

TAG

Treatment Action Group

TAGLINE 2025: A YEAR OF ACTION
DEFENDING SCIENCE,
PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

DEAR FRIEND OF TAG,

2025 was a year of relentless TAG work to fight back against the new U.S. administrations brutal cuts to global and domestic health care and research, including the destruction of USAID, radical cuts to PEPFAR, elimination of whole divisions at CDC, and drastic cuts to life-saving research at NIH, as well as attacks on Asian, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrant, incarcerated, drug using, and LGBTQ+ people. TAG resisted, proved our resilience, and survived in the face of these challenges, because we are determined to win the battles to end HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis C virus (HCV) as epidemics within our lifetime. I'm proud to share with you some of the highlights of our work throughout 2025.

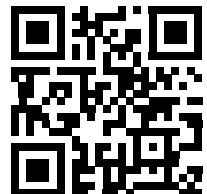
A luta continua!



Mark Harrington

Executive Director

**SCAN TO
DONATE AND
FIGHT FOR
SCIENCE**



JANUARY 21, 2025

TAG Condemns Planned U.S. Withdrawal from WHO

Treatment Action Group (TAG) is appalled by [the incoming] President's executive order signaling the United States will be withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO). Mark Harrington, TAG's Executive Director, said, "This insane threat by the U.S. government threatens the lives of millions. This move will seriously undermine both domestic and global health, and we urge its swift reversal ..."



TAG has been rejecting transphobia and science denialism for decades; here's Mark Harrington being arrested at a demonstration in front of the White House in 2012.

JANUARY 22, 2025

TAG Rejects the Transphobia and Science Denialism of the New Presidential Administration

The new U.S. presidential administration issued several executive orders^[1], which use pseudo-scientific claims to deny the existence of transgender and non-binary people. "We haven't seen such trans- and homophobic policies emanating from the Executive Branch since the grim early years of the HIV epidemic," said TAG Executive Director Mark Harrington. "AIDS activists are all-too-familiar with the multifaceted bigotry of the 1980s, which delayed and weakened the nation's response to the outbreak of HIV, and led to avoidable illness and death for untold numbers of LGBTQ people both in the U.S. and globally." ... Treatment Action Group stands with transgender and non-binary people everywhere - the rise of bigotry and denialism must be fought on all fronts.

FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Letter Urging Congress to Reject All Proposals to Cut Medicaid

TAG was proud to sign ... this letter to Congressional leaders [urging] Congress to adamantly reject all proposals to enact cuts to Medicaid, a vital source of HIV prevention, treatment, and care.

FEBRUARY 4, 2025

TAG Executive Director Warns: "They Don't Care If We Live or Die"

"There are people in the government now who don't really care about you and me, and whether people like us live or die." — Mark Harrington. TAG's executive director, Mark Harrington, was interviewed by TAG board member Karl Schmid, creator and host of +Life Media.

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

TAG Joins Allies at State Department to Demand Full Restoration of US Support for Global AIDS Programs

Treatment Action Group (TAG) fiercely condemns the new presidential administration's deadly and hateful attack on people living with HIV and their communities at home and around the world. We've co-organized a direct action and will put our bodies on the line to protest this flagrant assault on the President's Emergency Plan to Fight AIDS (PEPFAR) ... PEPFAR has saved an estimated 35 million lives since 2003, changing the trajectory of the global HIV pandemic and is the single largest funder of the global HIV response. When its funds were suddenly frozen Jan. 24, delivery of life-sustaining antiretroviral therapy (ART) for an estimated 20.6 million people^[2] hung in the balance.

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

TAG Fiercely Condemns the New Administration's War on Science

Treatment Action Group (TAG) is disgusted and appalled by the new presidential administration's flagrant attack on science. Recent actions taken by the executive branch — from decimating vital research, to gutting scientific workforces, to obstructing and concealing public treatment guidelines and scientific data — take a wrecking ball to the vital scientific processes that deliver lifesaving tools to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure disease, domestically and globally. These hostile and reckless actions will hobble the fight against HIV, TB, AND HCV worsen human health, and weaken communities for decades to come.

