

## Drug cocktails help suppress HIV

Research shows that combination therapies have been effective in lowering viral loads

By Ben Romano  
Higher Education Reporter

Researchers have found that drug "cocktails" can help suppress the reproduction of HIV.

Combination drug therapies are becoming more successful in suppressing the virus, according to a March 1998 article in the Journal of the American Medical Association. These combinations usually consist of two or more drugs taken on a strict regimen.

The combination therapies have reduced the virus to undetectable levels in some cases. In addition, patients taking combination drugs have not shown signs of developing a drug-resistant strain of HIV, according to a November 1997 article in Science magazine.

A recent study conducted by medical researchers from Italy, the Netherlands, Canada and Australia concluded that certain drug combinations can lead to sus-

### As of June 1997:

■ The World Health Organization estimates that there are 30.6 million children and adults infected with HIV or AIDS worldwide.

■ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that there are 612,078 children and adults infected with HIV or AIDS in the U.S.

■ Of the 612,078 reported cases, 4,021 are in Oregon.

■ Of the 612,078 reported cases, 379,258 have died.

SOURCE: CDC Web page

tained suppression of the virus. This refutes earlier studies that have shown that these combination therapies only result in temporary suppression of the virus.

HIV and AIDS are viewed as two points on a continuum. Effective treatment, such as combination therapies, can begin as early as infection is detected, according to an April 1997 JAMA editorial.

Combination therapies have been effective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a 13 percent decline in the number of AIDS deaths during the first quarter of 1996 compared to the same period in 1995.

While these combination therapies are proving effective, medical researchers are apprehensive. Researchers speculate that the suppressed virus may exist only in dormant, non-reproductive forms. However, new findings show that with certain stimuli, the dormant virus can begin replicating again, according to the Science magazine article.

Based on this possibility, researchers say it is too early to consider taking patients off combination therapy. Researchers must assume that HIV infection is permanent until there is conclusive evidence to the contrary, according to the article.

In the meantime, combination therapies are very effective in suppressing the virus, and patients are reaping the benefits of keeping their virus levels as low as possible for as long as possible.



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If you placed a classified ad on Thursday, April 2, 1998, please call to verify that your ad is in our system.

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### Seeking Student Input

**U of O Process for Change**  
The Provost's Office has assembled several teams to identify what education should look like in the 21st Century - what changes are needed to provide high quality services to students, the people of Oregon, the nation and the world. How can we implement these changes rapidly? Team reports can be accessed on WEB:  
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~acadaff/change/process.html>  
Students can give input either through ASUO officers, e-mail to the Provost (provost@oregon), written comments to the Provost, contacting any of the convenes or team members listed on the web, or by contacting any of the deans.

**PLEASE HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND AID THE UoFO POSITION ITSELF FOR THE FUTURE.**

### CLUB SPORTS

Sat. April 11 & Sun. April 12 Women's Lacrosse Tournament  
Southbank Field 10am-4pm both days

Sat. April 11 Crew Covered Bridge Regatta  
Dexter Reservoir 8am-2pm

Sun. April 12 Mens Lacrosse Game  
Autzen Stadium 11am-3pm

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