

Red Matters

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THE NEWSLETTER OF AIDS CALGARY AWARENESS ASSOCIATION

August 2009

2009 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

On Sunday September 20th, AIDS Calgary will host the 15th annual AIDS Walk for Life.

All proceeds from the Walk will go directly to support, prevention and education programs for those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS in Calgary. The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life is AIDS Calgary's largest fundraising event.

Tracie Seeley, Development Assistant at AIDS Calgary and Walk Coordinator remarks, "The 2008 Walk was our most successful walk ever. We beat our fundraising goal by over 25%!"

Step into action with us on September 20th and help us reach our goal of \$130,000. You still have time to join hundreds of Calgarians as they walk in support of the fight against HIV/AIDS. Walk alone or get some friends and family together and walk as a team to support AIDS Calgary's HIV/AIDS prevention and education initiatives in your community.



2008 Walk. Photo: David Seeley

Today over 60,000 Canadians are living with HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS is still present in our community and statistics report that new cases of HIV have been on the rise in Alberta. From 2005 to 2008, there was a 33% rise in new infections and in 2008, 45% of those new infections in Alberta were reported in Calgary.

For more information on how to walk, how to fundraise or how to put together a team, please visit www.aidscalgary.org.

Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award Nominations

Seeking individuals (may be living or posthumous), organizations or groups, institutions, businesses or companies who:

- Have made an outstanding contribution to the AIDS movement in our community and/or;
- May have highlighted the importance of fighting discrimination against HIV positive people and educating the public about AIDS, safer sex and/or drug use.
- Have impacted the lives of people in our community, through HIV education/prevention or support of persons living with HIV/AIDS,

whether it be patients and/or families, health care providers, community groups and/or the general public and/or;

Nominees may be recommended by self, peers, colleagues, patients/clients,

families/significant others, community members, etc.

Nomination forms available at AIDS Calgary or online at www.aidscalgary.org.

Completed nomination forms, including signature and two references, must be received by August 28, 2009. For more information, please call 403-508-2500 or email info@aidscalgary.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

Core Training

September 12, October 7, November 7
Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm, Location: AIDS Calgary Training Room.

Increase your knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS in this free workshop. Topics covered include: safer sex & HIV/AIDS, living with HIV/AIDS and challenging stereotypes. To register, call (403) 508-2500 or email info@aidscalgary.org.

Friday Lunch

September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23, November 6 & 20, Time: 1:00pm. Location: Calgary Cares Centre.

Friday lunches are an opportunity for those living with HIV/AIDS to share in a hot, nutritious meal in a safe non-judgmental environment. *For registered clients of AIDS Calgary.*

Wellness Day

September 29, 2009

This day for *registered clients of AIDS Calgary* will include: massage, acupuncture, workshops on nutrition and meditation, and more! The goal of the event is to offer clients an opportunity to address health concerns and experience alternative health therapies. For more information please call 403-508-2500 or email info@aidscalgary.org.

Annual General Meeting

August 25, 2009, Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Location: Olympic Room, Red and White Club. 1833 Crowchild Trail NW.

Hot New Positive Program

CNP+ is a new social group at AIDS Calgary for people living with HIV/AIDS. This is a one year pilot project. The purpose of the group is to provide a safe place for people to meet others, make friends and participate in activities such as movies workshops and more. Get involved!

If you are living with HIV let us know what activities you are interested in. What we do is up to you! Fill in our survey at www.aidscalgary.org by Monday August 31st or for more info contact Michael at 403-508-2500 or email cnpp@aidscalgary.org

GLBT-A Community Giving Conference

AIDS Calgary Awareness Association is pleased to announce the **GLBT-A (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allies) Community Giving Conference - presented by TD Bank Financial Group**. This conference will build a collective understanding of philanthropy in the Calgary GLBT-A community by engaging and educating: individuals, foundations and corporations, to meet the future needs of this community.

Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, Lindsay Blackett, will be in attendance to open the conference with welcome remarks. The conference will feature speakers from across Canada discussing such topics as forming a foundation, giving in diverse communities and community leadership in corporate philanthropy. Among the speakers is Ken Aucoin, Director, University College Alumni & Development Office at University of Toronto, who will be presenting on recent research in GLBT philanthropy. You can also join us for a stimulating panel discussion on how to fight donor apathy in a recession.

Why is this conference needed?

AIDS Calgary has noted a rise of GLBT-A community visibility in philanthropy but a lack of education and knowledge of community giving and philanthropy in the same community. As the first of its kind in Western Canada, the conference showcases knowledge in this area by bringing together organizations, businesses, donors, non-profit staff and volunteers from Calgary's GLBT-A community and beyond.

Who should attend this conference?

- Businesses, companies, organizations looking to attract GLBT-A consumers. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) consumers in Canada have an estimated disposable income of more than \$75 billion.

- Businesses, companies, organizations and philanthropists looking to for a way to strategically focus their charitable donations in the Calgary community and promote growth for causes that go hand in hand with their beliefs.

- Non-profit organizations associated with the GLBT-A community that are looking to learn the formal and informal methods of how to ask for and receive funding from donors. Additionally the conference will provide an opportunity to network with donors and other non-profits.

- Anyone that believes that the growth of the GLBT-A philanthropic network and causes that support these networks are important for the future sustainability of individual and professional development must not miss this conference.

Registration is now open. Please visit www.aidscalgary.org or call us at 403-508-2500 to register or learn more about this exciting new conference.

Date: October 23, 2009

Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm

4:30pm – 6:30pm Reception

Location: Fort Calgary

750 – 9 Avenue SE

HIV/AIDS Research News

2009 has seen a number of important medical breakthroughs in the fight against HIV/AIDS, with some of the most groundbreaking studies coming out of Canada.

The first Canadian medical breakthrough was through research focused on finding where HIV is hiding in the body and how to attack HIV's hiding places using chemotherapy and current antiretroviral treatments.

What is it? A new way of attacking HIV

When was it discovered? Spring 2009

Why is this groundbreaking? One of the largest issues with combating HIV, is that it establishes a hideout within specific cells (known as an HIV reservoirs), making the virus almost impossible for current antiretroviral drugs to target and kill.

In the study, the researchers were able to identify HIV reservoir cells and the stealthy mechanisms that protect them. In short they found HIV's hideout in the body.

The researchers further learned that when the HIV virus hides within reservoir cells, it can no longer survive without the cell. As a result, if the problematic cell dies, so does the virus resident within it.

Because scientists know where the virus is they believe they can now target and attack the infected cells using antiretroviral drugs and chemotherapy while giving the body a chance to produce new healthy immune cells.

Who is doing the research? Dr. Rafick-Pierre Sékaly (Université de Montréal), Dr. Jean-Pierre Routy (Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre), and scientists from

the National Institutes of Health and the University of Minnesota.

How long until this treatment is available? A study will begin in September to test the validity of these results. If targeted chemotherapy successfully eliminates HIV, researchers say the feasibility of the treatment will be determined over the next two to three years, with medication becoming available a few years after that.

What are some possible issues? Some HIV-positive patients do not respond to antiretroviral therapy. For those patients, zapping the cell will not likely yield any significant results.

Reprinted from The A Word. For more articles on recent research in HIV, please visit <http://aidscalgary.blogspot.com>.

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