



# Update

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 25, 1988

Patricia Randall  
(301) 496-5717

## Volunteers Needed for AIDS Drug Trial

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are looking for HIV-infected persons with Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) to enroll in a clinical trial of AZT and interleukin-2 (IL-2). This ongoing study is designed to evaluate the toxicity and obtain preliminary information on the efficacy of the drug combination; each by itself has been well-tolerated in treatment of AIDS patients with KS.

AZT has been shown to prolong life by interfering with replication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the cause of AIDS. IL-2 is a substance that occurs naturally in the body and is known for its role boosting the immune response. Investigators hope that the use of the two agents together will reverse some of the damaging effects of HIV on the immune system.

The primary aim of the study is to obtain toxicity data on the drug combination during dose escalation of IL-2. Each patient will receive AZT as an outpatient for six weeks, and then will receive IL-2 by continuous infusion as an inpatient for three weeks. This research will be carried out at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

The researchers are looking for 15 men or women between the ages of 18 and 60 who have KS, no history of opportunistic infections and can tolerate 200 mg of AZT every four hours. Prospective women volunteers must not be pregnant. In addition to outpatient visits every two weeks each patient will be admitted to the inpatient service of the clinical center for three weeks during which time IL-2 will be administered.

If a volunteer responds well to the drugs and wishes to continue taking them, treatment can be continued longer than the four-month period.

Travel expenses for volunteers who live outside the Washington metropolitan area will be paid by NIH. For more information, prospective volunteers can call Dianne Lee, R.N., at (301) 496-7196.