

The best hope yet... / AVERT.

Contributors

AVERT (Organization)

Publication/Creation

[1992?]

Persistent URL

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The Best Hope Yet...



AVERT

AIDS EDUCATION & RESEARCH TRUST

What AVERT is...

How to stop the spread of AIDS is one of the most pressing medical problems the country – the whole world – has ever faced.

Yet stop it we must, and soon.

Otherwise, thousands of people of all ages, including new born babies will needlessly die.

Still more thousands of friends and relatives will face worry, sorrow, and hardship.

That is why AIDS is *everybody's* problem, whether personally at risk or not.

AVERT is a registered charity which has already won international recognition for its work in AIDS research and education.

AVERT has, for several years, been funding vital research projects which will help us understand more about the virus and its effects.

Such research is vital if we are to find drugs to alleviate the effects of AIDS and, one day, a vaccine which may eliminate the problem altogether.

Without this research, we could well be depending simply on luck.

And luck is likely to happen too late for far too many lives.

What AVERT does...

RESEARCH

All AVERT research is professionally conducted in recognised medical establishments in various parts of the UK.

Although always privately funded, AVERT research is acknowledged and, indeed, welcomed by the Government. To quote from a recent House of Commons Social Services Committee Report,

" . . . (Doctor B) had been awarded a three-year grant to research the effect of pregnancy on HIV (the virus which may cause AIDS) by the AIDS Education and Research Trust (AVERT). This is the most striking . . . example we have come across of a worthwhile research project which has been turned down by government agencies and subsequently funded by private means."

There are too many AVERT research projects currently in hand to list here, and the results of some will certainly help us to *prevent AIDS*.

However, the project referred to above is designed to help us understand more clearly the effects of the virus upon women and, during pregnancy, upon their unborn babies.

Another project is aimed at developing tests for the virus in newly born children of mothers who are already infected. At present it is impossible to tell, without waiting far too long, whether such a baby is infected or not.

Such research will help to speed the day when the medical profession can fight back with real weapons against the disease: drugs and, hopefully, a vaccine. But it has another and immediate benefit as well . . .

EDUCATION

Already the results of the two research projects mentioned above have enabled AVERT to issue an authoritative booklet entitled "*AIDS and CHILDBIRTH*". This explains to women the possible effects on them and their children of giving birth while infected with the virus and some of the choices available.

Amongst other things, too, AVERT has produced a training package for the health-caring professions, nursing in particular. This package is already being used by the Health Education Authority as part of a major training programme.

How **AVERT** pays for it all...

Medical research is very expensive. Each AVERT research worker requires at least £20,000 a year to cover not only salary but equipment and laboratory costs.

Further, since *accurate* information – anything less is not acceptable – usually demands not one, but several years' work, the cost per project can easily reach over £100,000.

Governments throughout the world are spending vast amounts not only in research but also in educating to help prevent the spread of the virus. But AIDS is such a vast and complex subject, and we know so little about it, they cannot afford to do it all.

That is why the work of AVERT is so important in helping us find out more – more quickly.

Where, you may ask, does the money AVERT needs come from?

The answer is several sources:

- ☐ individual donations and Deeds of Covenant
- ☐ fund-raising drives by schools and other bodies
 - ☐ companies
 - ☐ charitable trusts
 - ☐ legacies
 - ☐ YOU!

Whichever kind of giving suits you best, please remember the need is very urgent. We have to pay for the research and education to stop AIDS in its tracks *NOW!* And, in that, AVERT is *the best hope yet.*

If you would like to know more about AVERT and its work – and, perhaps, discuss ways in which you could help raise the financial support we need – please get in touch with us at:



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