

IAPAC Mourns Passing of Mark A. Wainberg, PhD

Washington, DC (April 11, 2017) – The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) expressed its condolences to the family of Mark A. Wainberg, PhD, one of the AIDS movement’s pioneers whose untimely passing was announced today.

Dr. Wainberg led the McGill University AIDS Center at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. It was at McGill University that he studied the properties of a new antiviral drug, lamivudine (3TC), which his colleagues and he identified in 1989 as effective against HIV. Lamivudine became a backbone of combination antiretroviral therapy (ART).

José M. Zuniga, PhD, MPH, acknowledged Dr. Wainberg’s research contributions, including a [2003 paper](#) that Dr. Wainberg co-authored in the *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (JIAPAC)*. In this paper, Dr. Wainberg prioritized research into pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as an HIV prevention strategy – one of the first researchers to do so.

“Beyond his significant research contributions, though, Mark became what he termed an ‘unlikely activist,’ notably during his tenure as President of the International AIDS Society (IAS),” Zuniga said. “His advocacy for global ART scale-up was eloquent and forceful, as was his laser-focused rebuke of HIV denialism at the height of former South African President Thabo Mbeki’s unfounded campaign questioning whether HIV causes AIDS.”

Dr. Wainberg’s Jewish faith was the foundation for much of the advocacy work that he advanced. In 2004, he published another [JIAPAC paper](#) in which he posited that Jewish religious law mandates the broadest possible access to ART and argued that wealthy countries must assist poorer ones to facilitate ART access.

“In line with his Judaic values, Mark also advocated for the most vulnerable in society who face societal intolerance. His argument that the cost intolerance exacts on individuals, but ultimately on communities and the world, continues to resonate in a world still split across ideological and other lines,” Zuniga said. “Mark – the friend, colleague, researcher, and activist – will be missed.”

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The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) represents more than 27,500 clinicians and allied care providers in over 150 countries. More information about IAPAC is available at www.IAPAC.org.