

update

TAG



SPRING 2003

included both education and information). Now, people with HIV and their advocates, are seriously considered a factor by regulatory authorities, pharmaceutical companies, doctors and other patients. In many ways, we became a model for other patient groups (cancer, hepatitis, etc).

Q: How did you get involved in the fight against AIDS?

A: I was in Barcelona, doing some architecture, teaching English, and I met a guy at a restaurant with an ACT UP BCN T-shirt on, and it just came to me that I had in some way or shape been avoiding AIDS (hiding out in BCN!) and it was now time to get off the pot. That guy, Willy Valverde, became a sort of mentor to me.

Q: Why TAG? Why now?

A: The area that I liked from my beginning in HIV was treatments, but I found myself getting more involved in running an organization. When I saw the opening at TAG, I jumped! I wanted to get back to treatment issues – and combine this interest with some policy activity in the US as well as abroad. I hope to see some emphasis given to TB and Eastern Europe soon with TAG and TAG collaborations (like AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC), a new US group of HIV associations).

Q: What will you be doing at TAG?

A: At TAG, I will first and foremost be writing policy papers on new drugs that are coming out (see the website for the recent T-20 paper). I will also work on treatment strategies (like treatment interruptions here or harm-reduction treatment in developing countries. Also, in the US, I'll work on unifying this new group ATAC, especially its drug development arm, which is somewhat modeled after one part of the EATG that worked extremely well. We hope to get a treatment and advocacy training off the ground for the Community Constituency Group (CCG) through AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), so the community people from around the country are better prepared to serve on these highly specialised groups.

Q: What would you like to accomplish at TAG?

A: I want to get some collaborative projects off the ground, where many other groups and people are involved. Treatment Preparedness is one activity which I have not worked on very much, but that already had a first successful meeting in South Africa that TAG and specifically Mark Harrington, were involved in.

Q: What obstacles do you/will you face in achieving your goals at TAG?

A: There's no espresso machine at the office! No, I think that things look pretty rosy so far, and the "obstacles" are the typical ones of saying what you believe in without offending others, and/or getting others who don't necessarily agree with you to see that your idea is really their idea and it can work!

INTERVIEW WITH ROB CAMP ANTIVIRAL PROJECT DIRECTOR

Q: What do you consider your most significant accomplishments?

A: In the past 12 years, I have worked in HIV, and I think that many things were important and/or significant in their time. I don't mean to say that I was key to any of it, but I was very lucky to work with great people at really important times and get good results. When I entered ACT UP Barcelona in 1991, I learned from some really great people about the importance of treatments and their significance for survival. I was able to contribute to a local then national AIDS bulletin (ACTUALitat), and politically I was fighting with ACT UP to get access to treatments in Spain. We generally considered ourselves to be about 5 years behind the US in terms of when new drugs and new strategies would arrive. Now treatments arrive more or less simultaneously.

I then founded a national full-color treatment magazine (POZ-style), but because we were just a few people with a very limited budget, it never became so glamorous. We were able to keep it more "responsive to the needs in the street". Seven years later, it is still going, with some of the same people from the beginning and some fresh blood.

At the same time, I worked on a national treatments group (FIT) that now has a seat in the Spanish Guidelines Committee. They are dedicated to teaching in the HIV community and spreading the word on how to use treatments.

Through this last group, I got involved in a European group, in 1996, for no other reason than because I could speak English! I fell in with a great group of international activists in European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), and we began a very active period with a wide array of projects (that

volunteer profile



TAG Board Member
BRUCE SCHACKMAN

Intense, focused, and deeply passionate about the fight against AIDS, Bruce Schackman brings to the TAG board an impressive set of skills and credentials. He's TAG's budget watchdog, making sure that contributors get the most bang for every buck. Part of the TAG board's mission has always been to back up HIV and AIDS treatment policy with financial know-how. Bruce's expertise in management, pharmacoeconomics, and public health policy is vital to fulfilling that goal. He's financially sharp and personally committed – a knockout combination.

A native New Yorker, Bruce is a graduate of the United Nations International School and Harvard University. After receiving his bachelor's degree, Bruce spent two years in Seoul working for Citibank, after which he returned to Harvard and earned an M.B.A. His next step was McKinsey & Co., the international management consulting firm, where Bruce spent seven travel-filled years advising a wide array of health care companies on strategy, organization, and operations. After McKinsey, Bruce was a consultant to the Food and Drug Administration before moving on to oversee health care investments for several financial firms.

Like many of us, Bruce came to HIV and AIDS activism after facing personal losses; the deaths of two close friends changed the course of his life. "I joined TAG in 1993, a time when there was very little good news in AIDS research," Bruce told *TAG Update*. "I had to get personally involved. At first, I thought my contacts in the pharmaceutical industry and in government might be helpful. But it turned out that TAG already had very strong relationships with all the key players and was publishing remarkably insightful analyses that were at least as good as anything I'd seen at McKinsey." TAG recognized Bruce's management expertise, though, and quickly recruited him to the board.

