

THE BRIDGE

June 30th, 1998

NEWS

A head-to-head comparison of NNRTI combination therapy with a PI combination showed that more people benefitted from the NNRTIs. Will these short term results continue?

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● PROGRAMME CHANGES

A daily update on the entire Conference schedule.

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● SOUTH

Community networks break new ground in confronting HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

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● FEATURE

Phase III vaccine trials got under way last week, but AIDS activists and researchers feel more could be done.

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● SCIENCE

Treating AIDS is like fighting off sharks, says Stefano Vella

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● VOX POPULI

Can we now prevent children from being born with HIV?

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Delegates head into the Arena Monday morning to take in the first plenary session of the Conference.

Pascal Frautschi

Morning Plenary

Need for vaccine challenges researchers to move quickly

While problems remain with the experimental vaccines currently in Phase I and II stage trials, Phase III trials should continue unhindered, said Hans Wigzell, a Swedish researcher who spoke at the 12th World AIDS Conference's first plenary session Monday morning.

"If we wait, we will never learn," Wigzell stated. "We have to go on."

Five to 10% of people at high risk for HIV appear to have special capacities to avoid infection, Wigzell noted, and cases of HIV-positive, long-term non-progressors have also been identified. Cases of natural immunity like

these may provide clues for researchers attempting to develop a safe and effective vaccine against HIV.

However, barriers to such a vaccine include the existence of long-lived "silent cells" as well as the high

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