

The opinion-editorial below was submitted by the FAIR Foundation President & CEO, Dr. Richard Darling, DDS, to the Washington Post in response to a 04/16/09 opinion-editorial submitted by Anthony Fauci, MD, Director of the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: *A Policy Cocktail for Fighting HIV*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-yn/content/article/2009/04/15/AR2009041503040.html>

## **A Call to Dr. Fauci—Cease the Hyperbole and Share with other Sufferers**

In his opinion-editorial, Anthony Fauci, MD, stated that HIV/AIDS is “devastating large swaths of our country...”

Such hyperbole is nonsense and is used in a futile attempt to justify the exorbitant, disproportionate funding for HIV, including for bio-medical research.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates deaths from HIV/AIDS at 14,110 in our fifty states.<sup>i</sup> If that constitutes “devastating” then what adjective shall Dr. Fauci use to describe diabetes, which kills more Americans than AIDS and breast cancer combined, cardiovascular disease which kills over 850,000 annually, or hepatitis C which is responsible for more deaths in AIDS patients than the opportunistic infections that used to kill them?<sup>ii</sup>

A striking rebuttal to Dr. Fauci's exaggerations is best stated in his own words on CNN: “...the scientific advancements that have been made in HIV [research] are breathtaking [with] highly effective drugs to suppress HIV to the point where what was a death sentence in the early eighties to now having patients who look and feel well, who are leading very productive, very gratifying lives...”<sup>iii</sup>

Indeed, deaths from HIV disease have plummeted over 90 percent in many states including a 99 percent decline in newly-infected patient deaths in California from 9,793 in 1992 to 146 (as of 2/28/09).<sup>iv v</sup> Consider: deaths from diabetes alone in California totaled 7,414 in the most recent year reported.<sup>vi</sup>

Yet, Dr. Fauci still accepts ten percent of the entire bio-medical research budget --\$2.9 billion of tax-payer dollars—for HIV alone and that exorbitant amount will increase greatly under the new federal stimulus funding plan that allocates \$7.8 billion more to the NIH in proportion to past allocations. In addition, Dr. Fauci went before Congress and asked for an additional \$4.8 billion, part of which is for “preventive research.”<sup>vii</sup> The 2009 HIV budget request is \$24.1 billion and<sup>viii</sup> the amount budgeted for HIV by our government since its onset is now approaching \$300 billion.<sup>ix</sup>

In regards to bio-medical research funding, the NIH is spending less than \$200 per patient on almost every disease compared to \$2,774 for each HIV patient. Similar small amounts are being allocated for 6,000 rare illnesses that receive, on average, only \$107,500 per infirmity from the NIH.<sup>x</sup>

It should also be noted that HIV receives many billions of dollars as a result of funding from Bill Gates's Foundation, TV shows *The Survivor*, *American Idol*, *The Apprentice*, private foundations like amfAR, the Elizabeth Glazer Foundation, as well as fund-raising by Hollywood

and music industry celebrities Sharon Stone, Elizabeth Taylor, Barry Manilow, Bono and dozens of others. Billionaire Warren Buffet has pledged his \$40 billion to Bill Gates's Foundation and is also supportive of Gates's favoritism for fighting HIV.

In the Palm Springs Desert Sun newspaper, Dr. Fauci proudly spoke<sup>xi</sup> of his orchestrating \$48 billion to fight global AIDS after President Bush said to him, "Don't worry about the cost," and most of that will go towards battling one disease, HIV, in one country: Africa. One might note that the entire bio-medical research budget for every disease known to man is only \$29 billion.