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

ANEA and TAG Stand in Solidarity with Demonstrators Fighting to Save PEPFAR

The ACT NOW: END AIDS Coalition (ANEA) and TAG are proud to stand in solidarity with activists demonstrating today at the U.S. Capitol demanding that the U.S. government restore full funding to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) — which supports treatment for 20 million people living with HIV worldwide, and 2.5 million people on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) — and all recently cut or frozen U.S. supported international health programs.

... A recent scientific analysis suggests that the 90-day freeze is likely to result in over 109,000 deaths over the coming year.^[3] Today's demonstration — which includes non-violent civil disobedience — is organized by HealthGAP, Housing Works, and ACT UP/New York, with TAG — includes hundreds of activists from these and other organizations and is supported by a large cohort of recently and unjustly terminated U.S. international aid workers.



TAG executive director Mark Harrington and board president Ivy Kwan Arce at a demonstration against ending PEPFAR.

MARCH 7, 2025

Treatment Action Group Opposes the Nomination of Dr. Jay Bhattacharya for Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health

The nomination of Dr. Jay Bhattacharya for Director of the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) continues the pattern of un- and under-qualified nominees put forward by the current administration. In TAG's view, Bhattacharya has not been picked because of his experience with research, but rather because of his contrarian positions on COVID-19 and extensive history of opinion pieces in right wing media (listed in his CV^[1]). He is a political nominee in the strict sense, for a non-political position administering the most important catalyst of scientific discovery in the world.

MARCH 18, 2025

TAG Defends Continuing Vital TB and HIV Research in South Africa

TAG opposes in the strongest possible terms the termination of National Institutes of Health (NIH) research awards and contracts to South Africa, feared following reporting by *Science*. This attack against South African scientists is an attack on science at large and particularly jeopardizes research against TB, the world's leading cause of death due to an infectious disease. Millions of people with TB and comorbidities around the world — and in the United States — benefit from scientific advances made possible by South Africa's vibrant research community. South Africa is home to around 270,000 people living with TB and 7.7 million people living with HIV — one of the highest TB burdens per capita and the largest HIV epidemic in any single country. The country desperately needs this research and so do the American people.

MARCH 19, 2025

TAG Launches TB Vaccines Pipeline Report

The latest edition of our *Tuberculosis Vaccines Pipeline Report*, written by TB project co-director Mike Frick, provides the latest information on 17 vaccine candidates under clinical development and summarizes ongoing, planned, and recently completed clinical trials ... The world will not end the TB epidemic without new vaccines. Decades of investment in TB research and development are starting to bear fruit with multiple vaccine candidates in late-stage efficacy trials ... political upheaval in the United States threatens to upend both scientific progress and public trust in vaccination ...

APRIL 7, 2025

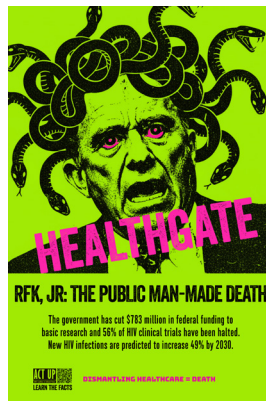
Tuberculosis Research at the National Institutes of Health – Saving Lives, Shrinking Costs, Fueling American Jobs and Innovation

This policy brief describes the crucial role NIH plays in supporting research on new products to prevent, diagnose, and cure TB. This research is especially important at a time when new forms of drug resistance are emerging globally, and rates of TB are rising in the U.S. With continued and increased funding, NIH can protect Americans from the growing threat of TB at home and abroad. NIH funding is also vital to many state and local economies, and employs people from a wide variety of industries to keep research institutions running smoothly. This efficient and effective federal agency is central to protecting the health and economic stability of millions of Americans, and requires public support now more than ever.

APRIL 10, 2025

TAG Joins Call for the Resignation of HHS Secretary RFK, Jr., as a “Danger to the Public’s Health”

Treatment Action Group (TAG) decries the vicious and inchoate attacks on HHS since the advent of the new administration, which have escalated significantly over the past two weeks. Among targeted programs, many are related to the infectious diseases HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and hepatitis C (HCV) ... TAG’s Basic Science, Vaccines, and Cure Project Director, Richard Jefferys, said, “AIDS denialist conspiracy theorist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is presiding over an incoherent and opaque wrecking of essential taxpayer-supported work at HHS, threatening health and lives in the United States and globally.” We join the American Public Health Association ... in calling for HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to resign or be dismissed.



