

hill course of the illness firsthand, which could be a more effective influence than a cross-sectional classroom contact. In addition, a student volunteer program would enrich the supply of community volunteers who will be increasingly needed as the epidemic progresses.

Adolescents are a group at increasing risk for exposure to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and society must exert every possible effort to motivate and influence their behavior toward a lower risk profile. If personal contacts with people with AIDS do have such an influence, then we need to study programs that facilitate such interactions to evaluate their potential importance in the educational approach to preventing AIDS.

ALAN I. TRACHTENBERG
*Institute for Health Policy Studies,
University of California,
San Francisco, CA 94110*

STEPHEN B. HULLEY
*Center for AIDS Prevention Studies,
University of California,
San Francisco*

REFERENCES

1. L. McKusick, W. Hortsman, T. J. Coates, *Am. J. Public Health* 75, 493 (1985); D. E. Klein *et al.*, *Am. J. Psychiatr.* 144, 742 (1987).
2. S. Staver, *Am. Med. News*, 23/30 October 1987, p. 3; A. Trachtenberg and S. B. Hulley, *J. Am. Med. Assoc.* 259, 1015 (1988).

Fineberg's simple model of HIV acquisition correctly highlights the *individual* risks of unsafe sex; however, it is important that his results not be misinterpreted. For example, in evaluating a "safe sex" educational program, the discovery that active gay men have, on average, reduced their numbers of partners by a factor of 2 might be viewed as inconsequential according to Fineberg's model. In fact, such a change could have a dramatic impact on the prevalence of HIV among gay men. Similarly, consistent condom use over the long term would also have a large impact. Fineberg's model ignores the role risky behavior plays in *determining* the prevalence of HIV infection. Thus, although I agree with the general tone of his remarks, it is important not to understate the effects that reduction in (as opposed to erasure of) risky behavior can have on the AIDS epidemic.

EDWARD H. KAPLAN
*Operations Research and
Public Management,
Yale School of Organization and
Management, Box 1A,
New Haven, CT 06520*

Erratum: In the second paragraph of the News & Comment briefing "Duesberg gets his day in court" by William Booth (15 April, p. 279), William Haseltine's name was misspelled.

Stable Isotopes: The Source

Isotec Inc. offers a large selection of enriched stable isotopes and labelled compounds available for research and industry.

Deuterium — A wide variety with enrichments to 99.99%.

Carbon-13 — Organics, inorganics, sugars, amino acids, etc. . . .

Nitrogen-15 — Ammonia, urea and other fertilizers — enrichments 10 to 99%

Oxygen-18 — Gas, water, multi-labelled compounds. . . .

Metal stable isotopes — A comprehensive range from atomic number 12 to 82.

Custom synthesis capability — Just call us!

Send for our latest catalog. ISOTEC is THE source of stable isotopes for industry and research.

ISOTEC INC.
A Matheson® USA Company

3858 Benner Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(513) 859-1808
(800) 448-9760

Pure & Simple

They say that variety is the spice of life. But the variety of life insurance products in the marketplace today poses a bewildering prospect—even for the most educated customer. Which is why it's refreshing to know that there's still a kind of life insurance whose appeal lays in its simplicity.

Not only is AAAS Term Life the purest kind of life insurance available, it is also the least expensive. And now that Group Rates have been cut another 15% effective 4/1/88 (they were also cut 15% last October), AAAS Term Life is an even better bargain.

If you're interested in applying for coverage from \$15,000 up to \$240,000, and wish to request generous protection for your family, too, the next step is simple.

Contact the Administrator, AAAS Group Insurance Program, 1255 23rd Street, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20037, or call toll-free (800) 424-9883 (in Washington, D.C. call 296-8030). They will be pleased to answer any questions you may have about this valuable member benefit.