



Positive Advocate

Summer 2020

A publication of the Affected Communities Committee of the HIV Health Services Planning Council
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COVID-19: HIV and Methamphetamine

There is a growing concern among healthcare providers regarding the emergence of methamphetamine use and HIV as risk factors for COVID-19 (Carrico et al., 2020). Methamphetamine use has led to individuals engaging in high-risk behaviors and has been associated with an increased risk of HIV. The combination of methamphetamine and HIV has resulted in behavioral disturbance and cognitive impairment; thus, resulting in poor antiretroviral therapy adherence and persistence (Soontornniyomki et al., 2016). Carrico et al. (2020) recently published a journal article emphasizing a public health concern regarding the potential risk of COVID-19 among men who have sex with men (MSM) with the co-occurrence of methamphetamine use and HIV. Methamphetamine use is known to increase sexual gratification and is often used in social settings; thus, Carrico et al., (2020) postulates that methamphetamine users are more likely to experience a greater difficulty in adhering to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. Given the state's mandated "shelter-in-place" and social distancing restrictions, the level of stress among community members has increased, with many resorting to increased substance use. Although research on COVID-19 is evolving, service providers must take the initiative to provide COVID-19 preventative education and respond to the mental health and substance needs of our HIV community during this pandemic.

The Central Valley AIDS Education and Training Center located at the University of California, Davis Medical Center has been awarded a local CARES Foundation Grant to provide a quarterly update on new topics related to HIV treatment and care. We hope the information presented will increase provider knowledge and offer best practice approaches to treating and caring for our HIV community members.

References

Soontornniyomkij, V., Kesby, J. P., Morgan, E. E., Bischoff-Grethe, A., Minassian, A., Brown, G. G., Grant, I., & Translational Methamphetamine AIDS Research Center (TMARC) Group. (2016). Effects of HIV and methamphetamine on brain and behavior: Evidence from human studies and animal models. *Journal of Neuroimmune Pharmacol*, 11(3), 495-510. doi: [10.1007/s11481-016-9699-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11481-016-9699-0)

Carrico, A. W., Horvath, K. J., Grov, C., Moskowitz, J. T., Pahwa, S., Pallikkuth, S., & Hirshfield, S. (2020). Double jeopardy: Methamphetamine use and HIV as risk factors for COVID-19. *AIDS and Behavior*, 1-4 doi: [10.1007/s10461-020-02854-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02854-w)

Friendship Line California 1-888-670-1360

For seniors and adults with disabilities, living alone during this pandemic, can cause emotional well-being issues of social isolation, stress and anxiety. The Institute on Aging's Friendship, with additional funding from the California Department of Aging, is available for people aged 60 years and older and adults living with disabilities to provide emotional support. Call 1-888-670-1360 for a caring, compassionate voice ready to listen and provide emotional support.

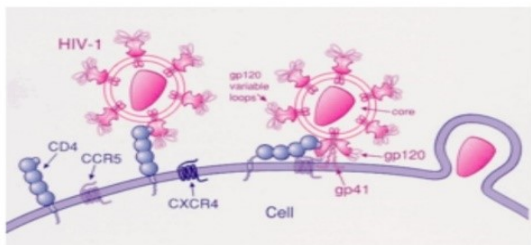
Another Person Cured of HIV-1?

Submitted by Michael Gagnon

A study published in the March edition of *Lancet HIV* 2020, a medical journal focused on advances in HIV research, presents comprehensive evidence of another person "cured" of HIV. Dr. Ravindra Kumar Gupta, and others, used a stem-cell transplantation to stop the Human Immunodeficiency virus from progressing; furthermore, this patient's HIV infection has been in regression for 30 months.

This person known as the London patient, was first made public in Dr. Gupta's original study published 2019. The London patient is the second person to have been "cured" of HIV-1; the first being the Berlin patient, in 2008. The difference between these two cases shows the advancement of stem-cell transplantation and its use to stop HIV in the body. In 2008 the Berlin patient underwent total body irradiation. A procedure which prepares the body for a stem-cell transplantation. The problem with irradiation is it suppresses the recipient's immune system and can have long lasting side effects. The 2019 London patient did not need to go through total body irradiation before the stem-cell transplantation, limiting harmful effects.

How HIV-1 invades the body and the use of stem-cells to stop HIV progression.



Attachment of HIV to a CD4+ T-helper cell: 1) the gp120 viral protein attaches to CD4. 2) gp120 variable loop attaches to a coreceptor, either CCR5 or CXCR4. 3) HIV enters the cell.

Stem-cells that are transplanted are missing the CCR5 gene; which, creates CCR5 protein. HIV uses the CCR5 protein to invade the CD4+ T cell. By introducing stem-cells that do not encode for CCR5, HIV has one less way in which it can spread throughout the body.

For the London patient, the stem-cell transplantation occurred May 2016. In September 2017, HIV complex antiretroviral therapy (cART) medications were ceased and by February 2019 patient blood samples showed HIV infection to be in remission. This new March 2020 study expands the evidence of HIV remission with multiple tissue samples; such as colon and lymph nodes, areas in the body known to harbor HIV. All samples showed HIV remission and mathematical models predict long-term HIV remission.

