



Pittsburgh **AIDS** Task Force

PATF e-Perspectives

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Dear Susan,

Welcome to **e-Perspectives**, a monthly e-newsletter that highlights current and upcoming Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force events, accomplishments and programs, as well as national and international HIV/AIDS information. Through **e-Perspectives**, we keep you posted on all that PATF does to improve the health and quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in southwestern Pennsylvania. A sincere thank-you for your support and interest in PATF.

Have questions or comments about **e-Perspectives**? Please contact editor Susan Orr at sorr@patf.org or 412-345-0596.

"We've come this far by FAITH!"

First annual FAITH Prayer Breakfast to take place Oct. 14



PATF will host a free breakfast Friday, Oct. 14, 9-11a.m., at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, to celebrate the first year of Fighting AIDS Inspires the Heart (FAITH) and to honor those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The event will feature a keynote speaker, and will recognize volunteers and community supporters. The event is sponsored by PATF, Hill House Association, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. For information or to RSVP for this event, please contact Anthony Anderson at aanderson@patf.org or 412-345-0585.

The mission of FAITH is to actively engage the Southwestern Pennsylvania faith communities in order to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS, increase awareness, increase



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education, and to ultimately prevent new infections.

Casbah Restaurant to host PATF benefit dinner Sept. 22

Tickets on sale as part of 2011 Benefit Dinner Series

PATF is honored to have been selected as one of this year's beneficiaries of the annual Casbah Benefit Dinner Series. The meal will take place Thursday, Sept. 22.

The event features a four course, Mediterranean-inspired meal with dessert. Each course is paired with a wine selection for an elegant evening of good food and good conversation in the lower private dining room at Casbah, 229 S. Highland Ave., Shadyside.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m., and is limited to 50 guests. Tickets cost \$125 each, which includes gratuity -- 100 percent of the proceeds go directly to PATF. To purchase tickets, email EMcAfee@patf.org or call 412-345-0593. For more information about this year's dinner series, please click [here](#).

(PITTSBURGH) RED, PATF planning biggest World AIDS Day yet

Volunteers are needed to assist with the day's events



This year's World AIDS Day, which will take place on Thursday, Dec. 1, promises to be the biggest one to date. Events will include a candlelight vigil, Red Plate Specials at many local restaurants, bakeries and bars, and many other events throughout the city.

If you are interested in becoming involved with (Pittsburgh) Red, please contact sorr@patf.org.

Meet-and-greet with new PATF executive director being planned

Christen to discuss plans for PATF

To kick off our annual campaign this year, PATF will host a meet-and-greet with Chuck Christen, PATF's new executive director, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 6-8 p.m., in PATF's lobby.

Come meet Chuck and find out where PATF is heading under his leadership. For information, contact Emma McAfee at emcafee@patf.org or 412-345-0593.

PATF to participate in Pittsburgh's Annual Day of Giving

Donations will be matched for hundreds of charities throughout the region

PATF is honored to be included among organizations participating in The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving 2011. This year's Day of Giving will take place Tuesday Oct. 4, midnight -11:59 p.m.

Donors can contribute to PATF or another charity with a credit card through pittsburghgives.org, and donations will be partially matched from a pool of matching funds.

Last year's Day of Giving was a huge success, pumping over \$3.3 million dollars into local non-profits. This year's event aims to surpass that amount. This is a great opportunity to make your support for PATF go further! Please consider supporting PATF on Oct. 4.

Amendment to Pennsylvania's Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act (Act 148)

Amendments change protocols for healthcare providers offering HIV testing

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett turned Act 59 of 2011 (a.k.a., SB260) into law on July 7. The bill amends Pennsylvania's Confidentiality of HIV-related Information Act (Act 148), and changes the procedures for healthcare professionals to administer and obtain consent for HIV testing. This Amendment brings Pennsylvania's HIV law in line with the 2006 CDC recommendations; the amendment intends to make HIV testing part of routine medical care.

There are two important changes in the law. One allows health care providers to offer "Opt-out HIV testing", wherein patients are informed that they will be tested for HIV unless they choose not to be. Another change allows people to skip post-test counseling if they test negative: this legislation aims to make an HIV test in a doctor's office or other clinical setting 'no big deal,' a measure that will hopefully promote HIV testing and allow more people to find out their HIV status through a routine visit with a doctor or other health care provider.

Though the amendment means big changes for some organizations, PATF will continue testing in the same manner we do now. The focus of PATF's testing activity is on *targeted testing* of individuals at highest risk for HIV who are receiving testing in *nonclinical* settings; therefore, PATF will still follow our current testing procedures.

AIDS drugs can be used to prevent HIV infection, studies show

AIDS experts call studies' results "game-changing" and "a major milestone"

Two new studies have reported findings from research conducted in Botswana, Uganda, and Kenya showing that taking AIDS drugs can cut by more than half a person's chances of becoming infected with HIV through heterosexual intercourse.

This strategy, called "pre-exposure prophylaxis" or PrEP, has the capacity to radically alter the course of AIDS in the developing world. If this medical strategy can be proven effective in preventing the spread of the disease, people may someday only need to take a pill to prevent infection, similar to how many people take aspirin to prevent heart attacks. It remains unclear, however, how these findings may be put into practice. Why? In much of the developing world, there presently is medicine for about half of all infected persons, let alone uninfected people taking drugs as a prophylactic measure. In addition, there aren't enough clinics or practitioners to provide a high level of care to infected individuals. There is also a question of how long people need to take the drugs to avoid infection.

Regardless, the results of these studies show great potential to dramatically reduce the spread of HIV worldwide. To read more about the research click [here](#).

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