



Canada's source for  
HIV and hepatitis C  
information

La source canadienne  
de renseignements sur  
le VIH et l'hépatite C

## **CATIE joins in mourning the death of a brilliant scientist and friend - Professor Dr. Mark Wainberg**

Dr. Mark Wainberg passed away suddenly earlier this week. He was a brilliant scientist who helped to greatly extend our understanding about HIV and how this virus can develop resistance to treatment. Dr. Wainberg's career was centred at McGill University where he was the Director of the McGill AIDS Centre. He became internationally renowned for the impact that his laboratory had on HIV treatment, as well as for the global impact of his efforts to help make HIV treatment more accessible.

Dr. Wainberg was part of the team that helped enable the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AIDS to be held in Montreal in 1989. Also in the late 1980s, Wainberg and his team worked on the early development of one of the first antiviral drugs—3TC, lamivudine—that was to play a key role in combination HIV treatment in the early 1990s and is still used today.

Dr. Wainberg's students and colleagues helped to extend the understanding of how HIV developed the ability to resist treatments. In recent years he extended his expertise to advising teams of researchers who are trying to develop a cure for HIV.

In 1998 Dr. Wainberg became president of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and used his leadership in concert with others to bring the International AIDS Conference to Africa for the first time. That conference was held in Durban in 2000 and the incredible activism that accompanied it helped accelerate the campaign to make HIV treatment more affordable and accessible to people in low- and middle-income countries.

Dr. Wainberg helped to mentor many people including junior scientists, many of whom are now working in the field of HIV. He also became a supporter and friend of people in community groups including CATIE. He wrote the forward to the last edition of *Managing Your Health*, a key CATIE publication. Dr. Wainberg also supported the HIV community's efforts to end unjust prosecutions of people living with HIV.

Despite his long hours, awards and endless travel to scientific meetings and congresses, he was always friendly and warm and made himself accessible to everyone. Dr. Wainberg's absence has touched many of us and his drive to build and maintain alliances between governments, public health, scientists and community groups is an important part of his legacy.

We celebrate Dr. Wainberg's many achievements but those of us in Canada and around the globe who struggle to end the HIV epidemic have lost a friend, mentor and key ally.

[The IAS remembers Mark Wainberg](#)

## Produced By:



Canada's source for  
HIV and hepatitis C  
information

555 Richmond Street West, Suite 505, Box 1104  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3B1 Canada  
Phone: 416.203.7122  
Toll-free: 1.800.263.1638  
Fax: 416.203.8284  
www.catie.ca  
Charitable registration number: 13225 8740 RR

## Disclaimer

Decisions about particular medical treatments should always be made in consultation with a qualified medical practitioner knowledgeable about HIV- and hepatitis C-related illness and the treatments in question.

CATIE provides information resources to help people living with HIV and/or hepatitis C who wish to manage their own health care in partnership with their care providers. Information accessed through or published or provided by CATIE, however, is not to be considered medical advice. We do not recommend or advocate particular treatments and we urge users to consult as broad a range of sources as possible. We strongly urge users to consult with a qualified medical practitioner prior to undertaking any decision, use or action of a medical nature.

CATIE endeavours to provide the most up-to-date and accurate information at the time of publication. However, information changes and users are encouraged to ensure they have the most current information. Users relying solely on this information do so entirely at their own risk. Neither CATIE nor any of its partners or funders, nor any of their employees, directors, officers or volunteers may be held liable for damages of any kind that may result from the use or misuse of any such information. Any opinions expressed herein or in any article or publication accessed or published or provided by CATIE may not reflect the policies or opinions of CATIE or any partners or funders.

Information on safer drug use is presented as a public health service to help people make healthier choices to reduce the spread of HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections. It is not intended to encourage or promote the use or possession of illegal drugs.

## Permission to Reproduce

This document is copyrighted. It may be reprinted and distributed in its entirety for non-commercial purposes without prior permission, but permission must be obtained to edit its content. The following credit must appear on any reprint: *This information was provided by CATIE (the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange). For more information, contact CATIE at 1.800.263.1638.*

© CATIE

Production of this content has been made possible through a financial contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Available online at:

<http://www.catie.ca/en/news/catie-joins-mourning-death-brilliant-scientist-and-friend-professor-dr-mark-wainberg>