



## Fact Sheet

Founded: 1996  
Director: John S. Greenspan, BDS, PhD  
Number of programs and laboratories: 62  
Number of scientists: 400

Number of staff (FTE): 6  
NIH-funded grants (2006–07): 124 / \$120 million  
501(c)(3), tax ID #: 94-2829914

### **Mission Statement**

The AIDS Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco (ARI) is committed to fostering innovative and integrated science—basic, clinical, prevention, and policy research—to prevent, understand, treat, and someday cure HIV infection; and to the rapid dissemination of our findings and training of new scientists to continue working toward our ultimate goal of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

### **Our unique setting**

One of the preeminent medical education and research institutions in the world, UCSF emerged early as a leader in the fight against AIDS. The AIDS program at UCSF is consistently ranked #1 by *U.S. News and World Report* in its annual survey of U.S. medical schools.

### **History and structure**

In 1996 the AIDS Research Institute was established at UCSF to coordinate and integrate all of the university's AIDS research activities. Serving as an “umbrella” to more than 60 programs and laboratories, the ARI stimulates innovation and supports interdisciplinary collaboration aimed at all aspects of the epidemic domestically and in at least 67 countries around the world. The ARI brings together hundreds of scientists from throughout the university's four professional schools (Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing) as well as affiliated labs and institutions. The ARI works in close collaboration with affected communities to plan, conduct, and disseminate its research.

### **Goals**

The ARI confronts the disease with a comprehensive plan:

- Expand efforts to research the genetic biology of HIV and mechanisms of immunologic control exhibited by those who remain healthy despite years of HIV infection to discover new and better therapeutic targets and vaccine strategies.
- Explore the role of acute HIV infection—that is, the time immediately after infection, when viral levels are extremely high and many are unaware of their HIV status—in driving the epidemic, and devise new prevention methods based on this knowledge.
- Study and improve upon existing biologic prevention methods including microbicides, pre-exposure prophylaxis, HSV and other STD control, and breastfeeding policy.
- Expand efforts to optimize the provision and management of antiretroviral treatment, study linkages between AIDS and other major infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, and increase healthcare capacity and infrastructure in Africa, China, India, and elsewhere.
- Research and aggressively pursue the implementation of practical, effective, cost-effective, and humane HIV/AIDS policies locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Expand ARI training and mentoring programs, both at UCSF and abroad, to develop the next generation of HIV/AIDS clinicians and investigators.

By combining the best AIDS basic science, bench-to-bedside research, behavioral studies, direct care services, and policy development, the ARI continues to pave the way for future breakthroughs in HIV/AIDS. Further, we expand our reach by applying our approaches to other, related diseases of grave and urgent concern such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, and malaria.

## Executive Committee

**Nina Agabian, PhD**  
Director, Oral AIDS Center

**Francesca Aweeka, PharmD**  
Director, Drug Research Unit

**David Bangsberg, MD, MPH**  
Director, Epidemiology & Prevention Interventions Center

**Susan Buchbinder, MD**  
Director, HIV Research Section, San Francisco  
Department of Public Health

**Michael Busch, MD, PhD**  
Director, Blood Systems Research Institute

**Jennifer Cocohoba, PharmD**  
Chair, Junior Faculty AIDS Researchers (JFAR)

**Haile T. Debas, MD**  
Director, UCSF Global Health Sciences

**Ruth Greenblatt, MD**  
Director, Women's Specialty Program and Bay Area  
Research Consortium on Women & AIDS

**Warner C. Greene, MD, PhD**  
Director, Gladstone Institute of Virology & Immunology  
Co-Director, UCSF-GIVI Center for AIDS Research

**John S. Greenspan, BDS, PhD**  
Director, AIDS Research Institute at UCSF  
Director, UCSF AIDS Specimen Bank

**C. Bradley Hare, MD**  
Medical Director, Positive Health Program

**Diane Havlir, MD**  
Chief, AIDS Division/Positive Health Program

**Frederick Hecht, MD**  
Research Director, Osher Center for Integrative Medicine

**Mallory Johnson, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies

**Jay A. Levy, MD**  
Director, Laboratory of Tumor & AIDS Virus Research

**Joseph M. McCune, MD, PhD**  
Director, AIDS Biology Program

**Stephen F. Morin, PhD**  
Director, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies  
Director, AIDS Policy Research Center

**Carmen J. Portillo, RN, PhD, FAAN**  
Professor, Community Health Systems, School of Nursing

**Arthur Reingold, MD, MPH**  
Director, UC Berkeley-UCSF Fogarty International  
AIDS Training Program

**E. Michael Reyes, MD, MPH**  
Director, Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center

**George W. Rutherford, MD**  
Director, Institute for Global Health

**Paul A. Volberding, MD**  
Chief of Medical Service, San Francisco Veterans Affairs  
Medical Center  
Co-Director, UCSF-GIVI Center for AIDS Research

**Diane W. Wara, MD**  
Program Director, Pediatric Clinical Research Center

## ARI Staff

**John Greenspan**, Director

**Alan R. Beach**, Interim Deputy Director

**Jeff Sheehy**, Communications Director

**David Robb**, Member Services Manager

**Cecily Rutz**, Associate Director of Development

**Kathleen Jose**, Development and Operations  
Assistant

## Milestones and accomplishments

UCSF remains at the forefront in the fight against AIDS, as we have been since the start of the epidemic.