Although other barriers exist, such as, gene editing efficiency and robust safety data, Dr. Gupta and team believe the London patient to be the second recorded HIV-1 "cure" after a stem-cell transplantation.

One Community Health offers low cost & confidential walk-in and appointments for HIV, Hepatitis C & STD testing at its Midtown Campus.
Call 916-443-3299 to make an appointment or for more information.
No one will be turned away if they are unable to pay.

Free or Low-Cost STD/HIV/HCV Testing;
Contact the agency directly for dates, times and costs of testing
Golden Rule Services 916-427-4653
Harm Reduction Services 916-456-4849
Sacramento Sexual Health Clinic 916-875-1551

Partner Services:

County of Sacramento - 916-875-1100
One Community Health - 916-443-3299
Yolo County - 530-666-8670
El Dorado and Placer Counties:
Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation 530-889-2437

The Sacramento TGA's HIV Health Services Planning Council and Committee Meeting Schedules
Committees may be canceled if there is no pressing business to conduct. Call 916-876-5548 to verify.
Presently, all in-person meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and the meetings are being held by teleconference. The teleconference call-in information is on each committee agenda which can be found on the www.sacramento-tga.com website.

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| 1st Monday of Every Month: No meetings in July or Sept. | Affected Communities Committee: 3:00—4:00 p.m. at Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020 |
| 1st Tuesday of Every Month: | Prevention Committee: 1:00—2:00 p.m. at the Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020 |
| 1st Tuesday of Every Month: | Quality Advisory Committee: 2:00—3:00 p.m. at the Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020 |
| Quarterly on the 1st Tuesday of March, June, Sept. and Dec. | Needs Assessment Committee: 3:00—4:30 p.m. at the Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020 |
| 2nd Monday of Every Month: Except October, and November due to holidays | Priorities and Allocations Committee: 10—12:00 p.m. at the Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020 |
| 2nd Thursday of Every Month: | Executive Committee: 3:00—5:00 p.m. at the County of Sacramento Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020 |
| 4th Wednesday of Every Month: Combined Nov/Dec on 12/9/20 | HIV Health Services Planning Council: 10—12 p.m. at the Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020 |

Primary Care Parking: There is free parking on the LOWER LEVEL in the parking structure. Entrance off Broadway only. The Stockton Blvd entrance is closed.



Back Page



The **POSITIVE ADVOCATE** Newsletter is a quarterly information and outreach project. We welcome submissions from the affected community. For additional information about the Affected Communities Committee (ACC), HIV Health Services Planning Council (HHSPC), or this newsletter, contact: Paula Gammell at 916-876-5548
www.sacramento-tga.com

The **Affected Communities Committee** addresses issues facing the HIV/AIDS community and advises the Planning Council on community affairs. The mission of the committee is to recruit, empower, and involve people living with HIV/AIDS in the strategic planning and advocacy of HIV/AIDS care and services. These goals will be accomplished with the assistance of the Council support staff toward the fulfillment of its mission. The committee encourages an environment of trust and safety in achieving its mission.

The Committee meets the first Monday of the Month, except July and September, from 3—4 p.m., at Sacramento County Health Center
 4600 Broadway, Community Room 2020, Sacramento, 95820.

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

CommuniCare Health Centers
 916-403-2910 x1077 **** Yolo County Residents only ****

Golden Rule Services 916-427-4653

Harm Reduction Services 916-456-4849

One Community Health 916-443-3299

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation
 **** El Dorado and Placer Counties only ****
 Main number: 530-889-2437

Sunburst Projects 916-440-0889

Volunteers of America 916-451-1765

UC Davis Medical Center Pediatric Infectious Disease
 916-734-1873

Ryan White Funded Services and Providers

Ryan White Funded Service:

Ambulatory Care:

Child Care:

Emergency Financial Assistance:

Food Bank:

Health Education and Risk Reduction:

Health Insurance Assistance:

Housing

Medical Nutritional Therapy:

Medical Transportation:

Mental Health:

Non-Medical Case Management:

Oral Health:

Outreach Services:

Substance Abuse—Outpatient:

Substance Abuse—Residential:

Medical Case Management:

Providers:

One Community Health

Sunburst Projects

One Community Health, CommuniCare, Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation

Volunteers of America

One Community Health, CommuniCare

One Community Health

One Community Health, CommuniCare, Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation

One Community Health, CommuniCare, Volunteers of America

One Community Health

One Community Health, CommuniCare, Harm Reduction Services,

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation, UC Davis Pediatrics

One Community Health, Sunburst Projects, UC Davis Pediatrics,

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation

Golden Rule Services, One Community Health

One Community Health, CommuniCare

One Community Health

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One Community Health, Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation,

One Community Health, CommuniCare, Harm Reduction Services,

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation, Sunburst Projects, UC Davis Pediatrics

Additional services may be available by providers from other funding sources