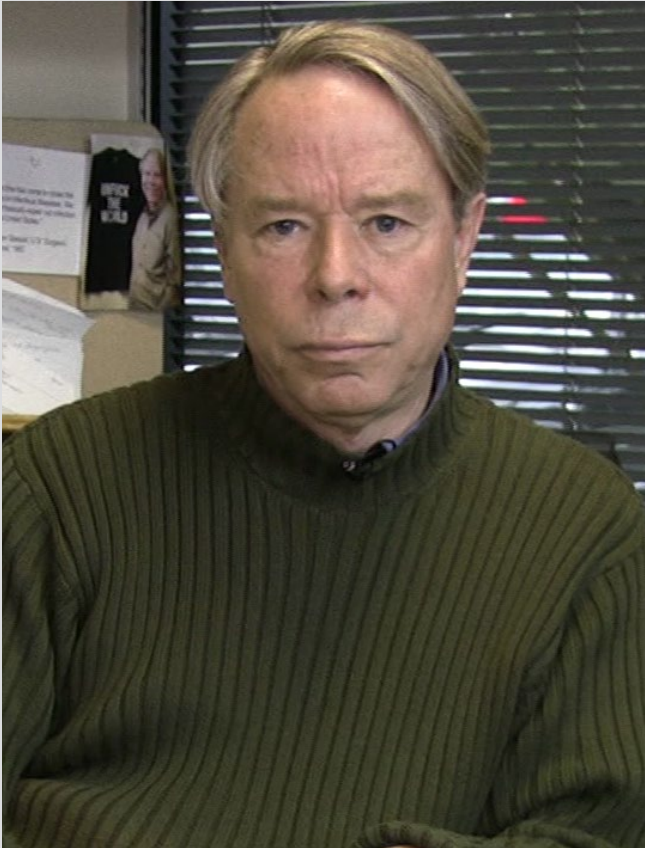

Selected Supporters • A Killed-Virus Vaccine Effort for HIV/AIDS

www.killhivnow.org



Donald P. Francis, M.D., D.Sc.

Co-Founder and Executive Director, GSID
President and Co-Founder, VaxGen
Head of AIDS laboratory, Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
Global Health / Infectious Disease Scientist

Dr. Francis has worked on HIV/AIDS since its emergence in 1981. He initially directed the AIDS laboratory at the CDC and worked closely with the Institut Pasteur to identify the virus.

Dr. Francis joined Genentech to spend full time developing vaccines, while he also helped found what became the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). With waning private sector interest in HIV vaccine development, Dr. Francis co-founded VaxGen, which completed the world's first Phase III trials of two candidate HIV vaccines in 2003.

*Dr. Francis' efforts to call attention to the AIDS threat and warn of the inadequacy of the public health response were chronicled in the book and movie *And the Band Played On*, journalist Randy Shiltz' account of the early years of the AIDS epidemic.*

“For years I’ve thought that killed virus should be done.”

“To say, ‘because it hasn’t been tried it’s not worth trying,’ is just silliness. Given the importance of HIV and the misery that the epidemic is causing, limiting the number of approaches that should be taken to develop a preventive vaccine is nonsense.”

“If you stick with the consensus of the day it’s usually wrong. That doesn’t mean some crazy idea is right, but if you take the standard ideas -- and in this case a killed vaccine -- it’s a pretty good bet that something good may come out of it.”

“It does take some guts to go up against established research community and say, ‘Let’s try something different,’ but you watch. That consensus can change very, very rapidly.... I would follow your instincts and go with it, and then let everyone else line up with you later when you have success.”



Marcus A Conant, M.D.

