



*Treatment Action Group is an independent AIDS research and policy think tank fighting for better treatment, a vaccine, and a cure for AIDS. TAG works to ensure that all people with HIV receive lifesaving treatment, care, and information.*

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TAG is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.  
E.I.N. 13-3624785

July 22, 2016

Dear Friend of TAG,

I am honored for the chance to introduce myself as TAG’s new senior health policy officer. Just a month into this role, I am already digging deep alongside an inspirational and dedicated team of activists working on treatment research, development, and access issues across HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis C virus (HCV). I feel humbled by the opportunity to support this storied organization, which continues to be at the forefront of science-based HIV/AIDS, TB, and HCV activism.

My activism began in the streets of Chicago, case-managing HIV-positive LGBTQ youth who were struggling not only with treatment adherence, but also with homelessness, unemployment, criminalization, and stigma. It became clear that the fight against HIV involved complex structural and systemic problems. Real change needed to happen—at the community, the policy, and the institutional levels. Inspired by the stories of selfless activists and organizations like TAG in the early AIDS movement, I decided to take a leap into community organizing and HIV policy work.

Even in the Midwest, it was hard not to feel TAG’s reach. From community mobilization efforts at AIDS 2012 to the groundbreaking unveiling of New York State’s ambitious plan to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2020, TAG’s work had extraordinary influence.

This past year, TB overtook HIV as the world’s number one infectious killer: nearly 1.4 million people died from TB globally. TB continues to be the leading cause of death among people living with HIV worldwide. Compounding these staggering problems are decades of lackluster advances in the diagnostic and treatment pipeline, which, especially with the rise of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), make these challenges especially daunting.

But, in the past few years, TAG has led relentless science-based advocacy on the TB front: from meticulously tracking and reporting on public and private investments in research and development (R&D), advocating for the inclusion and engagement of affected communities in clinical trials (while closing research and access gaps in pediatrics), to speeding access to promising treatments like bedaquiline and delamanid for those living with MDR-TB. In short, TAG has been widely expanding the range of TB activism, and your support helps us continue this important work.

I also joined TAG for personal reasons—this challenge hits my ancestral home of India very deeply as it contends with the highest global infection rates of TB, including MDR-TB. With my work here, I hope to contribute to the activism that first won us access to essential medicines and advanced the fight against HIV/AIDS. We can do the same in the fight against TB.

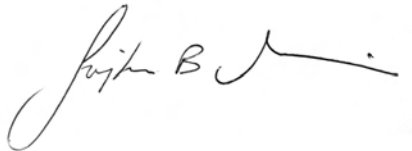
With efforts to expand New York's Ending the Epidemic plans across the United States, building a foundation for TB R&D advocacy, and fighting the extortionate costs of HCV cures, there's so much to be excited about with TAG and yet so much work ahead.

Your support enables us to strengthen and centralize community engagement in the development of universally accessible tests, treatments, and cures, and to enrich our commitment to ensuring health justice and human rights for all people living with or vulnerable to HIV, TB, and HCV.

Please contribute your activism to these groundbreaking efforts by making a generous donation to TAG today.

Thank you.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suraj Madoori". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Suraj Madoori  
Treatment Action Group

## PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT FOR BETTER TREATMENT, A VACCINE, AND A CURE FOR AIDS



The 2015 Research in Action Awards were celebrated on December 13. From left: Event co-chair Dick Dadey, honoree Dr. Jack Whitescarver, event co-chair Peter Staley, TAG's executive director Mark Harrington, honoree Chelsea Clinton, TAG board president Barbara Hughes, and honoree Jim Eigo.

Honorees Matt Bomer and Simon Halls.

July 22, 2016

### Dear Friends of TAG:

I'm very happy to share with you Treatment Action Group's 2015 Annual Report. As you will read, TAG has been making impressive progress on many fronts. The New York State Ending the Epidemic work is being adapted and adopted in other jurisdictions; we've updated our comprehensive list of HIV cure trials; the HIV/hepatitis C project continues to build momentum with a global coalition of activists to ensure treatment access, particularly in low- and middle-income countries; and our HIV/TB team's activism has resulted in broader access to two new TB drugs.

I hope you will take the time to read this report in detail, as you will see the progress being made in the fight against HIV and its most prevalent coinfections, HCV and TB.

Your support makes our work possible. We are grateful for your continuing generosity to TAG.

Despite the substantial progress made, there is so much to do on all fronts—basic science, research, policy, and advocacy—in the fight against HIV.

Please consider increasing your gift to TAG so that we can continue to relentlessly advocate for new treatments, access to prevention, and an end to the AIDS epidemic.

