials ended.) The trials continued until October 1981.

The first diagnosed case of AIDS in a gay man from San Francisco, California appeared in the fall of 1980.

Within six (6) months, the AIDS epidemic became "official".

Physicians could not understand why a mysterious infectious agent was killing young, previously healthy homosexual men.

The cause of the new disease was unknown, but many scientists were privately calling it the "gay plague."

The telltale signs of the gay plague were unmistakable. The most visible sign was the purple-red, cancerous skin tumours of Kaposi's sarcoma that grew and multiplied at an alarming rate on the bodies of the young gay men.

It was quickly discovered that the dying gay men were markedly immunodeficient. For some unknown reason, their immune systems were being targeted for destruction.

As a result, the men became highly susceptible to opportunistic infections.

The most common and serious opportunistic infection was a parasitic disease, which caused a frequently fatal pneumonia, known as *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia.

For some men, a dry cough and increasing shortness of breath could mean death from pneumocystis pneumonia within a few days.

NOVEMBER 1980 - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

A young man was suffering from a yeast infection in his throat that was so severe, he could hardly breathe.

NOVEMBER 2, 1980

The patient, an artist complained of shortness of breath. He developed a slight cough. Dr. Gottlieb found the guy had Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia.

NOVEMBER 25, 1980 - SAN FRANCISCO

Ken Horne, 37, a dancer and artist, appeared "wasted" to his friends when they saw him at the Folsom Prison leather bar. His hair had gone grey and his eyes looked "glazed."

Ken Horne was depressed when he walked into San Francisco's largest medical office building on the morning of November 25, 1980. He would be someone that people would write about.

Ken Horne told Dr. James Groundwater for two years, he had been feeling tired (1978) and a little sick to his stomach, there was also this diarrhoea off and on since 1978. It was horrible. Then last month, October 1980, Ken stated, then came some funny bumps.

Dr Groundwater examined the bluish-purple spots. One was on Ken's left thigh, the other was near his right nipple.

THANKSGIVING DAY - NOVEMBER 27, 1980, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Gaetan Dugas examined himself in the mirror, noticed a few more spots on his face. He still felt fine. The doctors told him there was no treatment.

DECEMBER 5, 1980 - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Ken Horne was scared as Dr. Groundwater noted two new purple spots on his chest. Ken's white blood cells were wrong.

Ken Horne repeated his complaints of nausea, fatigue, and diarrhoea. More blood tests were given. There is an answer. There always is.

DECEMBER 9, 1980 - LOS ANGELES

Dr. Joel Weisman examined a 30 year old advertising manager. The guy was sick.

The guy had painful eczema, persistent diarrhoea, and endless fevers. He had been sick for six weeks. Patient had problems secondary to immune deficiency.

Dr. Weisman recalled, in October 1980, another young gay man, had disarray in his immune system. White fungi grew around the man's fingernails, fluffy candidiasis was sprouting all over his palate, and he too was suffering from rashes, prolonged fevers, swollen lymph glands, and low white blood count.

It was the end of 1980. In the United States, 55 young men had been diagnosed with some infection linked to the new virus by the end of 1980. 10 others had been diagnosed in Europe.

DECEMBER 23, 1980 - NEW YORK HOSPITAL - NEW YORK CITY

Rick Wellikoff deteriorated rapidly. His lungs were filling up with something. His friend, Paul Popham took him home.

DECEMBER 23, 1980

Rick Wellikoff, the 37 year old, 5th grade teacher passed away in a flat on West 78th Street, becoming the 4th American to die of what would later be called Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER - NEW YORK CITY

Dr. Donna Mildvan noted two weeks later, a Beth Israel nurse appeared in the emergency room suffering from Pneumocystis. Within 10 days, he was dead.

An autopsy of the gay nurse, revealed widespread infection with cytomegalovirus. Dr. Mildvan had 10 other patients, all gay men, who were suffering from a strange enlargement of their lymph nodes. Something was wrong.

The western Vaccine trials began in March 1980, in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Seven (7) months later, the 1st cases of AIDS were discovered in those cities.

1981

In 1981, Kaposi's sarcoma became widely known as "gay cancer", because it was often found in homosexual men with AIDS.

The distinctive, purple-red tumours of Kaposi's sarcoma quickly became one of the major signs of this new and deadly disease, which had a strange affinity for young white gay men.

Kaposi's sarcoma was a century-old form of cancer, which was discovered in 1872 in Vienna, Austria by dermatologist, Moriz Kaposi.

By 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defined AIDS as primarily a gay disease manifested by Kaposi's sarcoma, Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, or both.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report in August 1981, contained the following data on the first 26 cases:

- All the cases were gay men
- 20 were from New York City
- 6 were from Los Angeles and San Francisco
- 25 were white; 1 was black
- The average age was 39
- Most were all educated

A new epidemic was born in the gay ghettos of Greenwich Village, West Hollywood, and in the homosexual districts of San Francisco. The mysterious disease was an unprecedented phenomenon for scientists.

The experts declared that the cause of the epidemic was the promiscuous homosexual lifestyle - an immoral and unhealthy lifestyle characterised by the use and abuse of recreational drugs and anal sex.

Was the AIDS virus introduced into gays with the hepatitis B experimental vaccine? There did seem to be circumstantial evidence to suggest this possibility.

The epidemiological profile of the gay men was basically identical to the profile of the first AIDS cases that were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The New York City Blood Center profile of the hepatitis B volunteers consisted of the following:

- All the men were gay or bisexual
- All were young and previously healthy
- All were promiscuous
- Most were well educated
- Almost all were white

Was this just another epidemiological coincidence? Or was there a tie-in between the hepatitis injections and the outbreak of the "gay plague" in those three large cities?

Through AIDS antibody blood testing of pre-1978 stored blood, the scientists proved that THE NEW AIDS VIRUS DID NOT EXIST IN AMERICA BEFORE 1978.

