

# Prison Access to treatment thanks to a **buyers' club**

Swiss Hepatitis Symposium 2019

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Hôpitaux  
Universitaires  
Genève

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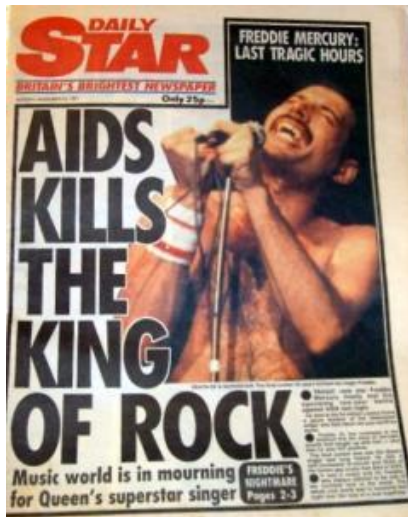
No conflict of interest

# The history of HIV: 1980

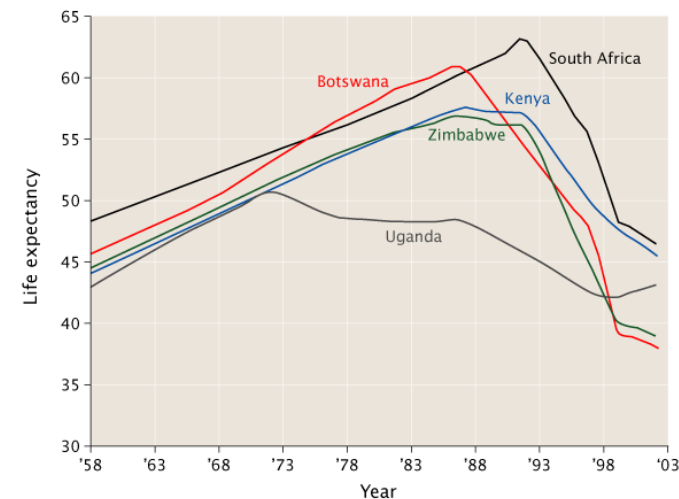
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The history of HIV epidemic provides us with real life lessons in achieving

- ✓ drug price reductions
- ✓ improving global access to treatment
- ✓ can give us a roadmap for reaching affordable DAAs using similar strategies



1983: AIDS discovery



Source: Banque mondiale 2004

# Zidovudine (AZT) marketing

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1964



1985-6



March 19  
1987

Phase I: 19 patients  
Phase II: 282 patients

FDA

*AZT was first synthesized  
at the Michigan Cancer  
foundation.*

*Michigan Cancer foundation  
Welcome research  
Laboratories*

*Burroughs Wellcome Company  
patent owner*

\$ 10'000/patient/year

On March 20, 1987, the FDA approved AZT, the first drug proven to slow the progress of AIDS

**The New York Times**  
 NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1987  
 30 CENTS

**SENATE SETS STAGE FOR REAGAN CLASH OVER HIGHWAY BILL**  
 Finishes Work on \$87 Billion Measure — White House Reaffirms Vow of Veto  
 By LINDA GREENHOUSE  
 WASHINGTON, March 20 — The Senate set the stage today for a major battle with the White House by sending President Reagan a highway bill that he has promised to veto despite its bipartisan popularity in both houses of Congress.  
 The final part of the bill, an amendment permitting states to raise the speed limit to 65 miles an hour on rural sections of the Interstate highway system, passed by a vote of 66 to 21. The highway bill itself, which would authorize highway and mass transit programs costing up to \$87.9 billion over the next five years, passed the Senate Thursday night, 79 to 17.  
 The bill, the product of a House-Senate conference that resolved a year-long stalemate, passed the House Wednesday by a vote of 497 to 17.  
 Override of Veto in Doubt  
 There is little doubt that the House would override a veto. But members of both parties said a veto could be sustained in the Senate, despite the con-

**How AZT Works Against AIDS**  
 Azidothymidine, or AZT, can inhibit reproduction of the AIDS virus inside body cells, prolonging the lives of some patients, although it does not rid the body of the virus.  
 When the AIDS virus invades a cell, it uses an enzyme to translate the code in its RNA, or genetic material, into DNA. The DNA enters the cell nucleus and subverts its genetic machinery, causing it to make messenger RNA and proteins that form new AIDS virus particles. AZT can prevent the translation of RNA into DNA molecules before they enter the cell nucleus.

