

SCIENCE'S COMPASS

ture and operational systems. Yet, it is clear that to implement these HIV/AIDS-specific interventions, strengthened systems in different sectors (health, education, labor, and others) are essential.

Simplistic approaches, such as purchasing HAART drugs without ensuring that local infrastructures have the capacity to deliver them appropriately, would at best provide only short-term benefits to a small portion of the population in need and at worst could make the epidemic worse by generating drug resistance and prevention complacency. However, given the scale and urgency of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, one cannot use poor infrastructure as an excuse for not responding. Indeed, the political momentum associated with demands to increase antiretroviral access should be exploited as an historic opportunity to rectify long-standing deficiencies in health infrastructures.

The lesson from two decades of success and failure is that support to national priorities, including building up local capacity and infrastructure, is the key to turning back the HIV epidemic. Effective strategic planning on HIV/AIDS must include governmental and nongovernmental organizations and cut across all health, social development, and economic sectors. With the

support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other international partners, many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have already developed such plans. These plans should not be allowed to fail because of a lack of resources.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

NEWS OF THE WEEK: "Petition seeks public sharing of code" by D. Malakoff (5 Oct., p. 27). The location of Phil Green was erroneously given as Washington University in St. Louis. For the past 7 years Green has been at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he is currently an Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

NEWS FOCUS: "Bold corridor project confronts political reality" by J. Kaiser (21 Sept., p. 2196). The name of John Beavers was misspelled. Also, Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve is not part of the largest intact tropical forest north of South

America as was stated, but is only part of it; this forest includes land in Belize and Mexico.

POLICY FORUM: "WHO ranking of health system performance" by D. T. Jamison and M. E. Sandbu (31 Aug., p. 1595). The reference citations are inaccurate. In reference (9), the two geographical variables provided by J. L. Gallup and J. Sachs may be found in the data set at www.cid.harvard.edu/cid-data/ciddata.html, not in the *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, as stated. The work of D. Bloom and J. Sachs mentioned in reference (10) can be found in *Brookings Pap. Econ. Act.* 2, 207 (1998).

Letters to the Editor

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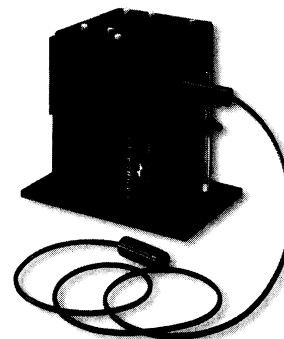
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