There was complete agreement that the AIDS virus had been "introduced" into the United States through the male homosexual population in Manhattan sometime around the years 1978-1979. The negative testing of old (pre-1978) blood for AIDS virus antibodies had supplied that proof.

Early in the epidemic, scientists were unable to explain how the AIDS virus was "introduced" into large numbers of gay men residing primarily in three (3) American cities (New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles).

There was no absolute proof that the hepatitis B vaccine trials were the key to the origin of AIDS in American gays, but there were so many clues and coincidences, and such obvious connections between the cancer researchers and AIDS.

Most of the scientific knowledge that had accumulated on the "spread" of AIDS in America has come from the continuing surveillance and blood testing of large groups of gay and bisexual men, dating back to the original hepatitis B vaccine trials during the years 1978-1981.

Was it coincidental that those were the beginning years of the AIDS epidemic, and the years just before AIDS became "official?"

Some theorise that the AIDS virus was "put into" the gay community, most probably during the vaccine trials.

Was it just another "coincidence" that the New York Blood Center in Manhattan was located at the epicentre of the "new" epidemic. And still another "coincidence" that the plague in gays started in Manhattan shortly after the experimental trials at the Blood

Center? And a "coincidence" that the gay hepatitis cohorts became the "model" for the spread of the AIDS epidemic in America?

JANUARY 15, 1981 - ST. LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL - NEW YORK CITY

"Nick", lover of Enno Poersche died of AIDS.

FEBRUARY 1, 1981 - NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Dr. Linda Laubenstein recognised Paul Popham as a friend of Rick Wellikoff, the school teacher who had died last December, 1979, after contracting the rare skin cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma. Paul Popham was at NYU being treated again for psoriasis, Now there were six (6) cases of that cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, she mentioned to Paul. All of them were gay.

FEBRUARY 1, 1981 - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES

A patient of Dr. Michael Gottlieb explained to him that the fungus on the fingers, the diarrhoea and herpes had been around for a long time. He had running fevers at 104 degrees for three months now and had dropped 30 pounds. The shortness of breath was something new.

ST. LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL - NEW YORK

A bodyguard to President for Life, Jean Claude Duvalier was ravaged, suffering from severe candidiasis, tuberculosis, and his immune system was shot.

MARCH 30, 1981 - ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL - SAN FRANCISCO

Ken Horne, was suffering from unrelenting fevers for weeks, increasingly severe headaches, pounding pain. New lesions appeared on his face and palate in February, in early March they began covering his lower back.

APRIL 9, 1981

The first diagnosis of Kaposi's sarcoma in San Francisco arrived in Dr. Jim Groundwater's office on April 9, 1981. Ken Horne's lesions were "consistent" with the disease. Something else was ailing Ken Horne.

APRIL 4, 1981 - CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL - ATLANTA

Sandra Ford, in the last eight weeks, had filled five orders for adult male patients with unexplained Pneumocystis. All but one of them lived in New York.

The 4th Pneumocystis carinii patient at UCLA appeared in April, a black man, age 36, suffering from swollen lymph nodes, fevers, weight loss, and a wicked case of candidiasis. He had dramatic elevated levels of cytomegalovirus in his blood.

"There's something going on with Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia and CMV in homosexual men. Can you look into it?" - Dr. Michael Gottlieb, April 1981.

APRIL 17, 1981 - SAN FRANCISCO

Cleve Jones' current boyfriend, Frank, a lawyer from Long Beach, California wasn't feeling well this day, Cleve would later recall after having sex and lunch.

In 1978, there were already 4 percent infected. When doctors went back retroactively and tested the bloods of the hepatitis B vaccine trials, 4 percent of them were already HIV-positive.

Two weeks ago, Ken Horne was diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma by Dr. Groundwater in San Francisco. Now Dr. Alvin Friedman-Kien had a case of Kaposi's sarcoma in a gay man over at St. Francis Hospital, New York.

MAY 17, 1981 - WEST LOS ANGELES

Dr. Wayne Shandera publishes the MMWR (Moribidity and Mortality Weekly Report) entitled simply, "Pneumocystis pneumonia in homosexual men - Los Angeles."

The report noted links between PCP, CMV, and oral candidiasis that commonly preceded the pneumonia, the fact that these patients were all homosexuals suggests an association between some aspect of homosexual lifestyle or disease acquired through sexual contact and Pneumocystis pneumonia in this population.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1981

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Morbidity and Morality Weekly Report (MMWR) published what would be the first report on the epidemic, based on the Los Angeles cases of Pneumocystis that Dr. Michael Gottlieb and Dr. Joel Weisman had seen in the previous months.

Whatever was happening to the Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) cases in Los Angeles, was somehow related to these Kaposi's sarcoma patients in New York.

JUNE 8, 1981

In response to these reports, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) establishes the Task Force on Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections to identify risk factors and to develop a case definition for the as-yet-unnamed syndrome so that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) can begin national surveillance of new cases.

JUNE 12, 1981 - CLAUDE-BERNARD HOSPITAL, PARIS

A gay man arrived at Dr. Willy Rosenbaum's examining room, complaining of severe weight loss and a shortness of breath. He was diagnosed with Pneumocystis.

That same afternoon, a copy of the MMWR arrived, describing the pneumonia outbreak in Los Angeles. This was related to the man he had seen this morning in his office.

JULY 1, 1981 - SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL

Dr. Paul Volberding's patient, a 22 year-old from the South, an attendant in a San Francisco bathhouse, was admitted to the hospital a few days ago, with diarrhoea and weight loss; the Kaposi's sarcoma diagnosis had been confirmed.

JULY 4, 1981

The common symptoms of the Kaposi's sarcoma patients, 20 of whom lived in New York City, and 6 in California. 4 of the Kaposi's sarcoma patients had suffered a bout with Pneumocystis; others had suffered from severe herpes, candidiasis, cryptococcal meningitis, and toxoplasmosis. 10 new cases of PCP among gay men, 6 in the San Francisco Bay Area.