Inspired by his work with TAG, Bruce gave up his full-time job and his apartment on the Upper West Side in 1997 and returned to Harvard to earn a Ph.D. in health policy. His chief mentor at the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, Milton Weinstein, is one of the world's foremost authorities on the application of decision-making models to medical treatments.

After receiving his doctorate in 2001, Bruce moved back to New York City to join the faculty of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, where he is an assistant professor of public health. His current research includes studies of HIV and hepatitis C treatments. He lives in Chelsea with his partner, Ed Sikov.

"Being a member of the TAG board has been a great experience," Bruce says. "The board is a smart and friendly group dedicated to supporting TAG's outstanding work. We work well together, and we get things done. The relationships I've developed with both board and staff members over the years have truly transformed my life."

TAG 2002 Research in Action Awards



Mark Harrington, TAG Executive Director, with RIAA Awardee, Laurie Garrett, Medical and Science Writer, *Newsday* and author of *The Coming Plague and Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*.



Gary Schwartz, Director New York City Office, Tides Foundation, and Peter Staley, RIAA awardee, TAG Founding Director and founder of *AIDSmeds.com*.



TAG Board member Sally Morrison and Gene Falk, RIAA Awardee and Senior Vice President of Showtime Digital Media Group.



John Moore, Ph.D., RIAA Awardee and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the Joan and Sanford Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and Sam Champion of WABC-TV News.



Sam Champion, Host & Emcee of the December 15, 2002 Research In Action Awards at Arcadia Gallery in SoHo.



TAG Board Member Mark O'Donnell, Steve Diamant of the Arcadia Gallery and Gene Falk.



Antony Todd, Auction Chair, coordinated the evening's sale of 17 Extraordinary Holiday Wreaths designed by notable artists, designers and distinguished friends of TAG.



TAG Board Members Barbara Hughes (President), Mark O'Donnell and Laura Morrison.



Patrick McMullen and xxx xxxxx.



Look closely! AIDS activist Sharon Stone created a wreath filled with her intimate items – what you didn't see in Basic Instinct!



Benjamin Doller of Sotheby's served as the evening's auctioneer.



Ken Goody places a bid.



Design guru Martha Stewart created this wreath using plastic animals and gutter cleaner!



Barbara Hughes, John Moore, Gene Falk, Laurie Garrett, Peter Staley and (below) Mark Harrington.



TAG Board Members Rich Lynn and Alby Maccarone and xxx xxxxx.



Sam Champion had to have this wreath loaded with fabulous Kiehl's products.

Treatment Action Group

The Treatment Action Group (TAG) fights to find a cure for AIDS and to ensure that all people living with HIV receive the necessary treatment, care and information they need to save their lives.

TAG focuses on both the public and private AIDS research effort, the drug development process and the U.S. and global health care delivery systems. TAG works with researchers, pharmaceutical companies and government officials involved in AIDS.

TAG strives to develop the scientific and political expertise needed to transform policy in this country and around the world, and is committed to working for and with all communities affected by HIV.

TAG ISSUES NEW REPORTS ON TUBERCULOSIS AND HEPATITIS C

On October 5, 2002 TAG sponsored a TB/HIV Coinfection workshop in Montreal in conjunction with the STOP TB DOTS Expansion Working Group and the 33rd International Union Against Tuberculosis & Lung Diseases Conference. Twenty-nine people attended, with the majority from the developing world. The report that resulted from this ground-breaking meeting was written by Daniel Raymond and edited by Mark Harrington. Special thanks go to many people, but especially to Arata Kochi, Paul Nunn and Mario Raviglione of the World Health Organization for challenging us that "tuberculosis needs its own ACT UP." This report, like all TAG publications can be downloaded at no cost at our website, www.treatmentactiongroup.org.

Writer Tracy Swan brought together her experience in direct service, advocacy, education, program development, policy and research to create *Research & Policy Recommendations for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)/HIV Coinfection: Critical Issues from TAG's forthcoming HCV/HIV Coinfection Report, version 2.0*. The report outlines plans to fight the unfolding epidemic of Hepatitis C Virus, which affects an estimated 170 million people around the world. The current state of research lags far behind HIV and there is no federally-funded infrastructure to coordinate education, prevention, testing, care and treatment. This report is designed to broaden the dialogue and collaboration among the key players, especially people with HCV and HIV/HCV coinfection.

GET MORE INVOLVED • JOIN TAG'S BOARD

TAG is always looking for good board members. If you are looking for a great place to invest your time and talents, please call Barbara Hughes, TAG Board Chair, to learn more about Board opportunities at TAG. She can be reached at (212) 253-7922 or barbarah@projectrenewal.org. Don't delay!

Founded in 1992, TAG is the only organization in the world dedicated solely to AIDS research advocacy.

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