In solidarity,

Barbara Hughes  
President, Board of Directors

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### HIV Project

In addition to its longstanding engagement in research advocacy supporting the development of new antiretrovirals for people living with and vulnerable to HIV infection, TAG has remained committed to addressing the barriers to treatment and prevention, particularly in the United States. With some U.S. subpopulations still so disproportionately affected by HIV—CDC data released in February 2016 indicate that African American men who have sex with men face a one in two lifetime risk of HIV infection—and many cities and states struggling to get even half of their HIV-positive residents doing consistently well on antiretroviral treatment, TAG has focused on ending the epidemic throughout this country.

Forces that hinder the fight to end AIDS and sharply curtail HIV incidence are themselves epidemic. Chief among them are egregious treatment costs, with some medications being priced well beyond what the market can bear, and the instituting by many public and private insurers of cost-control measures, such as formulary restrictions, that are increasingly out of alignment with evidence-based recommendations. In close coordination with its community partners, TAG has become increasingly engaged in advocacy for fair drug pricing and unencumbered access to Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis and to treatments for HIV infection and its related complications.

TAG has made tremendous progress in developing an HIV prevention continuum that, like the HIV care continuum, aims to be a highly visual, accessible, and reproducible model galvanizing advocacy for funding and implementation of comprehensive, culturally competent prevention services. The initial model served as the basis of TAG's advocacy education initiative, launched in February 2015, which conducted four workshops in three regions and two well-attended webinars in the first year alone. A final model has been submitted for publication.

### U.S. and Global Health Policy

TAG continued its work to protect the budget and authority of the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and, with its allies, mounted an aggressive response to attacks on federal funding for HIV research. TAG advocated for spending to support critical opportunities in HIV vaccine and cure research and implementation science. And when Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) grossly misrepresented resource allocation for HIV research in a budget hearing with NIH Director Francis Collins, TAG wrote a vital correction to the public record that was sent to all committee members and circulated widely by other advocates.

TAG's legislative battles weren't just with AIDS research. In 2015, Congress introduced the 21st Century Cures Act, which threatened to undermine the regulatory authority of the Food and Drug Administration by relaxing the standards of research evidence for the approval of new drugs and diagnostics. TAG worked with a broad-based coalition of activists to challenge the bill, meeting with both members of Congress and the White House. Even though the bill passed the House, TAG's advocacy helped lead the Senate and White House to raise critical concerns about it. The legislation was ultimately broken up into separate bills, which TAG will continue to monitor.

TAG worked to ensure that both people living with HIV and the issues critical to black HIV activists would be included in the first-ever Movement for Black Lives conference, which took place in July 2015. TAG organized and presented on three different HIV-related panels there and was asked to join the community health working group of the Movement for Black Lives policy roundtable. TAG is now working to include HIV prevention and treatment recommendations in the national Black Lives Matter policy platform.

TAG remains active in implementing New York State's Blueprint to End the AIDS Epidemic and is working with public health officials and activists nationally to launch similar plans in other jurisdictions.

### Basic Science, Vaccines, and Cure (BSVC) Project

The pursuit of a cure for HIV infection has gained momentum and intense public attention over the past few years. TAG has remained at the forefront of education and advocacy to advance cure research.

TAG maintains a comprehensive set of resources on its website, including a widely cited, frequently updated listing of ongoing and completed clinical trials related to the cure research effort. TAG is a partner in the CUREiculum, a multiorganizational education project on HIV cure research; during 2015, BSVC Project Director Richard Jefferys presented a CUREiculum webinar on therapeutic vaccines and immune-based therapies and collaborated with scientist Nicolas Chomont on a webinar about basic science and translational research. Jefferys also gave a presentation on HIV cure research at the Women's Interagency HIV Study Community Advisory Board meeting in Bethesda.

TAG reported on cure research developments in its annual *Pipeline Report*, published in July 2015, and in articles for *TAGline* and posts to the BSVC blog and twitter feed. TAG's cure research media monitor webpage provided perspective

on misleading or overhyped news stories and has helped obtain corrections to several egregiously false claims in the mainstream press.

TAG organized and cosponsored a community workshop on cure research that took place this February in Boston, immediately ahead of the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. More than 40 activists, researchers, and regulators from around the globe attended, hearing presentations from leading researchers and discussing the issues currently facing the field.

Outside of the cure research realm, TAG collaborated with other activists on a renewed effort to accelerate the development of therapies for HIV-positive people who experience suboptimal immune reconstitution despite suppression of viral replication by antiretroviral therapy (immunologic nonresponders).

