

# Lid is off on casual AIDS transmission

by Warren J. Hamerman

The March 15 issue of French *Journal International de Médecine* contained an interview with French AIDS researcher Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute, in which he cautiously but persistently opened up the discussion on potential casual transmission of AIDS, on terms heretofore clearly stated only by *EIR*. He said that while “for the moment” AIDS is spread through blood and sex, one cannot rule out the potential of the virus to mutate and be spread like the visna virus among sheep or through insects like equine infectious anemia.

Montagnier also discussed the synergistic relationship among AIDS, TB, and other diseases in Africa: “Immuno-suppressing infections such as malaria help the infection by the AIDS virus. In Africa, besides parasites, tuberculosis also helps develop the infection by the virus which in turn, besides, helps TB develop. . . .” When asked if TB fosters the contamination by the virus or its multiplication, Montagnier responded: “TB would foster the infection because of cellular immunosuppression, but also the dissemination of the virus.”

Montagnier’s statements are part of an overall climate in which both the French and the leading American AIDS researchers associated with Dr. Robert Gallo are carefully lifting the lid off the AIDS cover-up. Dr. Gallo recently stated publicly that he could not rule out the possibility of casual transmission of AIDS through “mutations” in the virus. Gallo warned that medicine had to be prepared for “surprises” and cited the case of the recent surprising experimental proof that the leukemia virus HTLV-1 was spread by insects. The consensus between Gallo and Montagnier seems to be that while they slowly open up the truth on AIDS transmission, they will do so by explaining that they are not changing their statements on the potential of casual AIDS transmission; instead, it is the virus which is changing.

The recent statements by Montagnier and Gallo come in the context of the much-publicized late-March formal settlement of their patent dispute over priority in the discovery of the AIDS virus and production of AIDS test kits. The agreement between them was facilitated by the personal intervention of Jonas Salk of the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, who discovered the polio vaccine.

In his *Journal International de Médecine* interview, Montagnier stated that while “for the moment” AIDS cannot be transmitted as visna is transmitted through close contact among sheep in non-sexual ways, “We can imagine that more resistant viral particles would appear. There is also the transmission through insects. *For the moment*, the epidemiological arguments are against attributing a role to insects, even in Africa. But there too, we have examples of equine virus which can easily be transmitted through a short distance, by a fly, from one animal to another, while for longer distances, the virus would have time to get digested. Our experiences show that the AIDS virus disappears very rapidly in the mosquitoes for example. . . . Transmission by insects is *for the moment* not very likely because the quantity of virus in the blood is small. It is not like Hepatitis B, where a minute quantity of blood can transmit the virus. But we can conceive that with people who are producing the virus in large quantity, the insects could, one day, play a role in the transmission of the disease.” (Emphasis in original.)

Actually, the specific statement that the AIDS virus cannot persist in the insect is not scientifically true, according to informed researchers. The AIDS virus persists in mosquitoes and other insects for considerable periods of time.

## Climate in France

In Western Europe and the United States the popular climate is shifting dramatically on the threat of AIDS and the need for mass testing. In France, the popular magazine *Santé (Health)*, says that while condoms are useful to prevent the dissemination of AIDS, they are not foolproof, since the virus also exists in saliva and other body secretions. They warn people especially against contact between small cuts or wounds on the skin and the saliva, tears, or sweat of the AIDS carrier.

Other prominent stories appeared at the end of March in both *Paris Match* and *Le Nouvel Observateur* featuring the potential of saliva transmission through the “French kiss” as a means of AIDS contamination. In England a public challenge has been issued by venereal disease specialist Dr. John Seale of the Royal Society of Medicine to all scientific authorities, to dispute his claim that AIDS meets *none* of the criteria of a “venereal disease” and that, in fact, the virus passes much more readily from person to person through saliva than semen. Seale has challenged health and scientific figures to cite even one published paper in the scientific literature which gives detailed laboratory evidence that there is any cell-free AIDS infectious virus in human semen, or to cite even one published paper specifying the number of cells in semen containing either viral RNA, proviral DNA, or both.

The fraud that the AIDS virus is a “difficult to get” venereal disease and cannot be transmitted by casual contact is thus destined to fall completely by the wayside, perhaps as early as the international AIDS conference at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland in June.