**U.S. APPROVES DRUG TO PROLONG LIVES OF AIDS PATIENTS**  
 CURE STILL NOT ACHIEVED  
 Distribution Will Be Limited Because of Short Supply and Fear of Side Effect  
 By IRVIN MOLOTSKY  
 WASHINGTON, March 20 — The first drug proved to prolong the lives of AIDS patients was given Federal approval today. Both Government and drug company officials emphasized, however, that the drug was not a cure for the fatal disorder of the immune system, which has struck 33,000 Americans.  
 The drug is azidothymidine, or AZT, an antiviral drug made by the Burroughs Wellcome Company under the brand name Retrovir. Its approval, which means it can be prescribed by doctors, had been expected since January, when the company made its presentation before the Food and Drug Administration.  
 Even before today's approval, the drug had been made available to more than 5,000 patients in clinical tests and in a special program to many of the

**American Express and 2 Brokers**



THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1987

**ACT UP**  
 AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

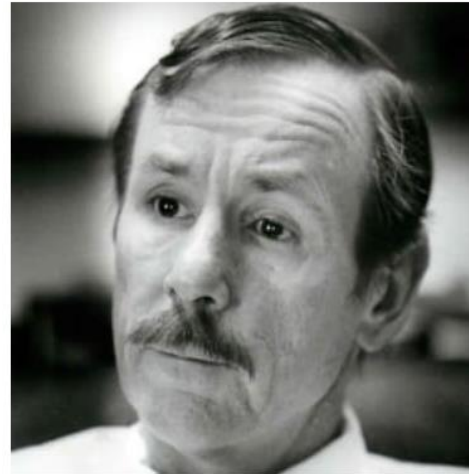
**Homosexuals Arrested at AIDS Drug Protest**  
 Police officers removing demonstrators from the intersection of Broadway and Wall Street yesterday. Seventeen homosexual-rights protesters were arrested outside Trinity Church during a rally to demand quicker Government approval of drugs that might combat acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Hundreds of protesters stayed behind police lines, but some crossed the barricades and sat in the street to block traffic. They were arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and released.