### Hepatitis/HIV Project

TAG has been working with allies across the globe to push for hepatitis C treatment access. Worldwide, 185 million people have been infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), and it continues to spread: each year, millions of people become infected, and 750,000 people die from it. In the United States, more people have been dying from HCV than AIDS for nearly a decade. Although HCV can be cured quickly and easily with miraculous new drugs, they are so outrageously priced that most people cannot get them.

TAG has coordinated a vibrant coalition of activists who are working to stop the HCV epidemic in low-, middle- and high-income countries. In early 2016, the Hepatitis/HIV project organized and ran Action for Access, an annual strategy meeting of leading global HCV treatment access advocates, and led the planning for a global action held at the International Liver Congress in Barcelona to protest the high prices of HCV medicines.

TAG has been working on domestic and global HCV treatment guidelines panels, the executive committee of the World Health Organization's (WHO's) innovative HBV/HCV testing competition, the WHO's Civil Society Task Force, and with local allies in New York City. TAG has also shared vital information on hepatitis C through its collaboration with Médecins du Monde on *mapCrowd*, an online crowdsourcing HCV data collection tool launched in 2016 (<http://mapcrowd.org>).

In 2015 and 2016, TAG continued to increase the visibility of HCV activism by publishing in peer-reviewed journals and being a go-to source for the media and a forceful presence

at the International AIDS Conference in Vancouver, the International Harm Reduction Conference in Kuala Lumpur, the International Symposium on Hepatitis C in Substance Users in Australia, the Harm Reduction Academy in Ukraine, the Eastern European/Central Asian Regional HIV Conference in Moscow, and the International Liver Congress in Barcelona.

### TB/HIV Project

TAG continued to lead international and domestic tuberculosis (TB) research advocacy, publishing the 2015 *Report on Tuberculosis Research Funding Trends*, a widely cited analysis of a decade of data on TB research funding trends, and working on a march at the 46th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Cape Town calling on governments to invest in TB research. TAG's submission, "A Rights-Based Approach to Increasing Innovation of and Access to Medicines to End Tuberculosis," was also selected for presentation this March at the hearing of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines.

TAG and its partners shaped multiple TB clinical trials to increase transparency and the safe inclusion of vulnerable populations; TAG also furthered advocacy for research to address pediatric TB through several peer-reviewed and advocacy publications.

The persistent advocacy of TAG and its partners—including a correspondence in *Lancet Infectious Diseases*—resulted in broader access to the new TB drugs bedaquiline and delamanid, though much work remains. TAG pushed for better global guidelines for MDR-TB treatment that include children and worked with partners around the world to call for local access to the best evidence-based prevention, treatment, and diagnostic tools.

TAG advanced related work on regulatory issues with the publication of *An Activist's Guide to Regulatory Issues: Ensuring Fair Evaluation of and Access to Tuberculosis Treatment*. TAG also collaborated in a prominent campaign to promote innovation and access under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's program for neglected-disease research and development.

Years-long advocacy by TAG and its partners to end TB drug shortages scored a major win when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced plans to create a national reserve of TB drugs under the National Action Plan for Combating Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis.



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Plus donations from an additional **217**  
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## TAG FINANCIALS 2015

## BALANCE SHEET

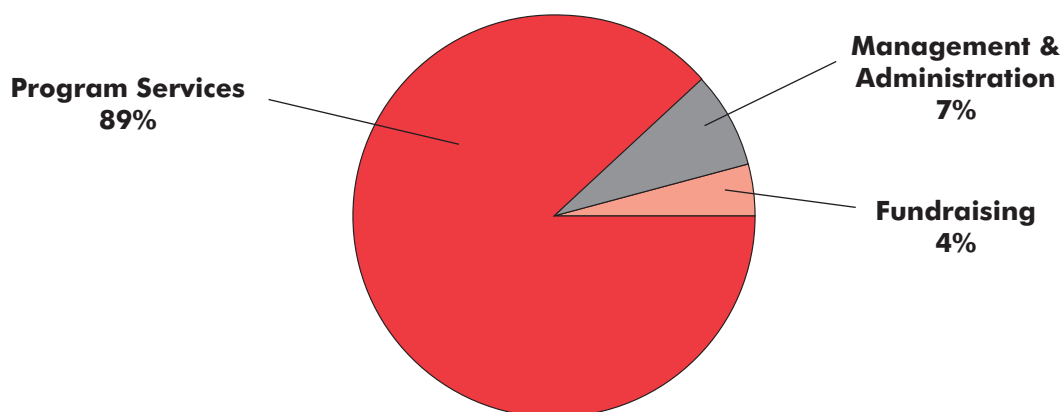
	Year ended December 31	
	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,971,378	\$ 1,212,965
Contributions receivable – current for 2015	171,984	2,163,115
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	24,928	24,131
Donated inventory	381,000	342,500
Security deposits	43,015	43,015
Property and equipment – net	17,666	25,514
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,609,971</b>	<b>\$ 3,811,240</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 20,734	\$ 30,523
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,649,386	1,103,826
Temporarily restricted	1,939,851	2,676,891
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,589,237</b>	<b>3,780,717</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,609,971</b>	<b>\$ 3,811,240</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>		
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ (191,480)	\$ 1,941,695
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used by operating activities		
Depreciation	8,464	6,793
Donated inventory	(38,500)	(41,500)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	3,166	
<b>Decrease (increase) in assets</b>		
Contributions receivable	1,991,131	(2,044,322)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(797)	6,463
<b>Increase (decrease) in liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(9,789)	(10,690)
<b>NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>1,762,195</b>	<b>(141,561)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchases of fixed assets	(3,782)	(7,165)
<b>NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>1,758,413</b>	<b>(148,726)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,212,965</b>	<b>1,361,691</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>2,971,378</b>	<b>\$ 1,212,965</b>



