

TAG

Treatment Action Group

**THE LEGACY AND FUTURE OF
ACTIVISM TO CATALYZE THE END
TO HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS,
AND HEPATITIS C**



Photo Credit: Ben Thornberry

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MISSION

Treatment Action Group (TAG) is an independent, activist, and community-based research and policy think tank fighting for better treatment, prevention, a vaccine, and a cure for HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

ABOUT TAG

In 1992, members of the renowned AIDS activist organization ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)'s Treatment + Data Committee founded TAG, a nonprofit organization focused on accelerating treatment research, community engagement, funding, and policy in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Throughout the 1990s, TAG members advocated alongside government scientists, drug company researchers, and FDA officials to speed up the development of new HIV therapies. TAG's work since has led to significant government investment in basic science, increased funding for the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the reorganization of the national AIDS research effort. TAG was instrumental in reforming the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s regulation of new drugs to treat HIV and related infections, and its parallel track and accelerated approval programs. These reforms led to the development and roll-out of highly-active antiretroviral therapy in 1996, saving millions of lives. TAG's efforts have expanded the treatment and prevention landscape of HIV/AIDS, as well as catalyzed resources for programs to implement the lifesaving innovations made possible through publicly funded science.

Today, TAG uses its core values of leadership, expertise, and legacy in science-based activism and policy advocacy to continue to push for progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and has expanded its mission to address two additional pressing public health crises: tuberculosis and hepatitis C virus.

HOW WE WORK

TAG's program staff work in four areas: HIV (including basic science, better treatments, a vaccine, and a cure), TB, HCV, and U.S. and Global Health Policy. Across all our projects, TAG works to

- Ensure that all people with HIV, TB, or HCV receive lifesaving treatment, care, and information.
- Expand and accelerate vital research and effective community engagement with research and policy institutions.
- Mobilize open collective action by all affected communities, scientists, and policymakers to end HIV, TB, and HCV.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its founding in 1992, TAG has

- Helped accelerate FDA approval of more than 40 lifesaving antiretrovirals for HIV.
- Catalyzed, with Housing Works, the establishment of the New York State Ending the Epidemic Task Force to drive political will and secure new resources for the first-in-the-nation commitment to eliminating HIV, then expanded the model to hard-hit jurisdictions in the Southern United States.
- Tracked public and private investments in TB research and development against global targets for more than a decade, influencing the highest TB research and development (R&D) investment levels ever.
- Secured the first statewide commitment in the nation for ending the HIV epidemic and then the HCV epidemic, in New York State.
- Advised U.S. bilateral and global multilateral institutions such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on the implementation of the latest advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV, TB, and HCV.
- Contributed to the development of evidenced-based guidelines—from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to the WHO—in the treatment and prevention of HIV, TB, and HCV.
- Saved U.S. government research funding from cuts, including preventing the NIH's Fogarty International Center from being eliminated in the federal budget.
- Worked with Congress to expand funding for global TB programs and research at the USAID, resulting in its biggest budget increase ever for FY 2018.
- Advocated for critical price reductions in HIV medications, TB treatments, and HCV cures to expand access.
- Consulted on the recurring problem of TB drug shortages in the United States, which increased political support for the CDC to develop a nationwide stockpile of TB medicines.
- Fought for the appropriate inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized populations impacted by HIV, TB, and HCV in research to inform effective treatment and prevention interventions.
- Raised awareness among members of Congress about the challenges posed by pediatric TB; the appropriate incentivization for R&D and product development; the inclusion of vulnerable populations such as pregnant women in research; the protection of and increased funding for HIV research; the impact of U.S. government investments in TB research; and the effect of rising drug prices on accessing HCV cures.

Throughout TAG's over 25-year history of policy and advocacy accomplishments, we have centralized community engagement and activism in addressing the priority public health issues of HIV, TB, and HCV. TAG remains committed to working alongside communities and policymakers to advance a policy agenda grounded in science and rights, driven by robust support for research and programs to develop and implement lifesaving strategies to end the HIV, TB, and HCV epidemics.