Graphic by Atom Arce.

APRIL 2025

NIH Advocacy Toolkit for HIV & TB Researchers

The Research Matters Advocacy Toolkit is a vital resource for researchers committed to advancing health equity and biomedical advocacy.

MAY 15, 2025

U.S. Funding Cuts Threaten 39 Research Sites in South Africa Putting Scientific Advancements and Hard Won Progress Against TB and HIV at Risk

Lifesaving scientific research on prevention, testing, treatment and care for people living with HIV and TB in South Africa is under serious threat due to funding suspensions and grant terminations from the United States (US) government.

MAY 21, 2025

An Ethical and Legal Crisis: Treatment Action Group (TAG) Statement on the Withholding of NIH Funding for HIV Clinical Research Networks

TAG demands immediate action by the NIH to provide Congressionally appropriated and committed funding to the HIV clinical research networks (ACTG, HPTN, HVTN, IMPAACT).

MAY 2025

South Africa’s TB and HIV Research at Risk: A Call to Catalyze Urgent Action by Funders

Developed by TAG, Médecins Sans Frontières, and the South African Medical Research Council, this issue brief provides information about TB and HIV clinical trials and research programs impacted by U.S. government funding disruptions.

JUNE 5, 2025

Treatment Action Group Statement on Termination of HIV Vaccine Research Funding

On Friday May 30, it was reported that NIH leadership has unilaterally terminated funding for HIV vaccine research consortia that were making significant progress toward solving the stern challenge of inducing protective broadly neutralizing antibodies against the virus.

JULY 9, 2025

Congressional Briefing on Lifesaving NIH Infectious Disease Research

TAG was among thirteen organizations that cosponsored a key Congressional briefing held on July 9, 2025. Briefing materials and presentations are available for download.

JULY 9, 2025

A Deep Dive Into the HCV Elimination Bill: How Communities Can Secure a Win

TAG [urges] community organizations and advocates to raise awareness about the HCV Elimination bill, and prepare them to meet and engage with their Senators during the August recess in their district offices or Town Hall meetings.

JULY 10, 2025

An Activist’s Guide to Diagnostic Tools for Tuberculosis 2025

The WHO guidelines for diagnosing TB have evolved along with available technologies and tools that are increasingly accurate, simple, and efficient at detecting TB and resistance to a wider range of TB drugs.



JULY 24, 2025

TAG Speaks Out to Oppose State Department’s Secret Plan to End PEPFAR

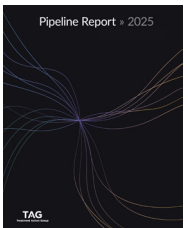
The Trump Administration plan to end PEPFAR was leaked yesterday to the New York Times which had damning information about Secretary Rubio proposing a swift end to the program.

TAG’s government relations & policy associate, Kendall Martinez-Wright and other activists demonstrating against ending PEPFAR.

AUGUST 7, 2025

TAG Statement on the Criminalization of Homelessness and Drug Use, and the Cure Hepatitis C Act of 2025

The current administration’s Executive Order on Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s streets is yet another direct attack on science and basic human rights.



AUGUST 13, 2025

2025 Pipeline Report.

Our annual reviews provide an overview of research and development of innovations for diagnosing, preventing, treating, and curing HIV, HCV, and TB.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Joint Statement Calling for Secretary Kennedy Resignation

On Sept. 3 20+ organizations — including TAG — signed this Infectious Diseases Society of America’s (IDSA) joint statement calling for the resignation of Sec. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The letter outlines the many ways Kennedy’s “agenda” is meant to undermine science and public health.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

TAG’s Comments for the September 2025 Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (Docket No. CDC-2025-0454)

TAG letter urging the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to maintain the recommendation of a universal hepatitis B virus (HBV) birth dose vaccine in the United States.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

24 Hours to Save AIDS Research

On September 16 at 11 am (EDT) savesaidsresearch.org starts a massive marathon to save AIDS funding.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Vivid Coffee Partnership

We’re proud to partner with Vivid Coffee, a Vermont-based specialty roastery and café, on the creation of the TAG Blend.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Joint Statement: Activists Demand \$40-a-Year Generic Price for Breakthrough HIV Prevention Drug Be Made Available to All Low- and Middle Income Countries