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Year ended December 31		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2015 Total
<b>REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>			
Contributions	\$ 216,970		\$ 216,970
Grants	705,097	1,146,306	1,851,403
Special events income	\$ 245,836		
Less direct cost of special events	(120,206)		125,630
Other income	34,781		34,781
Interest income	2,096		2,096
Net assets released from restrictions	1,883,346	(1,883,346)	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>2,967,920</b>	<b>(737,040)</b>	<b>\$ 2,230,880</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Program services</b>			
HIV Project	\$ 514,502		\$ 514,502
Cure Project	163,553		163,553
Hepatitis C Virus Project	424,976		424,976
TB/HIV Project	1,045,757		1,045,757
Communications and Advocacy Project			
U.S. and Global Health Policy Project	11,549		11,549
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>2,160,337</b>		<b>2,160,337</b>
<b>Supporting services</b>			
Management and general	174,134		174,134
Fundraising	84,723		84,723
<b>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>	<b>258,857</b>		<b>258,857</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,419,194</b>		<b>2,419,194</b>
Change in net assets before loss on disposal of fixed assets	548,726	(737,040)	(188,314)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(3,166)		(3,166)
Change in net assets	545,560	(737,040)	(191,480)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,103,826	2,676,891	3,780,717
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,649,386</b>	<b>\$ 1,939,851</b>	<b>\$ 3,589,237</b>

Summary of 2015 Functional Expenses



## TAG LIMITED ART EDITIONS

Each year at its annual Research in Action Awards, TAG presents a new, limited edition work of art, generously donated by a highly regarded visual artist. Past artists include Joy Episalla, Kate Shepherd, Nan Goldin, Robert Gober, Bill Jacobson, Donald Moffett, Tony Feher, Carrie Yamaoka, and David Armstrong. TAG retains an inventory of many of the editions for sale to the public. All proceeds benefit TAG in support of programmatic work. If you are interested in purchasing an edition or learning more about the available editions, detailed information can be found at [www.treatmentactiongroup.org/limited-art-editions](http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/limited-art-editions).

## CONTRIBUTE

TAG welcomes donations from individuals who want to see the AIDS research agenda remain responsive to the needs of all people living with HIV. Make a tax-deductible gift now: [www.treatmentactiongroup.org/support](http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/support).

Does your company have a matching gifts program? If so, you can double or even triple your donation. Just complete the program's matching gift form and send it in with your donation to TAG.

When you shop on Amazon, enter the site at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Choose TAG Treatment Action Group as your designated charity, and 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible purchase will benefit TAG.

## ABOUT TAG

Treatment Action Group is an independent AIDS research and policy think tank fighting for better treatment, a vaccine, and a cure for AIDS.

TAG works to ensure that all people with HIV receive lifesaving treatment, care, and information.

We are science-based treatment activists working to expand and accelerate vital research and effective community engagement with research and policy institutions.

TAG catalyzes open collective action by all affected communities, scientists, and policy makers to end AIDS.

**TAG**  
Treatment Action Group

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#### Treatment Action Group

261 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2110

New York, NY 10016

Tel 212.253.7922

Fax 212.253.7923

[tag@treatmentactiongroup.org](mailto:tag@treatmentactiongroup.org)

[www.treatmentactiongroup.org](http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org)

TAG is a nonprofit, tax-exempt

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