# AIDS EXPERTS RECOMMEND PROTECTIONS AND **COLLABORATION FOR TESTS OF PREVENTIVE VACCINES**

The search for a preventive HIV vaccine may depend as much upon the implementation of extensive social and behavioral research, social safeguards and collabortion

among government agencies as it does on scientific breakthrough, a Washington confernce concluded recently.

"The testing of an HIV vaccine presents unprecedented challenges, and will test our will. our creativity and our ability to reach across our differences toward a common goal," said conference organizer Derek Hodel. Hodel is the treatment issues director of AIDS Action Council.

The May 9-10 conference, sponsored by the Washingtonbased AIDS Action, drew nearly 300 participants and issued a

examined the responses of 36

children and adolescents with

SCD through 56 acute episodes

of pain severe enough to require

hospitalization. Instead of being

treated solely with morphine or

other narcotic pain relievers, the

children were given a mixture of

corticosteroid which is an anti-

inflammatory drug already used

treatment reduced the duration

of the patient's painful episodes

and shortened their hospital

stays by one-third. The

treatment, however, does cause

some side effects. Dr. Buchanan

noted that some of the patient's

The combination SCD

methylprednisolone

to treat arthritis pain.

morphine

40-page report—HIV Preventive Vaccines: Social, Ethical and Political Considerations for Domestic Efficacy Trials-with over 50 recommendations.

"Forcommunities at great risk of contracting HIV, we are as desperate for a vaccine as we are for a cure," says Hodel. "Our recommendation will provide the foundation for a successful partnership among government, industry, academia and the communities most affected by HIV," Hodel said.

Thousands of volunteers of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations and lifestyles will be needed to test prospective

Trial planners face many difficult issues. For instance, researchers must provide riskreduction counseling to participants, but that may make it more dificult to detect how well the vaccine works.

On the other hand, participants may believe they are protected from HIV and might increase their risk-taking.

There are also concerns that trial volunteers may be subject to discrimination as a result of the contiuing stigmatization of

In the wake of continued allegations of past biomedical injustices, careful planning and community involvement are key to the testing of AIDS vaccines. Many of the communities most affected by the AIDS epidemic are among society's most vulnerable to discriminationcommunities of poor people, gay men, drug users and people of

Conference speakers included Dr. William Paul, head of the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, Dr. June Osborn, former chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on AIDS, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease head Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Robert Fullilove, a community health specialist and behavioral researcher at Columbia University, James Jones, author of Bad Blood (a history of the Tuskegee Syphillis Study), and more than 40 other experts on AIDS and on bioethics.

AIDS Action Foundation fights the AIDS epidemic by ensuring informed public policy on HIV/AIDS through policy research, education and information dissemination. It works in concert with AIDS



AIDS CASES RISE DISPROPORTIONATELY **AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS & LATINOS** 

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that AIDS cases more than doubled last year under a broader definition of the disease - showing a dramatic increase in infection among heterosexuals. The CDC expected the new definition to increase the number of cases by 75% but found that the number of new cases had jumped by 111% instead. The increase was greater among women (151%), African Americans (102%), and Latinos (123%). Data for Native Americans and Asian Americans was considered inreliable because of the small number of cases reported. Other CDC data showed that for women the most dramatic rise in cases was among African American women in the South. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Skinner, CDC Press Office, 404-639-3285.

\* \* \* STUDY INDICATES **DISCRIMINATION IN AIDS** TREATMENT A study, conducted at Johns

### AMERICAN LUNG **ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA TO HOLD** FREEDOM FROM **SMOKING CLINIC**

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Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, M.D. by Dr. Richard Chaisson, showed that obtaining quality AIDS treatment is extremely difficult for people of color. Dr Chaisson's study looked at African Americans and whites with identical HIV status who were applying for admission to a Johns Hopkins AIDS treatment program. He found that 63% of the white applicants had been given AZT (the most effective AIDS drug available) by their physicians, while only 48% of African American applicants were being treated with the drug. Further, when examining the applicants usage of other drugs designed to extend the lives of AIDS patients by preventing infections, Chaisson found that 82% of the white applicants were receiving preventive drug therapy, compared with only 58% of the African Americans. Since all applicants surveyed agreed to receive the same type of drug treatment once they were admitted to Johns Hopkins, Dr

Chaisson said that he could only conclude that "there really is a racial difference in how physicians are treating people."

While the study only reviewed patients in Baltimore, similar treatment discrepancies have been found in New York State programs. In New York, African Americans and Latinos were less likely to be enrolled in statecontrolled AIDS treatment services than whites. FOR INFORMATION MORE CONTACT Dr. Richard Chaisson, Johns Hopkins Medical School, 410-955-1754.

\*\*\* PROMISING NEW TREATMENT FOR SICKLE **CELL PAIN** 

The work of Dr. George Buchanan of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centerin Dallas and Dr. Timothy Griffin of Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center has led to a new and more effective treatment for the acute pain associated with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). The study

## COUNSELING SERVICES OFFERED

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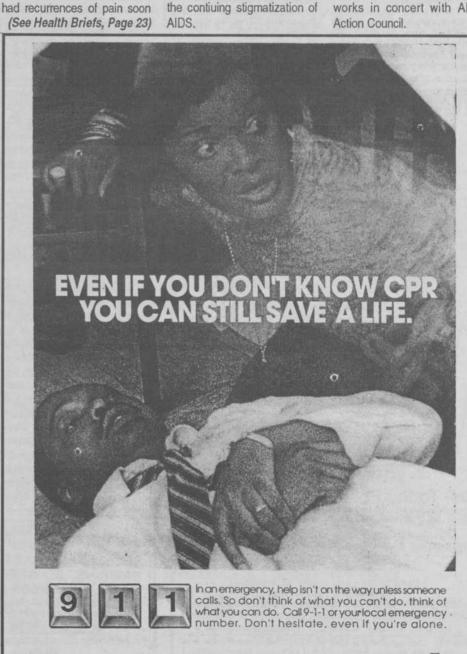
The center provides a variety of counseling services, including support for persons facing marital difficulties, family communication problems, individual crises, parenting problems, career decisions, and other important life issues.

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