JULY 4, 1981

Jack Nau, was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village with strange pains and numbness in his legs. The doctors diagnosed Jack's disease as a rare kind of lymph cancer.

Paul Popham was Jack Nau's former lover. Paul sensed a connection with Jack's rare cancer and the skin cancer that killed his best friend Rick Wellikoff, six (6) months ago. Rick and Nick and Jack was the third guy from the Fire Island house party in 1979.

JULY 5, 1981 - NEW YORK UNIVERSITY - NEW YORK CITY

Paul Popham, former lover of Jack Nau, saw Gaetan Dugas walking down Christopher Street. Paul couldn't blame Jack Nau for picking up Gaetan Dugas last Halloween (1980). The pair had also spent a few weekends together after that.

Gaetan Dugas moved back to Montreal when he finished his chemotherapy. He returned to NYU once a month for more treatments. He travelled between San Francisco, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Toronto and New York, and hit the bathhouses.

Gaetan Dugas realised if he kept to the bathhouses where the lights were turned down low, nobody would ask him about those embarrassing purple spots.

JULY 17, 1981 - NEW YORK CITY

Mary Guinan had walked in on one of her interview subjects as he was stepping out of the shower in his room in the ambulatory care apartments at New York University. He had been quite sexually active, a French-Canadian airline steward, who had 250 sexual contacts a year, his name was GAETAN DUGAS.

The typical Kaposi's sarcoma and Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia patients had hundreds of partners, most drawing their contacts from gay bathhouses and sex clubs.

In the four weeks after the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on Kaposi's sarcoma, 67 more cases of either the cancer or pneumonia were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Now there were 108 cases nationwide. Of these, 43 were dead.

Of the 82 cases for which a date diagnosis was known, 20 became sick in 1980, while 55 were stricken just in the first seven months of 1981.

AUGUST 1981 - SAN FRANCISCO

About 3,000 gay men a week streamed to the gargantuan bathhouse at Eighth and Howard Streets, the Club Baths, which could serve up to 800 customers at any given time.

AUGUST 1981 - SAN FRANCISCO

Gary Walsh and friend Joe, planned a weekend trip to the gay resort area on the Russian River. Joe wasn't surprised when Gary later canceled, complaining of a yeast infection in his mouth. Gary always seemed to be getting something.

AUGUST 7, 1981 - SAN FRANCISCO

By early August, there are 18 cases of gay men suffering from the baffling immune deficiency in the San Francisco Bay Area; two (2) had died.

AUGUST 11, 1981 - NEW YORK CITY

Acclaimed writer and film producer Larry Kramer holds a meeting of over 80 gay men in his New York City apartment to discuss the burgeoning epidemic. Larry Kramer invites Dr. Friedman-Kien to speak, and he asks the group to contribute money to support his research, because he has no access to rapid funding.

AUGUST 28, 1981

The latest Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) article, "Follow-Up on Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystis Pneumonia," reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received information on 70 additional cases of KS and/or PCP since the July 3 edition. Of the 108 cases reported to date, 107 are male, 94% of those whose sexual orientation is known are gay/bisexual, and 40% of all patients have already died.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1981 - LABOR DAY, FIRE ISLAND, NEW YORK

Days after Labor Day, Jack Nau died at St. Vincent's Hospital.

OCTOBER 1981 - SIMON GUZMAN - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - SAN FRANCISCO

Simon Guzman, a young Mexican, had the lesions of Kaposi's sarcoma, unrelenting diarrhoea and herpes destroying his body.

Dr. Friedman-Kein and others begin their study of clinical course of KS in gay men.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL - SAN FRANCISCO

Ken Horne had debilitating bouts with Pneumocystis, cryptococcal meningitis, and widespread cytomegaloviral infections. His once toned, dancer's body had shrunk to 112 pounds, and his fevers ran at 102 degrees. He was blind now from CM herpes infections that wasted his nervous system.

NOVEMBER 30, 1981

George Kenneth Horne, Jr., gasped one last tortured breath and lapsed on the perfect darkness.

Ken Horne's primary cause of death was listed as cryptococcal pneumonia, a consequence of his Kaposi's sarcoma and Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. The KS lesions covered his skin, his lungs, bronchi, spleen, bladder, lymph nodes, mouth and adrenal glands.

DECEMBER 10, 1981

New England Journal of Medicine article links immune deficiency to T4 helper cell/T8 suppressor cell ratio.

DECEMBER 10, 1981

"I'm Bobbi Campbell and I have gay cancer." Bobbi Campbell became the first Kaposi's sarcoma patient to go public with his plight in San Francisco.

Bobbi, a Tacoma native, once in late September, after a day of hiking at Big Sur, noticed some purple spots on his feet. He thought they were blood blisters and didn't pay much attention to it. Dr. Marc Conant confirmed Bobbi had Kaposi's sarcoma.

DECEMBER 1981

First clinical descriptions of immunosuppression in IV drug users.

DECEMBER 1981

By year's end, there is a cumulative total of 337 reported cases of individuals with severe immune deficiency in the United States -- 321 adults/adolescents and 16 children under age 13. Of those cases, 130 are already dead by December 31.

1982

First case of immune deficiency linked to blood products is reported in a haemophiliac.

Dr. Luc Montagnier hunted for a virus in the new gay disease in the autumn of 1982. He began testing batches of human plasma for "reverse transcriptase activity", a biochemical presence of a retrovirus. Dr. Montagnier's research eventually led to the first discovery of the AIDS virus at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Early 1982 Syndrome is named gay-related immunodeficiency disease -- GRID.

JANUARY 1982

First case of immune deficiency linked to blood products is reported in a haemophiliac.

JANUARY 1982

San Francisco health department makes first request for tax funds to support AIDS prevention and community services; Board of Supervisors appropriates \$180,000 for AIDS programs.

JANUARY 4, 1982 - NEW YORK CITY

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the first community-based AIDS service provider in the United States, is founded in New York City. In May, volunteer Rodger McFarlane sets up a GMHC information and counselling hotline on his home phone -- he receives 100 phone calls from worried gay men the first night.

