

Recommendations for the Obama NIH Transition Team

From: FAIR Foundation President & CEO, Richard Darling, DDS and the 26-member Board of Directors listed below

In regards to the upcoming appointment of a new NIH Director and the continuing requests by CDC Director Gerberding and NIH Directors Fauci and Fenton for additional billions of dollars for HIV/AIDS programs, please note the following facts that are most pertinent in this time of our country's and our government's financial crisis:

- The amount of funding on HIV disease by our government since the inception of HIV in our country is now approximately \$275 billion dollars.¹ We are spending \$700 billion to rescue our country and we've budgeted/or spent more than one-third that amount on one disease.
- The 2009 HIV/AIDS budget request is already large at \$24.1 billion.²
- The NIH NIAID budget for HIV/AIDS bio-medical research is \$2.9 billion, which is a full ten percent of the entire bio-medical research budget.³
- HIV/AIDS deaths have plummeted over 90 percent in many states including a 98 percent decline in newly-infected patient deaths in California from 9,764 to 229.⁴
- \$48 billion has been budgeted this year for PEPFAR and global HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. Consider: the amount of NIH bio-medical research on every disease know to man is only \$29 billion yet we budget \$48 billion, a preponderance of which will go toward one disease in one country: HIV in Africa.⁵
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has spent approximately \$7 billion on global HIV efforts to date and is approaching \$1 billion in expenditures for HIV vaccine research,⁶
- Warren Buffet has pledged most of his wealth to the Gates Foundation and Buffet is supportive of Gates bias in favor of HIV/AIDS funding.⁷
- Our country's top HIV/AIDS researcher and the Director of the NIH's NIAID, Anthony Fauci, MD has said, "...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..."⁸

When our organization exhibits at large conventions and the attendees see our banner that is shown here,

Disease	<u>2009 NIH Research \$\$</u>	Deaths Per Disease	\$\$ Per Patient Death	\$\$ Per Patient
COPD *	90 Million	126,128 (i)	\$ 714	\$ 7
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000 (g)	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500 (b)	\$ 2,714	\$ 29
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000 (h)	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817 (c)	\$13,365	\$ 39
Parkinson's Dis.	186 Million	19,547 (f)	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	71,696 (d)	\$ 8,928	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050 (e)	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
HIV/AIDS	2.9 Billion	14,016 (a)	\$ 206,906	\$ 2,774

a new member joins FAIR, on average, every 2 minutes all day long while expressing great anger and disgust at the favoritism that continues to be afforded HIV disease in funding.

For example, it is well recognized that hepatitis C (HCV) is responsible for more deaths in AIDS patients than the opportunistic infections that used to kill them.⁹ Diabetes kills more Americans than AIDS and breast cancer combined and cardiovascular disease (CVD) kills 871,000 compared to 14,016 for AIDS. The NIH is spending \$20, \$39, \$29 on each patient with HCV, diabetes & CVD on bio-medical research versus \$2,774 on each HIV patient. Similar small amounts are being allocated for thousands of other illnesses, including 6,000 rare illnesses that receive, on average, only \$200,000 per illness from the NIH for biomedical research.¹⁰ It is time to cease the favoritism for HIV.

We are respectfully requesting that you appoint an NIH Director who is devoid of a bias for HIV/AIDS funding and that consideration be given to increasing the funding for non-AIDS illnesses. Indeed, with budgetary limitations now in place due to our government's financial crisis that prevent overall increases, we recommend that Congress and the NIH do what homeowners are doing: reallocating funds where appropriate, in this case from HIV to other illnesses that have not had the same success that Dr. Fauci has laudably achieved and describes so well on the CD.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we extend our sincere congratulations on your successful Presidential campaign.

¹ Henry J. Kaiser Foundation reports \$150 billion HIV funding up to 2004. 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.

² <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7029-041.pdf>

³ <http://www.nih.gov/news/fundingresearchareas.htm>

⁴ <http://fairfoundation.org/quiz/quizanswer.htm>

⁵ http://kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=53609

⁶ http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm

⁷ http://fairfoundation.org/news_letter/2006/04sept/newsletter.htm

⁸ <http://fairfoundation.org/fauci.wmv>

⁹ http://fairfoundation.org/specter_letter_hcv_in_aids_pts.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.fairfoundation.org/factslinks.htm>



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