\$6,400/patient/year  
4 days later

# Patient advocacy, Buyers' Club

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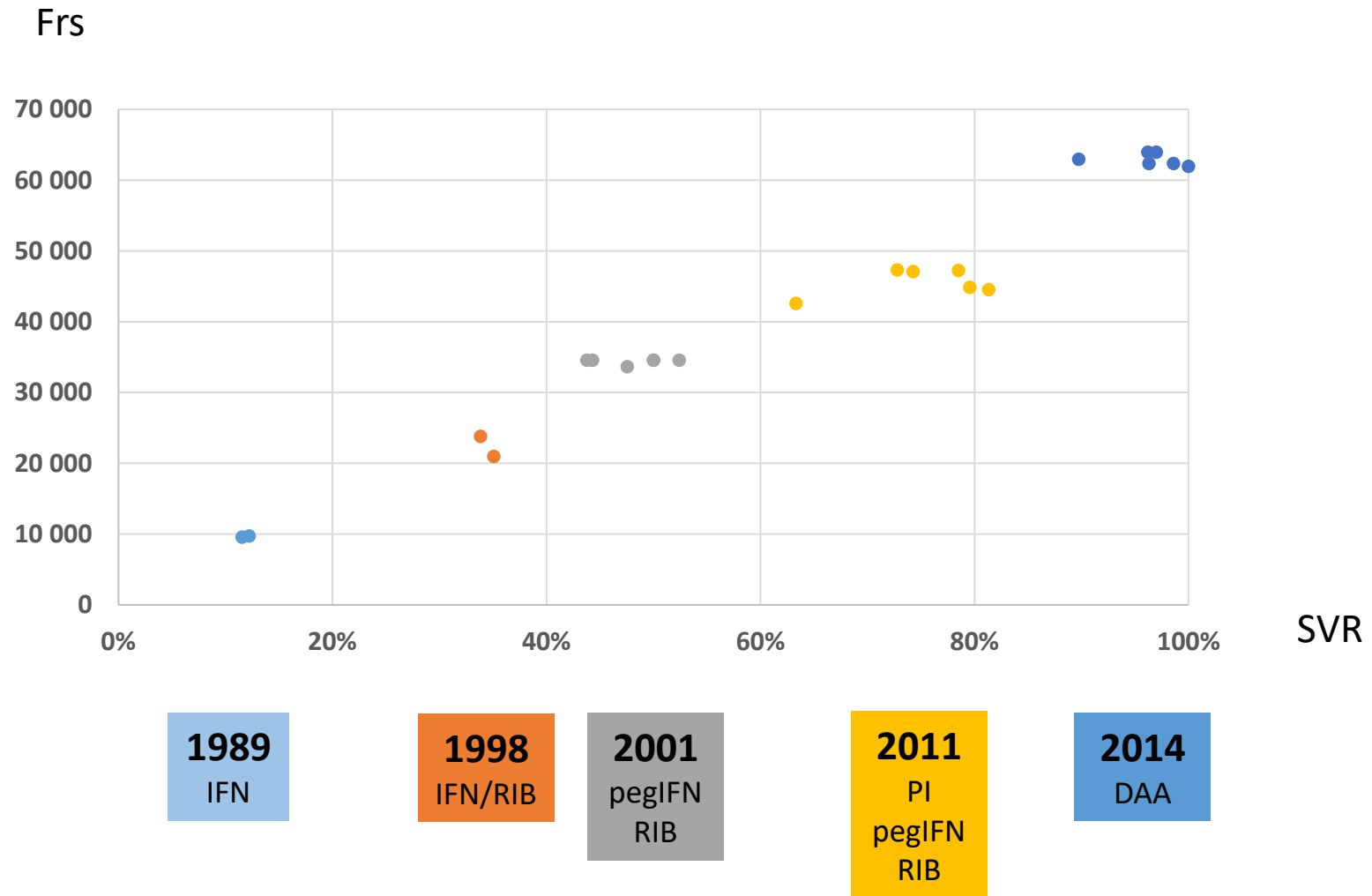
- ✓ A buyers' club, which is a structure that aims to help patients to import medicines safely.
- ✓ A buyers' club was started in October 2018 at HUG improving universal access to hepatitis C and HIV medicines to vulnerable populations, such as uninsured patients.



