



Pittsburgh **AIDS** Task Force

PATF e-Perspectives

Issue 12/September
2011

In This Issue

[PATF participating in Day of Giving 2011](#)

["We Were Here" film sponsored by PATF](#)

[FAITH Prayer Breakfast set for October](#)

[\(PITTSBURGH\)RED planning biggest World AIDS Day yet](#)

[Congress announces formation of bipartisan HIV/AIDS caucus](#)

[Online gamers contribute to HIV/AIDS research](#)

Contributing writer:
Marrae Hill
Emma McAfee

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

[More About PATF](#)

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.

Pittsburgh's Day of Giving: Consider supporting PATF ***Donations to be matched for hundreds of charities in 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 (Visa or Mastercard) 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 more than \$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.

PATF to sponsor "We Were Here" at 2011 Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival ***Film series will take place Oct. 14-23***

PATF is proud to be a co-sponsor of "We Were Here," a groundbreaking documentary to be screened as part of this year's Pittsburgh



Join the
e-Perspectives
mailing list by
contacting

sorr@patf.org or
call 412-345-0596

Forward
e-Perspectives
to a friend!

International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, on Saturday, Oct. 15, at 2 p.m., at the South Side Works Cinema.

"We Were Here" tells the heartbreaking story of the outbreak of the first cases of HIV in San Francisco. The film -- told by five men -- takes us through the loss of friends and lovers to HIV/AIDS in the 1970s. This is a must-see documentary that will have your heart melting.

For more info please visit www.pilgff.org



"We've come this far by FAITH"
PATF to host free prayer breakfast

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force will host a free prayer breakfast Friday, Oct. 14, 9-11 a.m., at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, to celebrate the first year of PATF's Fighting AIDS Inspires the Heart (FAITH) initiative 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 Tony 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 education, and to ultimately prevent new infections.



World AIDS Day activities to take place throughout Pittsburgh

Dec. 1 events to include mayoral press conference, Red Plate Specials at various restaurants throughout city

The planning for this year's (PITTSBURGH)RED -- local efforts to support World AIDS Day on Thursday, Dec. 1 -- is moving full speed ahead. The Delta Foundation, along with PATF and other planning organizations, are working to make (PITTSBURGH)RED the largest HIV/AIDS commemoration and awareness event that our region has seen.

World AIDS Day will kick off with a press conference with Mayor Ravenstahl at 10:30 a.m., in the lobby of the City-County Building.

Also on the schedule:

- There will be free, confidential HIV testing all day at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 210 Grant St., downtown.
- Art Institute of Pittsburgh Culinary School students will once again donate dozens of Red Ribbon cookies, to be distributed at various locations.
- In Oakland, the annual memorial service at Heinz Chapel will take place at 7p.m.
- A candlelight vigil in Oakland, to take place directly before the memorial service, is in the works.
- "Looking for Magic," a play dealing with HIV/AIDS, will be performed at the Henry Heymann Theater Friday, Dec. 2 - Sunday, Dec. 4.
- Restaurants, bakeries and bars throughout the city will offer Red Plate Specials. Proceeds raised will benefit (PITTSBURGH) RED.

For information, email sorr@patf.org.

Congress creates bipartisan HIV/AIDS caucus, 30 years after discovery

Democrats and Republicans unite to tackle issues surrounding HIV/AIDS

For the first time since the discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus 30 years ago, Congress has formed the first HIV/AIDS caucus that includes Democrats and Republicans. This is a huge step toward putting the full force of the federal government behind fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Led by house members Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), and Trent Franks (R-Ariz.), the group's priorities include enabling faith-based organizations to implement life-saving medical services and taking strides to eradicate vertical (mother to child) transmission of HIV.

The caucus also intends to protect congressional funding for HIV/AIDS programs in the U.S. and abroad, notably PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which was created during the George W. Bush administration. PEPFAR, which provides antiretroviral therapy, prevention programs, and supportive care in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, was reauthorized by the House in 2008, but could face challenges with the right-leaning Congress in 2013, when it is set to be reauthorized again. The new bipartisan HIV/AIDS Caucus aims to protect funding for PEPFAR, as well as HIV/AIDS-related programs operating in the U.S.

Read more about this newly formed bipartisan HIV/AIDS Caucus [here](#).

Online gamers crack HIV/AIDS enzyme puzzle

Online users played video game to figure out structure of an HIV enzyme

When you think of breakthrough scientific HIV/AIDS research, online video games are probably not the first things to come to

mind. However, thousands of online gamers are partially credited with solving a vexing question that had stumped HIV researchers for a decade.

Foldit, an online game developed by the University of Washington, is the first of its kind of video games that allows thousands of online users to help decipher the structure of an enzyme of an HIV-like virus.

Figuring out the structure of proteins is vital to understanding diseases and developing drugs to treat them; however, microscopes offer only a flat image of the enzyme or protein. To truly understand the enzyme, researchers need a three-dimensional picture.

That's where Foldit came in.

Gamers, divided into teams, competed against one another to unfold chains of amino acids- the building blocks of proteins- using a set of online tools. Astonishingly, the gamers produced an accurate model of a type of enzyme known as a retroviral protease in just three weeks.

This is believed to be the first time gamers have been used to resolve a long-standing scientific problem, and it points to a new opportunity for scientific expansion, known as "citizen science," a scientific method that involves recruiting large numbers of people to help solve scientific problems. It's just one piece of the puzzle needed to fully understand how HIV works and how to stop it. It's an interesting and promising new method that will allow people to contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS from the comfort of their laptops. Read [more](#) about this breakthrough.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to sorr@patf.org by sorr@patf.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force | 5913 Penn Ave. | Pittsburgh | PA | 15206