JANUARY 14, 1982 - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - SAN FRANCISCO

Simon Guzman's body was barely more than a skeleton with sallow, lesion-covered skin sagging loosely and tubes coursing in every conceivable orifice and vein. He had horrible diarrhoea that wouldn't stop.

FEBRUARY 1982

In late February, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 261 American's had contracted GRID across the country; 99 had died.

MARCH 1982

Of the first 19 cases of GRID in Los Angeles, 4 had had sex with Gaetan Dugas. Another 4 cases, meanwhile, had gone to bed with people who had sex with Gaetan Dugas, establishing sexual links between 9 of the 19 Los Angeles cases.

MARCH 1982

The links bore out Don Francis' fears about the virus having a long latency period. The Orange County man Darrow and Auerbach had interviewed did not show symptoms until

August 1981, some 10 months after Gaetan spent the weekend with him on Thanksgiving 1980.

MARCH 1982

Another Los Angeles man found his first Kaposi's sarcoma lesions 13 months after he had slept with the French-Canadian during a trip Gaetan made to Southern California in February 1980.

MARCH 19, 1982

On March 19, 1982, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 285 cases of GRID in 17 states. Half the cases were diagnosed in New York City and about a quarter of the cases lived in California. 5 other nations, all in Europe, also reported cases of the diseases.

MARCH 1982

A typical GRID case had sex with 1,100 men in his lifetime; a few counted as many as 20,000 sexual contacts. The study nixed the notion of poppers or any environmental factor was behind GRID.

MARCH 25, 1982 - SAN FRANCISCO

After his last heart attack, Simon P. Guzman's body struggled three painful minutes before surrendering to the inevitable shortly after 11:00 a.m. He was the 11th to die in the GRID epidemic in San Francisco. His death certificate marked the first time that cryptosporidiosis, a disease of sheep, was listed as a cause of death for a human being.

APRIL 1982

Dr. Marcus Conant was amazed that airline steward had been diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma for almost 2 years already. He still looked healthy. Dr Conant mentioned that Gaetan should probably stop having sex. It's probably some virus. Gaetan replied, "Somebody gave this thing to me. I'm not going to give up sex."

APRIL 2, 1982

This epidemic had struck 300 Americans and killed 119. In the past 2 weeks, cases had been detected in 2 more states and 2 more European nations, indicating that the epidemic had now spread across 19 states and 7 countries.

Of the 300 cases in the United States, 242 were gay or bisexual men, 30 were heterosexual men, 10 were heterosexual women, and 18 were men of unknown sexual orientation. By now, somebody was dying almost every day in America from an epidemic that still did not have a name.

APRIL 1982 - FIRE ISLAND, NEW YORK

Bill Darrow had 73 names from Gaetan Dugas' address book of sexual contacts. That led Darrow to stories about Jack Nau and Paul Popham and the house on Ocean Walk at Fire Island, where so many of New York City's first GRID victims seemed to have lived.

There was a second house on Fire Island with a similar concentration of dead and dying, Darrow learned; it was also the home of Paul Popham's former lover, the place where Paul had lived the summer before he moved in with Nick, Enno Poersch, and Rick Wellikoff.

The connections between Gaetan and both Michael Maletta, who was one of the first Kaposi's sarcoma patients in San Francisco, and Nick, one of the nation's first toxoplasmosis victims, were tantalising.

APRIL 1982 - DAVIES MEDICAL CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO

Michael Maletta, it turns out, Nick, Enno and Michael had all run with the same crowd back in the 70s, 1978-1979. In fact, a whole cluster of the nation's earliest cases appeared to have lived within doors of each other, south of Washing Square in the West Village. They partied together, dined together, and, friends intimated, slept together. There was only one summer during which all the early GRID cases had been in New York at one time before they split up and went their separate ways. Nobody knew which summer that was.

MARCH 1982 - LOS ANGELES

Michael Maletta said there was a photographer that also ran with all of them. Bill Darrow tracked him down in Los Angeles. The photographer remembered all the boats were in the harbour, The Bicentennial, July 4, 1976.

Bill Darrow opined. Nothing happened before 1976, but people had started getting sick in 1978 and 1979. The disease could lie dormant for a long time. People were spreading it all over in 1977 and 1978, which accounted for so many cases spontaneously appearing in so many different regions of the country.

APRIL 1982

By the time Bill Darrow's research was done, he had established sexual links between 40 patients in 10 cities. At the centre of the cluster diagram was GAETAN DUGAS, marked on the charts as Patient Zero.

Gaetan Dugas' role was remarkable. At least 40 of the first 248 gay men diagnosed with GRID in the United States, as of April 12, 1982, either had sex with Gaetan Dugas or had had sex with someone who had.

Before one of Gaetan's Los Angeles boyfriends came down with Pneumocystis, for example, he had had sex with another Angelino who came down with Kaposi's sarcoma and with a Florida man who contracted both Kaposi's sarcoma and the pneumonia.

The Los Angeles contact, in turn, cavorted with two other Los Angeles men, who later came down with Kaposi's sarcoma, one of whom infected still another Southern California man, who was suffering from Kaposi's sarcoma. The Floridian, meanwhile, had sex with a Texan, who got Kaposi's sarcoma, as well as a second man, who got Pneumocystis, and two Georgia men, one of whom got Pneumocystis and another, who soon found the skin lesions of Kaposi's sarcoma. Before finding these lesions, however, the Georgian man had sex with a Pennsylvania man, who later came down with both Pneumocystis and Kaposi's sarcoma.

From just one tryst with Gaetan, therefore, 11 GRID cases could be connected. Altogether, Gaetan could be connected to 9 of the first 19 cases of GRID in Los Angeles, 22 in New York City, and 9 patients in 8 other North American cities.

