

----- Original Message -----

Date: Fri, 05 Jun 2009 20:47:53 -0400

From: Aaron Boyle <[aeboyle@hotmail.com](mailto:aeboyle@hotmail.com)>

Subject: Sign on- Stop HIV Denialism on WBAI [1 Attachment]

Greetings,

ACT UP/New York is seeking help in keeping HIV denialist Gary Null off the New York City Pacifica radio station, WBAI. As you know, HIV denialists claim falsely that HIV is either harmless or does not exist; many also sell unproven supplements and treatments for the immune system. Null is such a profiteer.

Null had a show on WBAI that addressed the topic of HIV/AIDS at least 40 times between 2000 and when the show was cancelled in 2004. An overwhelming majority of those shows were dominated by HIV denialist guests and their messages.

Unfortunately, because his show was lucrative for WBAI and he has a following of misinformed fans, there is an effort to reinstate him. We are mobilizing supporters of evidence-based medicine to express their objection to Null's dangerous disinformation getting air time on WBAI.

Something physicians and medical scientists can do to help immediately is to sign on to the following letter (below and attached). It is addressed to a fellow physician who sits on the Local Station Board, Dr. Seth Goldberg. The letter asks him to insist that WBAI promote accurate and effective public health information, especially during an upcoming board vote related to Gary Null's return.

If you are a physician or medical scientist who would like to sign on to this important letter, please e-mail Aaron Boyle at [aeboyle@hotmail.com](mailto:aeboyle@hotmail.com) with your name and affiliation. Sorry for the quick timeframe, but we will be collecting signatures until the end of the day Monday, June 8. Thank you for your time. We will keep you informed about the outcome and other opportunities for everyone to contribute to this effort.

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Seth Goldberg, M.D.

WBAI Local Station Board Member

Dear Dr. Goldberg,

We have learned of the recent developments at WBAI which could lead to the reinstatement of AIDS denialist Gary Null's show at the station. We are writing to you as fellow physicians and scientists to express our grave concern about Null's dangerous messages being given air time and to urge you to do everything possible in your position as a Local Station Board member to promote effective and accurate public health information on WBAI.

As a physician yourself, you know that there is overwhelming scientific evidence that a retrovirus known as HIV exists, is transmitted by bodily fluids, and destroys the immune system of infected people, leaving them vulnerable to opportunistic infections. Without antiretroviral treatment, advanced HIV disease (AIDS) almost invariably results in death. Despite these clear medical facts, some individuals have waged disinformation campaigns,

making sensationalist claims that HIV is not connected to AIDS. Frequently, these are linked to shameless self-promotion and the sale of untested and useless nostrums.

HIV denialism isn't a harmless opinion or a legitimate critique of mainstream medicine and the pharmaceutical industry. A recent Harvard study documented that government-sponsored HIV denialism blocked HIV treatment access in South Africa and resulted in the needless infections and deaths of some 365,000 people. 2] It would be an outrage for WBAI, a station with a social justice mission that is located in the U.S. city most devastated by HIV/AIDS, to cede precious programming time to such deadly messages. But Gary Null is a leading HIV denialist who consistently uses his show to disseminate HIV denialist disinformation. This is irresponsible journalism and, more urgently, it constitutes a major threat to public health, especially in the low-income communities of color most affected by HIV.

Your vote approving the WBAI "Mending Fences" resolution in September 2008 unfortunately advanced WBAI down this pathway of promoting HIV denialism and pseudoscience. However, at the upcoming Local Station Board meeting you will have the opportunity to take a stand in line with your duties as a medical professional and vote to rescind the "Mending Fences" resolution.

When evidence-based medicine is dismissed and our communities and our lives are endangered, clinicians and researchers must take action and set a powerful example of scientifically-informed, ethical action to effectively protect public health and promote social justice. We strongly urge you to rise to that role now and stop the spread of HIV denialism on WBAI. Please vote on June 10th to rescind the Mending Fences resolution.

Sincerely,

(list in formation)

Laura S. Boylan, M.D. New York University School of Medicine

Daniel L. Labovitz, M.D. - Albert Einstein College of Medicine

John P. Moore, Ph.D. Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Mary O Brien, M.D. Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons

Laura Pinsky, Director Columbia University Gay Health Advocacy Project

Margaret Polaneczky, M.D., FACOG Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Steven A. Siegelbaum, Ph.D. Columbia University, Howard Hughes Medical Investigator

Mark A. Wainberg, Ph.D. McGill University AIDS Centre

Catherine M. Wilfert, M.D. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

(To sign on, please e-mail Aaron Boyle at [aeboyle@hotmail.com](mailto:aeboyle@hotmail.com). Thank you.)

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The Durban Declaration Nature, Vol. 406, July 6, 2000:

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v406/n6791/full/406015a0.html>

2]

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/africa/article5235539.ece>

(Times article on the report)

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Attachment(s) from Aaron Boyle

1 of 1 File(s)

Dr.Goldberg letter.doc