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**NATIONAL news**

**UNITED FARM WORKERS AND EQUALITY CALIFORNIA JOIN FORCES**

In response to the United Farm Workers of America's announcement to support marriage equality, California political director Christine Chávez and Equality California executive director Geoffrey Kors issued the following statements June 23.

"We are humbled by the support of the United Farm Workers and their long-standing commitment to fair and equal treatment for all hard-working families," Kors said. "Tens of thousands of same-sex couples want the same opportunities as any other committed relationship to provide and safeguard their families. California is home to the largest population of Latino same-sex couples and their families in the country, and today's UFW support only reaffirms that this is an issue for all families to have the same basic protections and responsibilities. We stand tall with the United Farm Workers in support of equality and economic justice and look forward to our joint efforts to boycott Gallo wine and pass equal marriage rights legislation in California."

Chávez added: "The United Farm Workers stand together with Equality California for economic justice and equality for all families. This is about one civil rights movement joining forces with another to affirm shared values of social justice. Our struggles are rightfully linked:

*The New England Journal of Medicine.*

It reinforces the view that such "superinfection" can occur, though the frequency of such events is not known, and the clinical importance of second infections is muddy.

The Dutch patient is a 35-year-old gay man who initially tested positive for HIV in March 2001. He entered into medical care, and blood samples were drawn and stored. But his CD4 count remained above 500, and he did not begin combination therapy. He continued to engage in risky sexual behavior.

In early July 2003 he experienced flulike symptoms for about a week. Blood work showed that his viral load had skyrocketed from thousands to millions of copies of HIV (from 3 logs to more than 6 logs) and that his CD4 count had plummeted by more than 250 in just a few months.

His immune system was able to regain control of the infection but at a higher viral load and a lower CD4 count than the previous plateau of control. His CD4 count continues to decline, and he likely soon will begin combination therapy.

Antoinette C. van der Kuyl and colleagues looked at the detailed genetic sequences of viral RNA in the patient's stored blood samples to get a better understanding of what had happened. They determined that he initially was



Members of the United Farm Workers union stand up for queer rights.

from the farmworkers' current boycott of Gallo wine to the battle to achieve equality for all through marriage equality.

"This announcement also has special meaning for me. Beginning in the 1970s, before there was widespread public acceptance of gay people, especially among Latinos, my grandfather, César Chávez, spoke out strongly for gay rights. He attended gay rights rallies and marches. He brought with him the UFW's black eagle flags and farmworkers who wished to participate. There are certain lessons a granddaughter learned from growing up around her grandfather: You can't champion equality for your own people when you tolerate discrimination against any people because of who they are. Also, leadership isn't about following the crowd. It's about getting out in front and leading people in the right direction. Because they have so often been the victims of discrimination, farmworkers and Latinos of all ages have a strong affinity for equal rights and opportunities. Freedom is indivisible. You cannot grant it to some and deny it to others. It is either for everybody or it is for nobody."

—Sarah Dougher

**TRIPLE HIV INFECTION**

A patient in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, has been infected with HIV on three separate occasions over the course of about two years. The report is published in the June 16 edition of

infected with a clade B virus, the variation of HIV that predominates in the United States and Western Europe.

The flulike symptoms experienced in July 2003 were caused by superinfection with an AE clade virus, which is found most commonly in Thailand.

But what really surprised the researchers was the discovery that the patient had become infected with a second strain of clade B virus at some point between blood draws in July and October 2002. The genetic sequences were sufficiently different that it was unlikely that the variant could have mutated from the initial clade B infection.

The second infection went unnoticed because the virus was close enough to the first one for the immune system to recognize and control it without going through the clinical manifestations of flulike symptoms.

U.S. AIDS doctors were not surprised by the report.

"There's no doubt that superinfection occurs more frequently than we think, but I suspect it is still rare," said Douglas Ward, a physician in Washington, D.C. "No one looks for it unless the patient gets reinfected with a more aggressive second strain that results in a clinical change, and only research facilities are able to show the second strain, unless there's an obvious change in genotype."

Ward said it reinforces a report last year at