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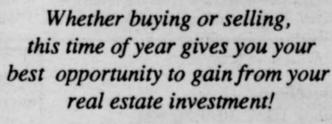


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## Gallo: two-thirds of HIV-positives may not get AIDS

"There are so many variants [of HIV] that it is impossible to say that a hundred percent of them are going to lead to lethality."

WOCKNER

REX

develop AIDS.

hief U.S. AIDS researcher Dr. Robert

a British newspaper in late June that only

Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV-1] will

Gallo - who is credited with co-

about 33 percent of those exposed to Human

discovering HIV — was quoted in the July 1

issue of London, England's The Pink Paper

campaign that states "the only difference

between HIV and AIDS is time."

that you know the future."

percent lethality.

prototype HIV-1?

going to do."

toxic drug?"

Implications for AZT

[TPP], in the context of criticizing a British ad

"We have no way of predicting how many

people who are infected are going to develop

AIDS," Gallo told TPP. "The best data today

many variants out there, don't start projecting

In a September 8 telephone interview,

Gallo termed the TPP news report "reasonably

accurate," saying "there are so many variants

hundred percent of them are going to lead to

lethality. In fact, I'd be very surprised if every

variant caused AIDS in an individual's normal

"Look at HIV-2," Gallo continued. "Of the

lifetime. Very few bugs do lead to a hundred

thousands of people HIV-2 infected, you can

developed any kind of immune deficiency....

And you can look at HIV-2 as just an extreme

variant of HIV-1. So, if HIV-2 is so much less

efficient [at causing disease], what about other

"I don't want everybody who is antibody-

positive to think, 'Holy shit, it's hopeless,'

Gallo added. "It could be a third, a half [who

develop AIDS] — the point is that no one can

Gallo was asked whether recent studies

showing that AZT slows HIV infection should

exposed to not-particularly-lethal variants," he

was asked, "rush out and begin taking a rather

"That's an extremely good question,"

Gallo responded. "I would base it on odds. If I

were antibody-positive, I would take AZT the

day I learned I was infected, if I could afford

much from this virus. I would take low-dose

it. Too high a percentage are suffering too

[AZT] and combine it with something and

having a relatively innocuous strain of the

Co-factors Make HIV More Dangerous

around secondary viruses that, when present

Gallo says cytomegalovirus and HTLV-1

along with HIV-1, speed up damage to the

gamble on that, rather than gambling on

Another increasingly prominent

development in Gallo's thinking centers

have taken into account that all variants of

HIV are not equally lethal. "Should people

predict what every variant of this virus is

count on a few fingers the ones that have

variants that are less variable than the

[of HIV] that it is impossible to say that a

argues for about one-third but there are so

Gallo confirmed September 8 that he told

-Dr. Robert Gallo

have been shown in the lab to increase immune system decline "two-to-four-fold" in the HIV-infected. He also expects that human herpes virus six [HHV-6] is an important AIDS co-factor, but has not yet produced data to back up his theory.

Gallo agreed that studies measuring the effect of drugs such as AZT on immune system decline should also look at which subjects are infected with which co-factors. The recent highly-touted AZT studies considered neither AIDS co-factors nor HIV

Analysis: Why Is All This So Interesting? Gallo's theories about HIV variants, AIDS co-factors, and what percentage of those with HIV will develop AIDS are obviously important because they give HIV-positives hope and raise legitimate questions about treatment of those who show minimal or no signs of illness.

But his ideas are also significant in light of ongoing dissent to the U.S. government's (and Gallo's) insistence for the past five years that HIV-1 is the sole cause of AIDS.

The New York Native, a gay newspaper, Berkeley professor Dr. Peter Duesberg, New York doctor Joseph Sonnabend, PWA activist Michael Callen, British author Jad Adams and others have argued (in complicated presentations that will not be reproduced here) that HIV is not the cause of AIDS.

Several dissidents believe Gallo and the government are clinging to the HIV theory to save political face and protect scientific reputations. They say evidence exists that HIV is not the whole AIDS story — if, in fact, any of the story.

It is thus significant when Gallo speaks of non-lethal HIV variants and/or AIDS cofactors — other viruses besides HIV that may be part of the AIDS story.

Although no one has proved that HIV-1 is not the cause of AIDS, the dissidents' ideas remain interesting as long as many HIVpositives remain healthy.

And the suggestions that there could be a "conspiracy" to promote the "HIV myth" are intriguing because media reports have previously questioned Gallo's personal

Beginning with Randy Shilts' book And The Band Played On and continuing sporadically thereafter, reporters have hinted that Gallo did not in fact discover HIV, but rather swiped the virus from the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

More recently, reports appeared suggesting unethical behavior by Gallo's lab associates this time centering on alleged improper business dealings with commercial labs.

At last June's Fifth International Conference on AIDS, Gallo promised to write a book proving definitively that HIV-1 by itself can cause AIDS. Although this won't answer the question of who first isolated the virus, it will be a valuable and overdue addition to the 10-year-old AIDS/HIV story.

immune system.

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