- Drs. Keith Garrison and Doug Nixon identify an HIV vaccine target that could overcome the problem that HIV exists in so many variations and is constantly mutating (2007)
- Dr. Sheri Weiser finds that for women in Botswana and Swaziland food insecurity is strongly associated with the likelihood of engaging in unprotected sex, the exchange of sex for food or other resources, and lack of control in their sexual relations, and thus that food insufficiency must be addressed along with provision of medical care (2007)
- CAPS researcher Dr. Wayne Steward finds a striking shift among newly HIV-infected men toward protective behaviors including increased condom use, fewer partners, and most dramatically, choosing to have unprotected sex exclusively with HIV+ partners (2007)
- Dr. Donald Abrams finds that smoked cannabis reduces pain caused by HIV-associated neuropathy, the first measurable benefit for medical cannabis shown in a “gold standard” double-blind, placebo-controlled trial (2007)
- UCSF Positive Health Program researchers under the leadership of Diane Havlir reduced the incidence of malaria to almost zero (by 97%) among children with HIV in Uganda by administering prophylactically the inexpensive antibiotic cotrimoxazole and providing insecticide-treated mosquito nets for the children to sleep under (2006)
- Gladstone investigators discover how resting T cells avoid HIV infection—a potent antiviral factor called APOBEC3G is the key—a finding that could lead to new therapeutic strategies (2005)
- Dr. Robert Grant shows that superinfection, the sequential acquisition of multiple HIV variants, is extremely rare among highly exposed HIV+ couples (2004)
- Dr. Kimberly Shafer shows that receptive oral sex is an extremely low-risk activity for the acquisition of HIV, finding no cases of transmission in a large study (2002)
- Dr. Steven Deeks shows that drug-resistant HIV strains are less “fit” than original “wild-type” viruses and do their damage more haltingly, especially when up against numerous drugs in a salvage-therapy regimen (2001)
- Drs. Tom Coates and Michelle Roland develop a pioneering post-exposure prophylaxis drug and counseling program (2000)
- Dr. Michelle Roland leads the Migden HIV Transplant Initiative, a multisite trial to determine if it is safe to provide kidney, liver, and heart transplants to people with HIV (1999)
- The first case of transmission of multi-protease inhibitor-resistant HIV is documented, following research conducted in the U.S. and Latin America (1998)
- Dr. Haile Debas, Dean of the UCSF School of Medicine, spearheads an effort to unite the HIV/AIDS programs and laboratories at UCSF, resulting in the creation of the AIDS Research Institute (1996)
- Dr. Paul Volberding leads ACTG 019, a groundbreaking series of studies meant to determine the effectiveness of AZT as well as its optimal dosage and best time to begin therapy (1990–94)
- Dr. Charles Craik's laboratory was the first to use the X-ray structure of HIV protease to identify an inhibitor that effectively blocks the enzyme's activity, the same method used to design protease inhibitor drugs today (1990)
- Dr. Diane Wara cofounds the first center to care for pregnant women with HIV (1987). Within a decade, nearly all mother-to-child transmission are eliminated in California using a short course of antiviral drugs
- Drs. Tom Coates, Steve Hulley, Susan Kegeles, and Leon McKusick establish the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) to conduct theory-based research to improve practice and policy of HIV/AIDS prevention (1986)
- County Community Consortium is founded, under the leadership of Dr. Donald Abrams, establishing the concept of community-based clinical trials (1985)
- Drs. John and Deborah Greenspan, at the UCSF School of Dentistry, are the first to describe a disease known as hairy leukoplakia, often the first sign of AIDS (1984)
- Dr. Jay Levy discovers HIV at the same time as researchers at the Pasteur Institute in France (1983)
- Drs. Paul Volberding and John Ziegler receive the first NIH AIDS funding at UCSF (1983)

- Dr. Paul Volberding, the late Dr. Constance Wofsy, and others begin treating a growing number of gay men suffering from Kaposi's sarcoma in Ward 86 of San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH), now known as the Positive Health Program (1981)