



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

November 3
Lynn Laughter
Archway Update

Upcoming Meetings:

November 10
Tray Brantley
*1000 Words Dalton
Public Arts Project -
Deanna Mathis*
Board Meeting
November 17
John Richmond
GRSP Program

November 24
No Meeting

Club Officers:

Jason Parker

President

Bruce Satterfield

President-Elect

Frank M. Hogshead

Secretary, Treasurer

David Aft

Immediate Past President

Teresa Carter

Club Administration Chair

John Hutcheson

Public Image Chair

Rick Cobb

Membership Chair

Janice Kiker

Community Service Chair

Scott Rhoden

Youth Service Chair

Kevin Brunson

Vocational Service Chair

Archana Srivastava

International Service
Chair

Greg Dent

Foundation Chair

Ending the HIV Epidemic: Where Are We Now?

By: John Hutcheson



Rotarian Archana Srivastava, this year's International Service Chair, introduced Dr. Bharat S. Parekh from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, where he is Team Leader of the HIV Serology/Incidence Team in the Division of Global HIV/AIDS of the Center for Global Health. Dr. Parekh holds degrees in chemistry and biochemistry from the University of Bombay in India and the Ph.D. in biochemistry and virology from Louisiana State University. After post-doctoral research at Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, he joined CDC in 1990, and his laboratory has led the field in the development of innovative assays, now used worldwide, to identify new infections for identifying HIV-1 incidence. His team provides critical laboratory support to CDC's global HIV work as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which focuses on high-burden countries for early diagnosis, prevention, care, treatment, and surveillance.

Using slides, Dr. Parekh described the physiology of HIV, pointing out that the virus has an unusual RNA, enabling it to infect a subject for life—a "persistent infection" which can be suppressed by medication but not eliminated. An infected person can seem healthy, but in the meantime the virus will multiply in many organs. Although it will prompt the creation of antibodies, dead virus will remain in the blood and other bodily fluids. HIV testing focuses on identifying the antibodies and is now much less costly and cumbersome than previously, but in the U.S. requirements for approval of testing methods by the Food and Drug Administration make them more expensive here than elsewhere.

An estimated 37 million persons worldwide are infected with HIV, of which the majority, about 25 million, live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Globally, new infections are running at about two million per year, of which about 1.4 million are in the Sub-Saharan region. In the United States about 1.2 million persons are infected, a figure which is slowly increasing.

Such numbers generate the epidemic's greatest challenges. With 5,600 new infections each day worldwide and no effective vaccine on the horizon, countries with limited resources face the highest burdens. Sexual activities are the main means of transmission, but needle-sharing, mother-to-child passage, and tainted blood transfusions are also significant. There is a shortage of personnel trained for diagnosis, clinical care, treatment, and prevention, and treatment is not widely available—even in the U. S. fourteen to fifteen thousand new infections occur each year, despite abundant education and resources.

Since its inception in 2003, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has become America's largest global public health commitment as the Centers for Disease

Control coordinate with the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, and other agencies. Bipartisan support in Congress has increased funding from two billion dollars in 2004 to five billion in 2014. The initiative has had a major impact, working in most African countries and also in parts of South America and Asia. In 2014 six million people were tested in laboratory settings worldwide, using procedures that pick up tuberculosis and other diseases as well as HIV while also enabling scientists to monitor viral resistance to drug effectiveness. Thousands of testing sites have been established—5,000 in Kenya alone, for example—which operate cooperatively with the World Health Organization and national ministries of health. Outside the labs, testing is even more extensive, increasing from two million in 2004 to 57 million in 2014. The U.N. is pursuing a 90-90-90 goal, aspiring to test 90% of the world’s population by 2020, with 90% of these in treatment and 90% of those having suppressed their infections. Despite better treatment, however, the overall number of HIV cases has remained level for several years, partly because in many areas testing faces strong cultural obstacles, with diagnosis carrying a heavy stigma that makes it disruptive socially as well as biologically.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Bowling, John (JOHN)
Dobbins, Chuck (CHUCK)

Birthday

6-Nov
8-Nov

Partner Birthdays

Kirkman, Lou

Member Name

Kirkman, Lowell D

Birthday

4-Nov

Member Anniversaries

Cobb, Ricky W. (RICKY)

Start Date

4-Nov-09

Years

6

Wedding Anniversaries

Rhoden, W Scott (SCOTT)

Partner's Name

Dina

Anniversary

7-Nov

Years

18

Four Way Test

