

Letter to the Editor submitted by email to newsweek.com

From: FAIR Foundation [mailto:fair@dc.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 8:54 AM
To: 'letters@newsweek.com'
Subject: The Genetic Detectives

TO: The Editor, NEWSWEEK Magazine
 RE: [The Genetic Detectives](#) 6/9/08 issue

The NIH Director, Elias Zerhouni, MD, hailed the new Undiagnosed Diseases Program; however, until his organization and Congress cease their favoritism towards HIV/AIDS, the 6,000 orphan diseases that now receive, on average, \$200,000 per illness for bio-medical research compared to almost \$3 billion for HIV, will be left with continued lack of success and suffering. Deaths from HIV disease have fallen over 80 percent in many states and it is no longer a crisis in the US and other areas where the existing remedies have been distributed effectively.

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: [Past National Public Citizen of the Year \(NASW\)](#)
 President and CEO: [The FAIR Foundation](#), a national organization with thousands of members and supporters whose goal is to reverse inequities in NIH research funding and to institute [new organ-donor policies](#) to reverse America's organ-donor crisis
 Founder: [The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group](#)
 Author: [Coma Life](#), an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer, coma, 3 liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes & Muscular Dystrophy (Myasthenia Gravis)
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Disease	2007 NIH Research \$	Deaths Per Disease	\$ Per Patient Death	\$ Per Patient
HIV/AIDS	2.9 Billion	14,016	\$ 206,906	\$ 3,052
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500	\$ 2,639	\$ 29
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817	\$ 13,365	\$ 39
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	721,696	\$ 8,828	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
Parkinson's Dis.	186 Million	19,547	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
COPD**	90 Million	126,128	\$ 714	\$ 7
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
All Cancers	5.5 Billion	559,650	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
West Nile Virus	56 Million	121	\$ 462,809	\$ 15,564

** COPD = Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Statistics derived from the CDC & NIH facts. See: <http://www.fairfoundation.org/factslinks.htm>
[Fourteen million](#) Americans have impaired vision. [702 million is spent on "eye disease" research](#), which is only \$50 per patient.

Join the FAIR Foundation today: <http://fairfoundation.org/join.htm> (free)

[NIH Orphan Drug Allocation of \\$1.2 Billion](#) for 6000 diseases equals only \$200,000, on average, for research on each disease