HIV/AIDS Treatment Specialist
Founder, San Francisco AIDS Foundation

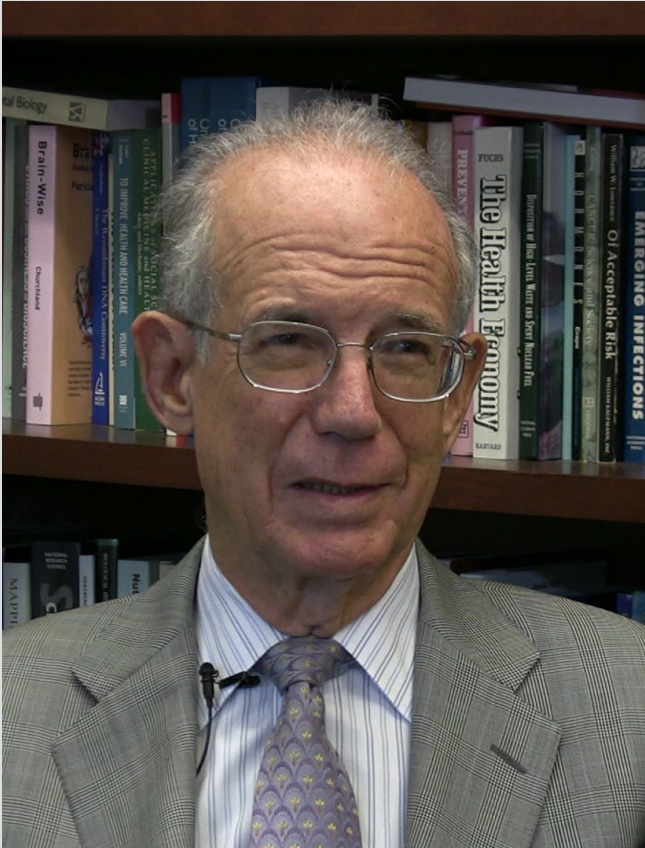
Dr. Conant is an honored and respected pioneer, lecturer, physician and out-spoken advocate for people with HIV infections and AIDS. Among the first physicians to identify AIDS in 1981, he helped create one of the largest private AIDS clinics, was a founder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, helped to found the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), and his work contributed to development of some of today's top HIV medications.

Dr. Conant has received a number of awards, including the 1987 Chancellor's Award for Public Service from the Chancellor of the University of California, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Leadership Award, and the 1996 Practitioner of the Year Award from the American Academy of Dermatology.

“If you talk to vaccinologists now, they will tell you, ‘we have to go back to the drawing board, we don’t know how to do it [using new methods]’. Well, we *do* know how vaccines were developed in the past. So why don’t we try that first while we’re trying to come up with some new innovative idea?”

“The problem is many of these leaders have bought into this erroneous consensus that this isn’t going to work.... Someone who comes to me and says, ‘other people tell me this won’t work,’ my advice would be to ask them why they’re saying that. Do they have scientific evidence it won’t work, or is this just a presumption?”

“Killed virus vaccines have been tested for years. We know how to do that, we know we can do that. And if it does work it can be done very cheaply.... So you’ve got a world out there with approaching 40 million infected people? The cheapest, fastest vaccine you can get out there is clearly what we need.”



Donald Kennedy, Ph.D.

Former Commissioner, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
President Emeritus, Stanford University
Former Editor-in-Chief, Science Magazine
Bing Professor of Environmental Science and Policy,
Stanford University

Dr. Kennedy is a respected scientist, public administrator, and academic, who has spent the majority of his distinguished career at Stanford University.

He also served as Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration during the Carter Administration, after which he returned to Stanford University, where he served an extended tenure as the university's president from 1980-1992.

From 2000 until 2008, Dr. Kennedy was editor-in-chief of Science, the prestigious weekly journal published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

“There isn’t any group of supported, funded scientists who are trying to do what Jonas Salk did with the polio vaccine, namely to work with killed viruses. Why can’t people understand that there was a lesson there and that it probably ought to be tried again? But it hasn’t been.”

“A technique that has worked well in the past isn’t being tested. And it strikes me as a kind of failure on the part of the scientific community, accepting the judgment on the part of some biologists that it wouldn’t work.”

“It’s worked before, that’s number one. Number two, nobody’s doing it at all, despite the fact that it’s worked before. And three, you could make a real difference if this succeeded.”



Haynes W. Sheppard, Ph.D.

Ret. Research Scientist, California Dept. of Public Health
Principal Investigator, HIV Vaccine Trials Network
Principal Investigator, HIV Prevention Trials Network
Principal Investigator, HIVNET Central Laboratory

Dr. Sheppard is a Research Scientist, recently retired from the California Department of Public Health, with long-term interest in HIV/AIDS vaccines. He was a “key investigator” for the San Francisco Men’s Health Study cohort, Principal Investigator (PI) for the HIVNET Central Laboratory, PI of the International Coordinating Laboratory of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, and PI for one of 3 central laboratories for the HIV Prevention Trials Network.