A global coalition reacted to two deals announced today to make long acting lenacapavir (LEN-LA), a 6 monthly HIV PrEP injection that provides virtually 100% protection against HIV infection, at \$40 per person per year in 2027.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

TAG and ANEA Coalition Condemn Proposed \$2 Billion in Cuts to HIV Funding

TAG and ANEA Coalition strongly condemn the House Labor, Health and Human Services proposed \$2 billion in federal cuts to domestic HIV programs, including plans that would dismantle the CDC’s Division of HIV Prevention and slash \$535 million from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

OCTOBER 8, 2025

TAG’s Recommendations to NIAID on the Future of the HIV Clinical Trials Networks

In March 2025, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) [asked for input] on the future of the four Division of AIDS (DAIDS)-sponsored HIV clinical research networks: ACTG, IMPAACT, HPTN, and HVTN. [Here are TAG’s recommendations.]



OCTOBER 24, 2025

Research in Action Awards 2025

Our Research in Action Awards took place on Monday, October 20, and the [video](#) is up on our website now!

Mark Harrington presents a 2025 Research in Action Award to Jeanne Marrazzo, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA.

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Governments and Donors Must Step Forward to Fund Global, Equitable Access to New TB Vaccines in Development

TAG welcomes the report published today by the World Health Organization TB Vaccine Accelerator Council on how to finance global, equitable access to new TB vaccines.

NOVEMBER 17, 2025

29th Annual Jonathan Lax Memorial Lecture at The Wistar Institute Honors Richard Jefferys.

On Monday, Nov. 17th at 6:30 pm ET, Richard Jefferys, Basic Science, Vaccines and Cure Project director at the TAG, delivered the [29th annual Jonathan Lax Memorial Lecture](#) at The Wistar Institute in recognition of his outstanding contributions to HIV research, education and advocacy.

DECEMBER 1, 2025

TAG joined ACT UP Philadelphia, Health GAP, and Housing Works at White House Direct Action to Demand Restoration of full funding for PEPFAR.

DECEMBER 1, 2025

From Ivy Arce, TAG Board President, On the Occasion of World AIDS Day 2025

“World AIDS Day 2025 left me shaken, galvanized, and profoundly aware of how much our movement still carries. Two weeks before Dec. 1, I felt “a rising rage” as this administration continued dismantling healthcare without resistance. The only way to breathe through that suffocation was to organize — fast — and our community showed up with extraordinary strength. From ACT UP’s citywide campaign to panels honoring long-term survivors, to marching from the AIDS Memorial to Stonewall, the day was filled with grief, memory, and the fierce clarity that “we would mark this moment so our movement can later see exactly where we stood in 2025.

“What stays with me most is a personal loss that reopened an old wound; a reminder that even among those we love, “you never know how deep the challenges and stigma run.” That truth is exactly why TAG’s work is essential. We confront silence. We fight for the care and policies people deserve. And we hold the stories that would otherwise be erased.

“Thank you for standing with us. Your support makes this courage possible and ensures that none of us walk through this struggle alone.”

DECEMBER 8, 2025

TAG condemns ACIP decision not to recommend HBV vaccine birth dose

TAG condemned this move, urged the CDC not to adopt these scientifically unjustified changes. TAG demanded that Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), who obtained a promise at Secretary Kennedy’s confirmation hearings that RFK, Jr., would not substantially degrade U.S. vaccine policies, hold oversight hearings and demand the immediate resignation of Kennedy and all his appointees who are promoting an anti-science, anti-vaccine, and anti-public health agenda dangerous to millions of Americans and others around the world.

^[1] Wolf B, Human Rights Campaign. Background On Trump Day One Executive Orders Impacting The LGBTQ+ Community. 2025 Jan 22.

^[2] International AIDS Society. Restore Access to All Pefpar-Supported HIV Services Immediately. 2025 Jan 29.

^[3] Tram KH, Ratevosian J, Beyrer C. By executive order: The likely deadly consequences associated with a 90-day pause in PEPFAR funding. Journal of the International AIDS Society 2025, 28:e26431 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jia2.26431/full>.

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