Ethical concerns are also rising over Dr. Fauci taking \$181,959 from the hepatitis C budget for his study on a few hundred thousand HIV patients who also have hepatitis C—a study that offers little, if any, benefit to the 4-5 million hepatitis C patients who do not have HIV. Is this ethical when the budget for HIV research is \$2.9 billion and the budget for patients solely infected with hepatitis C is only a paltry \$93 million?<sup>xii xiii</sup>

It is likely Dr. Fauci would reply to our criticisms by referencing his desire to find his "Holy Grail": a vaccine for HIV. Indeed, Dr. Fauci and Bill Gates are now spending billions on that effort, even though Dr. Fauci admits, "What we don't know is how we can induce with a vaccine an immune response that would be protective like any other vaccine."<sup>xiv</sup>

Would a vaccine for HIV be good? Yes, but before we continue to spend billions on that effort let us re-direct a portion of those funds to non-AIDS illnesses that do not have effective remedies (drugs), including the sixteen that kill a million more annually than HIV/AIDS.<sup>xv</sup>

I call on Dr. Fauci to cease his hyperbole and to take the high road by sharing his overflowing treasure chest of research dollars with other sufferers and to petition Congress to re-direct a substantial portion of existing HIV funding to other illnesses that have not had the same success.

Greed has brought our system of finance—capitalism—to its knees. It would be a shame if Dr. Fauci's sterling legacy was tainted with the same adjective when evaluating his monopoly on HIV's surplus of funds when there are thousands of other illnesses that deserve increased funding.

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: [Past National Public Citizen of the Year \(NASW\)](#)

President and CEO: [The FAIR Foundation](#)

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

Disease	2009 NIH Research \$	Deaths Per Disease	\$ Per Patient Death	\$ Per Patient
COPD**	90 Million	126,128	\$ 714	\$ 7
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500	\$ 2,639	\$ 29
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817	\$13,365	\$ 39
Parkinson's Dis.	186 Million	19,547	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	71,696	\$ 8,928	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050	\$12,717	\$ 181
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>2.9 Billion</b>	<b>14,016</b>	<b>\$ 206,906</b>	<b>\$ 2,774</b>
All Cancers	5.5 Billion	559,650	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
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>

NIH Orphan (rare) Drug Allocation of \$1.2 Billion for 6000 diseases equals only

\$200,000, on average, for research on each disease

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)

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2007report/table8.htm>

<sup>ii</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/specter\\_letter\\_hcv\\_in\\_aids\\_pts.pdf](http://fairfoundation.org/specter_letter_hcv_in_aids_pts.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.fairfoundation.org/fauci.wmv>

<sup>iv</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids\\_deaths\\_by\\_state.htm](http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids_deaths_by_state.htm)

<sup>v</sup> <http://fairfoundation.org/quiz/quizanswer.htm>

<sup>vi</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/CA\\_diabetes\\_deaths2007.pdf](http://fairfoundation.org/CA_diabetes_deaths2007.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids\\_deaths\\_by\\_state.htm](http://fairfoundation.org/states/hiv-aids_deaths_by_state.htm)

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7029-041.pdf>

<sup>ix</sup> Henry J. Kaiser Foundation reports \$150 billion HIV funding up to 2004 at [http://www.fairfoundation.org/overall\\_aids\\_funding\\_to\\_2004-Kaiser\\_Foundation.pdf](http://www.fairfoundation.org/overall_aids_funding_to_2004-Kaiser_Foundation.pdf) Every year thereafter the amount budgeted has been \$20+ billion including \$24.1 billion for 2009. In addition, one must note the \$48 billion PEPFAR funding, of which approx \$30 billion is for global AIDS.

<sup>x</sup> <http://www.fairfoundation.org/factslinks.htm>

<sup>xi</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/news\\_letter/2009/01march/fauci\\_at\\_chase\\_awards.pdf](http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2009/01march/fauci_at_chase_awards.pdf)

<sup>xii</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/NIH\\_misappropriated\\_funds.pdf](http://fairfoundation.org/NIH_misappropriated_funds.pdf)

<sup>xiii</sup> <http://report.nih.gov/rcdc/categories/>

<sup>xiv</sup> [http://fairfoundation.org/news\\_letter/2009/01march/fauci\\_at\\_chase\\_awards.pdf](http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2009/01march/fauci_at_chase_awards.pdf)

<sup>xv</sup> <http://www.fairfoundation.org/thesixteen.htm>