MAY 4, 1982 - SAN FRANCISCO

Michael, a friend of Cleve Jones from New York City, told Cleve Jones, "A lot of people are sick. Everybody's getting it." Michael told Cleve about the New Year's Eve party he had attended to welcome 1980. "All the beautiful people had been there, and now a lot of those beautiful people were dead. Everybody at that party has gotten it except me."

"I think the government did it." said Michael. Cleve confided that he didn't know anybody who didn't think the government might not have done it.

MAY 18, 1982

By May 18, 1982, 355 biopsy-confirmed GRID cases had been counted in 22 states. Of these, 136 were dead. New York City accounted for 158 of the cases, or about half, while California was home to 71 cases, including 40 in San Francisco.

JUNE 1982 - MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER, NEW YORK CITY

Brandy Alexander, his once-handsome face was covered with thick scabs wrought by an uncontrolled herpes virus. Besides the Kaposi's sarcoma and herpes, the 38-year old had severe hepatitis and tuberculosis of the bone marrow.

JUNE 11, 1982 - CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL - ATLANTA

Sandra Ford told Dr. Bruce Evatt, an order for pentamidine had come in from Denver. The Pneumocystis victim, the doctors had said, was a haemophiliac.

JUNE 18, 1982

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes "A Cluster of Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystis carinii Pneumonia among Homosexual Male Residents of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, California" -- a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) that makes the first connection between a potential sexually transmitted agent and the outbreaks of Kaposi's sarcoma, Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), and other opportunistic infections among young gay men.

JUNE 14, 1982 - DENVER

Dr. Dale Lawrence knew just one or two documented haemophiliac GRID cases would severely shake the foundation of the blood banking industry. He knew there would be more GRID cases among haemophiliacs soon and blood transfusion cases would follow.

JUNE 18, 1982

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports cluster of PCP and KS cases in Los Angeles and Orange County, suggesting infectious agent is the cause of AIDS.

JUNE 18, 1982 - VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Gaetan Dugas confided to a friend he was the "Orange County Connection", because of his role in linking the New York, Los Angeles and Orange County cases of GRID. Rumours around Castro spread that a strange guy at the Eighth and Howard Bathhouse, a blond with a French accent would turn the lights on after sex, point to his KS lesions and say "I have gay cancer. I'm going to die and so are you."

JUNE 26, 1982

UCSF Nursing Services sponsors the conference, Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystis Pneumonia: New Phenomena among Gay Men.

JUNE 27, 1982

A gay activist group in San Francisco publishes the first pamphlet on "safer sex" and distributes 16,000 copies at the International Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade.

JULY 1982

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Haemophilia Foundation representatives meet to plan a risk evaluation of blood products for haemophiliacs.

JULY 6, 1982 - SAN FRANCISCO

Cleve Jones' boyfriend, Felix Velarde Munoz, a Chicano lawyer, admitted it to no one, not even to Cleve Jones, the yeast infections in his mouth, the fatigue, and those night sweats, the doctor warned, might all be part of this new GRID syndrome. Felix kept the news to himself.

JULY 13, 1982 - MT. SINAI HOSPITAL - NEW YORK CITY

The first international symposium on AIDS, at Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York, sponsored by Mt. Sinai and New York University schools of medicine.

This so called gay cancer was all over the Haitian refugee communities in their cities. There were 34 Haitian cases of opportunistic infections like those striking gay men and intravenous drug users. Most Haitians suffered from Pneumocystis or toxoplasmosis, but few got any Kaposi's sarcoma lesions like the gay men in the United States.

JULY 1982

As of July 15, 1982, 471 cases of GRID had been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of whom 184 had died. The victims now spanned 24 states; the pace of their diagnosis was quickening.

JULY 27, 1982

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) adopts "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome - AIDS" as the official name of the new disease.

JULY 1982

The epidemic of immune suppression had spread into 11 European nations, including Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, West Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Great Britain, and of course, France.

JULY 21, 1982

KS Foundation operates a hotline for advice and referrals regarding AIDS, KS and opportunistic infections.

AUGUST 1982

In the last two weeks of August, two more states reported their first AIDS cases. The epidemic now had swept into 26 states and a dozen nations.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1982

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes the first official definition of AIDS: a disease due to defect in cell-mediated immunity occurring in people with no known cause for immune deficiency.

OCTOBER 5, 1982

634 Americans had been stricken with AIDS by October 5, 1982. Of those, 260 were dead. There was no rush to spend money, mobilise public health officials, or issue regulations that might save lives.

OCTOBER 29, 1982

UCSF Departments of Medicine and Dermatology and Cancer Research Institute sponsor a program in medical education, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome and Kaposi's Sarcoma. Almost 200 physicians and scientists attend.

OCTOBER 28, 1982

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 691 Americans were documented as contracting AIDS in the United States, of whom 278 were dead. Nearly one in five of the cases had been reported in September or October.

The epidemic had swept into four more states in those past two months, with the reports of the first cases in Alabama, Kentucky, Vermont, and Washington. Altogether, 52 cases had been reported in 15 foreign nations largely in Western Europe.

OCTOBER 30, 1982

Michael Gorman, Epidemiologist stated that tracking cases, "In a central part of the city, one (1%) of gay men have been diagnosed with AIDS. THE CASTRO STREET DISTRICT. 1% of the men were diagnosed and nobody had told them.

CASTRO STREET FAIR, 1982

This video was filmed on AUGUST 15, 1982. Imagine 1% of the men here were diagnosed with AIDS already.

OCTOBER 30, 1982

Bill Kraus started checking around and was surprised that the consensus of gay leaders was to withhold the information about the 1%. "It could destroy the Castro."

NOVEMBER 1982 - CLUB BATHS - SAN FRANCISCO

Gaetan Dugas was living in San Francisco. He outlived all the doctors' predictions and felt quite nice, 2.5 years after he was told that the small purplish spot near his ear was Kaposi's sarcoma.

NOVEMBER 1982

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) suggests that hospital staffs caring for AIDS patients use hepatitis B precautionary measures.