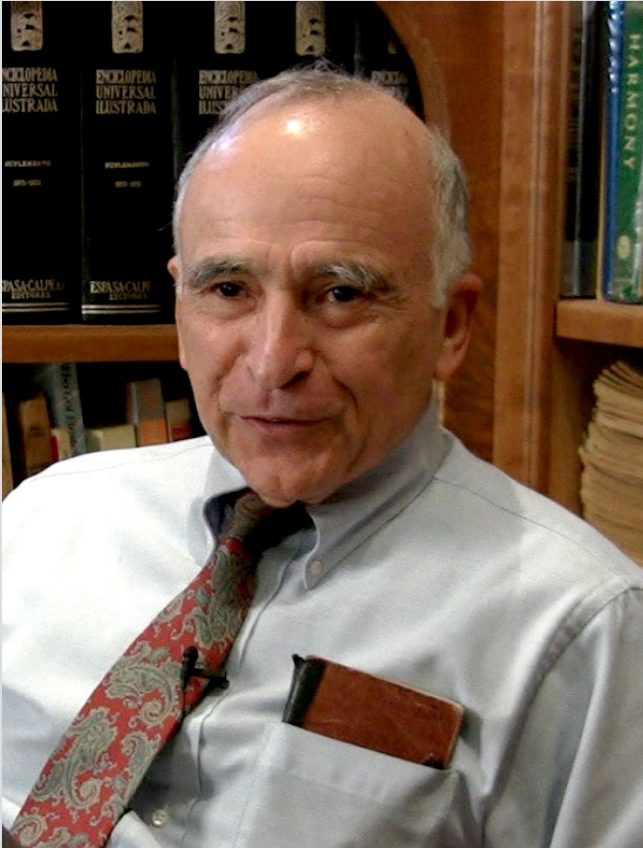
Dr. Sheppard has conducted numerous HIV-related laboratory infrastructure improvement projects in Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia, Mozambique, Brazil, Haiti/DR, Trinidad-Tobago, Peru, Thailand, and China.

“We really should try every possible approach that has worked in the past, and killed virus vaccines is one approach that has worked in the past and has not been tried. Almost every other approach that has worked in the past has been tried very seriously with a large amount of funding, with the exception of killed virus.”

“Personally I’ve had a number of [killed virus] grant applications turned down, sometimes for very strange reasons, rather than serious scientific objections like ‘scientifically this won’t work.’ I’ve never had that objection.”

“As a percentage of the money that’s being spent currently on HIV vaccine development, a killed virus vaccine effort would be almost a drop in the bucket by comparison.”

“We can’t give up. The need is so great, and it’s clear to all of us that the only ultimate solution to the HIV pandemic is an effective vaccine. So we just can’t give up. We have to keep our enthusiasm going, and we have to persevere.”



Burton P. Dorman, Ph.D.

Co-Founder and President, Acrogen, Inc.
Co-Founder and President, Advanced Genetics Research Institute (AGRI)
Founding Officer, Association of Biotechnology Companies

Dr. Dorman holds a Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from U.C. Berkeley and did postdoctoral work in human genetics at Yale. He was co-founder and president of two biotechnology firms and a founding officer and director of the Washington, D.C.-based Association of Biotechnology Companies.

*Dr. Dorman's longstanding advocacy on behalf of classical vaccine methods for HIV/AIDS was discussed in "We could have an AIDS vaccine, so why don't we?" a 1995 article by Mark Schoofs in *The Village Voice* and in "Shots in the Dark," a 2001 book authored by Science journalist Jon Cohen.*

“We’ve not tested the most obvious way to make a vaccine for HIV/AIDS. It would take only a few years, it would cost only a few million dollars, and it could save millions of lives.”

“Whenever we bring this subject up with someone who’s not well acquainted with the field, we often begin with “you’re not gonna believe this”. Because frankly it does seem unbelievable. How could we as a society pass over a plausible solution like a classical vaccine?”

“A classical vaccine is a very well known undertaking. it’s been done over and over again. It’s possible to make very reliable predictions about how long it takes to systematically examine the known variables that influence outcomes of classical vaccines.”

“Common sense dictates that we should try any plausible approach to a vaccine. And we have not tried the most plausible, potentially the most likely, and the most direct path to a preventive vaccine.”