Ron Woodroof HIV diagnosed at 36 years old

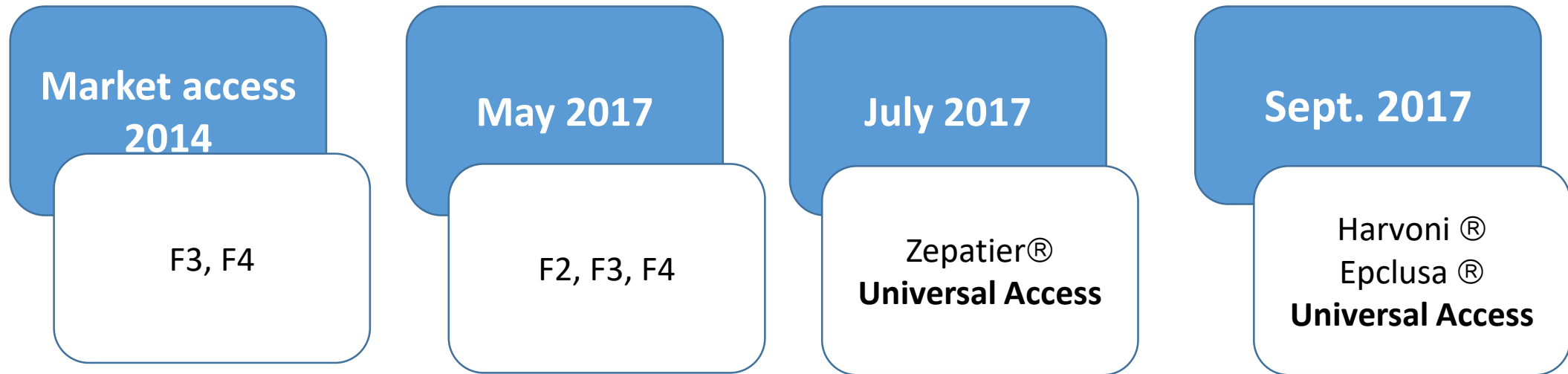
# Flash-back

## Market access hepatitis C treatments





# Flash-back: restrictions depending on the progress of the disease



Zepatier®  
elbasvir/grazoprevir

**Frs 47 690**

**Frs 43 788**

**Frs 30 952**

Epclusa®  
sofosbuvir/veltapasvir

**Frs 60 017**

**Frs 46 493**  
**Frs 30 952**



# Is Frs 30'952 affordable for all? How to finance costly therapies ?

## Swiss Hepatitis Strategy

2014 – 2030

«The Swiss Hepatitis Strategy is well positioned to help lead Switzerland towards elimination of hepatitis at national and European levels.»

It is Time to Act Now!

Egypte: 10%



Genève: 5,7%



-> 80%



# Key elements: Personal importation scheme

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**The international agreement**

**Article 48, OAMéd**

## Trade **Related Intellectual Property Rights**

article 66.1 (Agreement Until 2033)

- TRIPS agreement allows pharmaceutical companies to produce generic formulations in the developing world.  
-> Increase the accessibility

“Private individuals may import unauthorized medicines in Switzerland for personal use without authorization, ie the equivalent of one month's treatment. ”