NOVEMBER 1982

Selma Dritz told Gaetan Dugas he must stop going to the bathhouses. People were complaining of a man with a French accent who was having sex with people at various sex parlours and then calmly telling them he had gay cancer.

NOVEMBER 1982

Altogether, 788 AIDS cases in 33 states had been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since the epidemic was first detected in June 1981. About 400 of these cases were in the New York City area, accounting for half of the AIDS diagnosis in the country. 10% more were in San Francisco, the second hardest-hit city.

DECEMBER 4, 1982

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presents the Blood Products Advisory Committee with evidence of AIDS transmission through blood supply; no official action was taken.

DECEMBER 10, 1982

Ammann, Cowan, Wara and others report the first case of possible transfusion AIDS, in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

DECEMBER 12, 1982

Later studies indicated that at least 20% of San Francisco's gay men were probably infected with the AIDS virus before the end of 1982. **THIS VIDEO.**

The most recently infected in 1982 would constitute the swelling caseloads and mortality statistics of 1986 and 1987. Such numbers meant that, by 1983, it would be very difficult to be at the receptive end of semen deposition and not get this virus.

DECEMBER 17, 1982

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) reports four cases of unexplained immune deficiency in infants.

DECEMBER 17, 1982

AIDS was a gay disease in the popular imagination, no matter who else got it. It would be viewed as much as a gay phenomenon as a medical phenomenon, even by gays themselves.

DECEMBER 29, 1982

The basic mortality statistics were startling. Of the handful of cases diagnosed in 1979, 85% were dead, about the same level of mortality as for cases reported in 1980. For cases reported in 1981, 60% already were dead, 1 in 4 patients diagnosed between January and June of 1982 had died.

1983

JANUARY 1, 1983

First outpatient clinic dedicated to AIDS (Ward 86) opens at San Francisco General Hospital.

JANUARY 4, 1983

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) national conference to determine blood bank policy regarding blood screening for AIDS. There is no consensus.

JANUARY 4, 1983

Don Francis pounded the table with his fist. "How many people have to die? How many deaths do you need? Give us a threshold of death that you need in order to believe that this is happening, and we'll meet at that time and we can start doing something."

JANUARY 7, 1983

Dr. Luc Montagnier and others find traces of reverse transcriptase in lymphadenopathy cell cultures.

JANUARY 7, 1983

San Francisco's Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (IMBB) adds medical history questions designed to screen out donors from high-risk groups.

JANUARY 14, 1983

National Haemophilia Foundation asks blood and plasma collectors to screen out high-risk donors.

JANUARY 19, 1983

Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (IMBB) adds more questions about the medical history of potential donors.

JANUARY 24, 1983 - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - SAN FRANCISCO

Gary Walsh was told by Dr. Marcus Conant the three small spots on his right calf and his left knee were new. Gary Walsh had Kaposi's sarcoma.

JANUARY 25, 1983

The confirmation of Kaposi's sarcoma made Gary Walsh the 132nd San Franciscan diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

FEBRUARY 1, 1983

The number of AIDS cases in the United States exceeded 1,000. The 19 month old epidemic had stricken 1,025 nationally, 501 in New York City, and 221 in California. At least 394 Americans were now dead from the syndrome. More than 100 had died in the past 8 weeks.

FEBRUARY 1, 1983

At Cold Spring Harbour Workshop on AIDS, Dr. Robert Gallo suggests that a retrovirus probably causes AIDS and presumes a variant of HTLV-I or HTLV-II.

FEBRUARY 3, 1983

Physicians from UCSF KS Study Group urge Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (IMBB) to use hepatitis B core antibody test to screen out blood donors with AIDS.

FEBRUARY 7, 1983

Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (IMBB) launches a confidential questionnaire designed to detect potential blood donors with AIDS. Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights urges potential donors to refrain from donating if they have AIDS symptoms.

MARCH 4, 1983

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) first refers to "high risk" groups: gays with multiple sex partners, intravenous drug users, Haitians, and haemophiliacs.

MARCH 7, 1983 - NEW YORK

"1,112 and Counting" is an essay that was written by novelist Larry Kramer in 1983. It was published in the New York Native. The essay begins with the HIV death toll at the time.

MARCH 7, 1983

Many homosexuals did not like the essay, because the essay blamed them for the widespread of the disease.

MARCH 7, 1983 - NEW YORK

At the end of the story, Larry Kramer listed friends who had died, people like Nick Rock, Rick Wellikoff, Jack Nau, Shelly, Donald Krintzman, Jerry Green, Michael Maletta, Paul Graham, oby, Harry Blumenthal, Stephen Sperry, Brian O'Hara, Barry David, Jeffrey Croland, David Jackson, Tony Rappa, Robert Christian, Ron Doud.

MARCH 12, 1983 - VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Paul Popham couldn't believe how good Gaetan Dugas looked, considering how long it was since he had been diagnosed.

Gaetan confided to Paul Popham he had suffered a bout of Pneumocystis and he had gone back to Quebec City for care.

MARCH 14, 1983

AIDS activist Larry Kramer publishes a blistering assessment of the impact of AIDS on the gay community in the New York Native. The essay, 1,121 and Counting, is a frantic plea for that 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 a cause for AIDS.

MARCH 25, 1983

Results from a sample of 600 gay men surveyed in mid-March as to their sexual behaviour were culled from questionnaires handed out in the early evening at gay bars and to men leaving gay bathhouses and sex clubs late at night.

Bathhouses and sex clubs clearly remained a major centre of gay sexual activity. 1 in 4 gay men went to bathhouses at least once a week, while 1 in 5 others went once a month.

The study showed that gay men knew what put them at risk for AIDS. The message had gotten out. 62% still engaged in high-risk sex at the same frequency - or more often than before they found out about AIDS.

MARCH 31, 1983 - CASTRO DISTRICT - SAN FRANCISCO

The report on the AIDS caseload as of the end of March found that 1 in 250 single men between the ages of 35-44 living in the Castro Street Neighbourhood had been diagnosed with AIDS.

