

## Letter to the Editors

A. Gromyko, WHO, published an article "Evaluation of Swiss National Programme on AIDS" in *Soz Präventivmed* 1993; 38: 96-103. In this report he mentions our association in a short paragraph on page 97. Unfortunately, there are some seriously wrong assertions in this short paragraph so that we are compelled to issue following corrections:

The term "splinter group" is wrong and misleading. It should just be omitted. We have never advocated the marginalization or ostracism of the traditional risk behaviour groups, on the contrary. Such aims are in sharp contradiction to our medical and ethical basic principles. The most annoying mistake in the text is the last sentence in which is stated that our recommendations go directly against GPA (Global Programme on AIDS, WHO) goals and strategy. This is simply not true as can be seen from our publication "The HIV-Prevention Concept of AIDS-Information Switzerland".

AIDS-Information Switzerland (AIS)/SIDA-Information Suisse (SIS)/AIDS-Aufklärung Schweiz (AAS), a non-governmental organization is a group of professionals (more than 400 members), mostly physicians. Our main activities are HIV-prevention by personal counselling, elaboration and distribution of scientifically based information on AIDS and HIV to professionals and laymen and support of HIV-infected people. AIDS-Information Switzerland sees no contradiction between the aim of medical and social help for the HIV-infected persons and the aim of protection of the public from HIV infection. Our goals are in accordance with those of the Global Programme on AIDS (WHO) and the Federal Office of Public Health. But we reject HIV exceptionalism in combatting STDs. We understand our activities as a supplement of the official STOP AIDS campaign.

J. Barben, M.D.,  
President of AIDS-Information Switzerland

### EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME IN EPIDEMIOLOGY



### ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL SUMMER COURSE FLORENCE, Italy

June 27 - July 15 1994

The course, now in its seventh year, is intended for epidemiologists, public health practitioners and clinicians with an interest in epidemiology. It aims to foster through educational activities, the development of epidemiology as a fundamental instrument for health promotion in Europe.

The course, which is taught by lecturers from European universities and research institutes, is co-sponsored by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization, the Commission of the European Communities and the Regional Government of Tuscany, Italy. The residential study centre is situated in the hills above Florence. **The director of the course is Rodolfo Saracci, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France. The Guest Lecturer will be Sir Richard Doll.**

#### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL METHODS AND STUDY DESIGN

Franco Merletti and Eva Buiatti, *Italy*  
Jørn Olsen, *Denmark*, Dimitrios Trichopoulos, *Greece/USA*  
Rodolfo Saracci, Manolis Kogevinas and Neil Pearce, *IARC*

#### STATISTICAL METHODS IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

Michael Hills and Paul Burton, *UK*,  
Per Kragh Andersen, *Denmark* and Mario Braga, *Italy*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Joseph Antó and Jordi Sunyer, *Spain*,  
Paolo Paoletti, *Italy*

#### EPIDEMIOLOGY IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Alessandro Liberati and Roberto Grilli, *Italy*

#### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL METHODS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Albert Hofman and Diederick Grobbee, *Netherlands*

Throughout the three weeks of the course, the morning sessions will be devoted to the two major segments of the course, 'epidemiological methods and study design' and 'statistical methods in epidemiology' including issues of current debate. In the afternoons of the second week, there will be the optional modules, clinical epidemiology, environmental epidemiology, and health services research epidemiology.

#### FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS WRITE TO:

European Educational Programme in Epidemiology, Organizing Secretary, International Agency for Research on Cancer  
150, cours Albert Thomas, 69372 Lyon Cedex 08, France Tel. (33)72-73-84-85 Fax: (33) 72-73-85-75