## Coût du médicament selon les pays

Pour un traitement de 3 mois par personne



3%

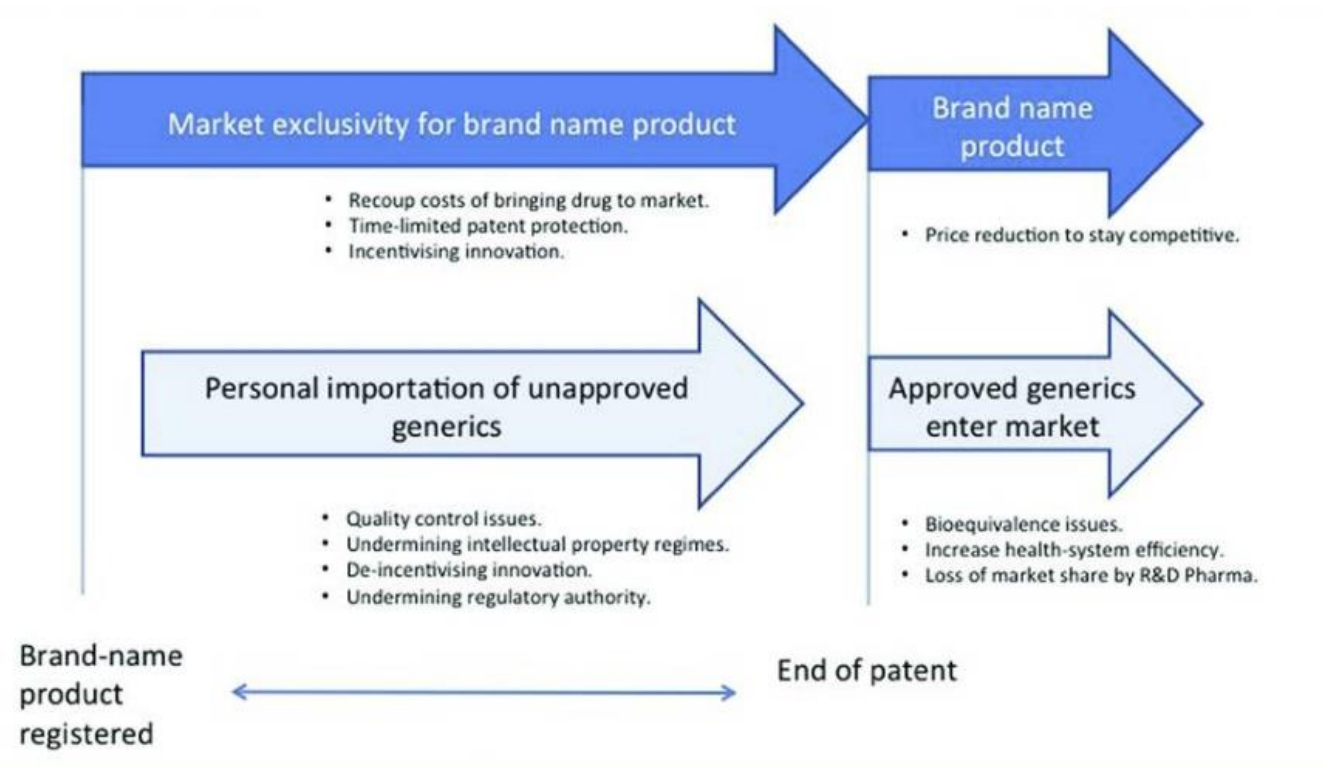




# Political Issue

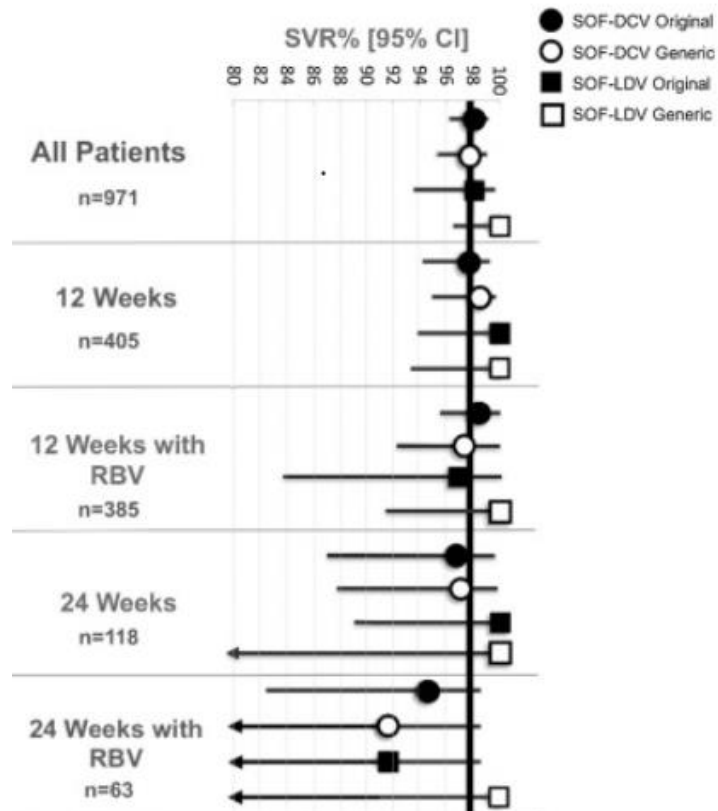


Delicate balance between promoting innovation and public interest



# Ethical issues

## Efficacy



## Quality

Chemical equivalent	Bioequivalent	Label equivalent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same DCI</li> <li>• Same administration route</li> <li>• Same dosage</li> <li>• Same galenic form</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same absorption rate and absorbed amount</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lilet</li> <li>• Same indication</li> <li>• Safety, side effect, etc</li> </ul>

# HUG buyers' club: Oktober 2018 until July 2019

		Nbr of patients	Age mean (min-max)	Nbr of women %	Treatment course	Generic costs	Swiss costs	Follow-up
<b>HCV</b>	Migrants	9	49 ans (30-76)	22% (2)	SOF/VEL	10'750	309'522	- On treatment: 7
	PLP	9	38 ans (30-44)	0% (0)	SOF/VEL	9'675	278'579	- Completed treatment: 2
		1			SOF/LED	902	43'894	- <b>Cured: 8</b>
	<b>Total HCV</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>43 ans (30-76)</b>	<b>10% (2)</b>		<b>21'327</b>	<b>631'985</b>	- Lost to follow-up: 2

- ✓ 3 patients were HIV-HCV co-infected.
- ✓ Personal importation scheme allows to import generics at **3%** of the Swiss corresponding costs.
- ✓ HPLC-UV analysis demonstrate that all HCV generics meet good standards of quality.

# We need new ways to eliminate hepatitis

- A buyers' club is one of a new ways to eliminate hepatitis in Prison and other settings





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**Thank you**