MAY 2, 1983

Gary Walsh led the Candlelight Vigil "Fighting For Our Lives" down Market Street and down 11 blocks to City Hall. Television crews swarmed to record the dozen AIDS sufferers carrying the banner "Fighting For Our Lives."

JUNE 20, 1983

AIDS had stricken 1,641 Americans, killing 644. New York City reported 45% of the cases, 10% resided in San Francisco and Los Angeles was home to 6%.

AUGUST 8, 1983

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 United States mainstream national magazine.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1983

In response to growing concerns about the potential for transmission of AIDS in healthcare settings, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes the first set of occupational exposure precautions for healthcare workers and allied health professionals.

DECEMBER 1983

Pasteur Institute applies for a United States patent on a diagnostic kit based on ELISA test for LAV antibodies.

1984

JANUARY 1984

American Red Cross, American Association of Blood Banks and Council of Community Blood Centers oppose a proposal to screen out high-risk groups from the blood donor pool.

1984

In the first five years of the AIDS epidemic, San Francisco had managed the best response to the AIDS epidemic in the United States and was the pride of the city and measured the shame of the nation.

1984

Statistics gathered by the health department revealed that 8% of the men at bathhouses had enlarged lymph nodes. This meant that 1 in 12 patrons probably were already in the early stages of AIDS infection.

1984

The pages of the New York Native were crowded with the obituaries of dancers and architects, priests and poets, university professors and civil engineers who had all died from AIDS. Still there remained little pressure from any frontal assault on the disease.

1984

Feinstein issues the first formal statement that Silverman should close the baths. Silverman responds that he will formulate guidelines banning sex activity in baths that spreads AIDS.

FEBRUARY 1984

Gaetan Dugas was in a Catholic hospital, scared. This was his third bout with Pneumocystis. He had wasted away to almost nothing and suffered from a perpetual fever.

FEBRUARY 21, 1984

Gary Francis Walsh died 997 days after the first Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) report on the mysterious cases of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia among Los Angeles gay men.

FEBRUARY 21, 1984

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported the number of people stricken by AIDS since that first report, some 3,515 Americans had been diagnosed with AIDS, of whom, 1,506 had died. The 39 year-old psychotherapist was the 164th San Franciscan to die in the epidemic.

MARCH 1984

The President of New York Blood Center continues to deny HIV transmission by blood.

MARCH 1984

Larry Littlejohn, gay activist, sponsors the San Francisco ballot initiative to close baths.

MARCH 30, 1984

Gaetan Dugas had survived his fourth bout of Pneumocystis and appeared to be on his way to recovery. Gaetan Dugas died. It had been nearly 4 years when Gaetan first had gone to see the doctor in Toronto about the purple spot near his ear.

APRIL 9, 1984

Silverman and state and San Francisco health officials outlaw sex in bathhouses, rather than close them.

APRIL 23, 1984

The United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler announces that Dr. Robert Gallo and his colleagues at the National Cancer Institute have found the cause of AIDS, a retrovirus they have labeled HTLV-III. Margaret Heckler also announces the development of a diagnostic blood test to identify HTLV-III and expresses hope that a vaccine against AIDS will be produced within two years.

APRIL 24, 1984

Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services, announces the discovery by Dr. Gallo and others of the AIDS virus, that an AIDS test will be available soon and that a vaccine will be available in 18-24 months. Dr. Gallo had not yet published his results.

MAY 1984

Rock Hudson is diagnosed with AIDS.

MAY 1984

Dr. Robert Gallo publishes four reports and Dr. Luc Montagnier one, in Science, linking AIDS with a new retrovirus, which Dr. Gallo calls HTLV-III and Dr. Montagnier calls LAV.

AUGUST 15, 1984

AIDS activist Bobbi Campbell dies of an AIDS-related illness, at age 32.

OCTOBER 10, 1984

San Francisco public health officials order bathhouses to be closed, due to high-risk sexual activity occurring in these venues.

1984

Paul Popham had enrolled in one of the first prospective studies of gay men. Blood drawn for the last three years had been ferreted away in the freezers of St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan.

1984

A few weeks before, Dr. Michael Lange told Paul Popham he had been infected with this new virus since the study began, probably longer. 50% of the men participating in the study were antibody positive and they were now the first gay men in the United States to be given this disquieting news that they were carrying the AIDS virus.

1984

John Reed Sims, a conductor for the Gay Freedom Day Parade and a former Kansas music teacher, died of brain infections, having spent the last weeks of his life blind and suffering from dementia.

NOVEMBER 1984

November 5, 1984, Ronald Reagan was reelected President. The AIDS epidemic never became an issue of importance during his campaign. Neither candidate, Walter Mondale, made any public pronouncement on the administration's "number-one health priority" and no one had publicly spoken the word AIDS or ever alluded to the fact that he was aware that an epidemic existed.

1985

APRIL 10, 1985

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) removes Haitians from the list of those at increased risk for AIDS.

JULY 25, 1985

Actor Rock Hudson, who played leading roles in over 60 Hollywood films, announces he has AIDS -- the first major United States public figure to do so. His acknowledgement marks a turning point in public perceptions about the epidemic and AIDS stories in the major print media more than triple in the next six months.

AUGUST 27, 1985

Ryan White, an Indiana teenager who contracted AIDS through contaminated blood products used to treat his haemophilia, is refused entry to his middle school. His family's protracted legal battles to protect Ryan's right to attend school call national attention to the issue of AIDS and Ryan chooses to speak out publicly on the need for AIDS education.

AUGUST 31, 1985

The Pentagon announces that, beginning October 1, it will begin testing all new military recruits for HIV infection and will reject those who test positive for the virus.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1985

President Ronald Reagan mentions AIDS publicly for the first time, calling it "a top priority" and defending his administration against criticisms that funding for AIDS research is inadequate.

OCTOBER 2, 1985

Rock Hudson dies of an AIDS-related illness at age 59. In his will, Rock Hudson leaves \$250,000 to help set up the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR). Actress Elizabeth Taylor serves as the organization's founding National Chairman.

OCTOBER 2, 1985

The United States Congress allocates nearly \$190 million for AIDS research -- an increase of \$70 million over the Reagan Administration's budget request. The House Appropriations Committee also urges President Reagan to appoint an "AIDS czar."

DECEMBER 4, 1985

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors enacts strict regulations on local bathhouses to stop the spread of HIV. Bathhouse owners file a suit to stop the regulations from going into effect, and, in August 1986, the court sides with the owners, saying that the venues offer opportunities to provide HIV/AIDS education.

DECEMBER 19, 1985

A Los Angeles Times poll finds that a majority of Americans favour quarantining people who have AIDS. By year's end, the United Nations states that at least one HIV case has been reported from each region of the world.

1986

JANUARY 16, 1986

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more people were diagnosed with AIDS in 1985 than in all earlier years combined. The 1985 figures show an 89% increase in new AIDS cases compared with 1984. Of all AIDS cases to date, 51% of adults and 59% of children have died. The new report shows that, on average, AIDS patients die about 15 months after the disease is diagnosed. Public health experts predict twice as many new AIDS cases in 1986.

OCTOBER 1986

The United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) begins its AIDS Service Demonstration Grants program -- the agency's first AIDS-specific health initiative. In the program's first year, HRSA makes \$15.3 million available to four of the country's hardest-hit cities: New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Miami.

OCTOBER 22, 1986

The Surgeon General issues the Surgeon General's Report on AIDS. The report makes it clear that HIV cannot be spread casually and calls for: a nationwide education campaign (including early sex education in schools), increased use of condoms and voluntary HIV testing.

1986

AIDS has already arrived in every major city in the developed world. Between 500,000 and 1 million Americans were infected with the AIDS virus.

There were two clear phases to the disease in the United States: there was AIDS before Rock Hudson and AIDS after. The fact that a movie star's diagnosis could make such a

huge difference was itself a tribute to the power the news media exerted in the later portion of the 20th century.

There were other celebrity AIDS patients now. Choreographer, Michael Bennett, Perry Ellis clothing designer and Liberace, music entertainer to name a few.

1987

FEBRUARY 1987

In February, AIDS activist Cleve Jones creates the first panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, to honour his friend Marvin Feldman, who died on October 10, 1986 of an AIDS-related illness at age 33. The quilt panels are 3 feet wide by 6 feet long -- the size and shape of a typical grave plot.

FEBRUARY 4, 1987

Emmy-award winning pianist Liberace dies at his home in California at age 67. His doctor claims that Liberace died of a heart attack, caused by an underlying brain infection. But the county coroner orders an autopsy, which proves that the entertainer died of an AIDS-related illness. The case demonstrates the powerful stigma of AIDS and leads to a national discussion about the rights of people living with AIDS to privacy, both before and after death.

MARCH 12, 1987

AIDS activist Larry Kramer founds the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) in New York City. Larry Kramer's goal is to create a political direct-action group that will force governments, elected officials, public health agencies, the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, and religious institutions to act to protect those at risk of HIV and those who are sick with AIDS.

MARCH 19, 1987

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the first medication for AIDS -- AZT (zidovudine) an antiretroviral drug initially developed to treat cancer.

APRIL 29, 1987

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves a new, more specific test for HIV antibodies: the Western blot blood test kit.

OCTOBER 11, 1987

The AIDS Memorial Quilt goes on display for the first time on the National Mall in Washington DC. The display features 1,920 4x8 panels and draws half a million visitors.

NOVEMBER 1987

Journalist Randy Shilts' book about the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic "And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic" is published.

NOVEMBER 13, 1987

The American Medical Association declares that doctors have an ethical obligation to care for people with AIDS, as well as for those who have been infected with the virus, but show no symptoms.

1988

MARCH 3, 1988

Ryan White, the Indiana teenager who has become a national spokesperson for AIDS education, testifies about the stigma he has endured as a result of having AIDS, before the President's Commission on AIDS.

MAY 26, 1988

The United States Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, launches the United States' first coordinated HIV/AIDS education campaign by mailing 107 million copies of an 8-page booklet, Understanding AIDS, to all American households.

NOVEMBER 7, 1988

The New York City Health Department begins a pilot needle-exchange program to address the growing number of HIV infections among people who inject drugs (PWID). The program is opposed by many African American and Latinx leaders in the city, who see it as an abandonment PWID of colour.

NOVEMBER 28, 1988

Elizabeth Glaser, an HIV-positive mother of two HIV-positive children forms the Paediatric AIDS Foundation (later renamed the Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation). The Foundation funds cutting-edge research that leads to improved treatments for children living with HIV/AIDS and helps to establish protocols to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

DECEMBER 1, 1988

World AIDS Day is observed for the first time. The date is designated by the World Health Organisation and is supported by the United Nations. The theme for the observance is "Join the Worldwide Effort."

DECEMBER 16, 1988

Singer Sylvester James, Jr. dies of an AIDS-related illness at age 41. James is an openly gay African American entertainer, who uses only his first name and who is called "the embodiment of disco."

DECEMBER 20, 1988

Pioneering broadcast journalist Max Robinson dies of an AIDS-related illness at age 49. Robinson is the first black network news anchor in the United States and is a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists.

DECEMBER 27, 1988

Gay rights activist and writer Joseph Beam dies of an AIDS-related illness three days before his 34th birthday. He is best known for editing "In the Life", the first collection of writings by gay black men on the impact HIV/AIDS is having on their community. Today, "In the Life" is widely regarded as a literary and cultural milestone in gay literature.

1989

1989

The number of reported AIDS cases in the United States reaches 100,000.

Thanks for watching.

Video Running Time: 1:51:12

Video Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbYk-DBKPic&t=1251s>