



Denying AIDS and other oddities

"The whole dissident idea attracts a lot of crazies. And then all of a sudden, without realizing it, you've become one of them." Peter Duesberg, 2009

Seeking Stories of AIDS Denialism

Have you or someone you know been harmed by AIDS Denialism? If you, or someone you care about, have been advised to stop taking HIV meds, ignore HIV test results, purchase a 'natural' cure etc., please email me.

aidsandbehavior@yahoo.com

All information will be kept confidential.

S U N D A Y , J A N U

➔ The Anti-Science of AIDS Denialism: New Must Read Blog Post



Somehow this man invented PCR, assumingly while wearing pants.

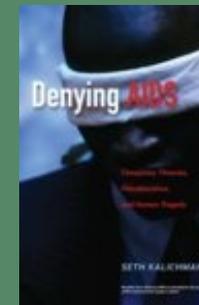
AIDS Denialism: Deadly Ignorance
Part I
@ In Vivo
Blog <http://cwgk.blogspot.com/>
Those of us in the skeptical community are no strangers to whacko medical theories. It seems every week there is another quack promoting a new "naturalistic" diet or treatment. By far, though, the brunt of a skeptic's time is dealing with denialism – groups of individuals

denying that contemporary medical practices don't work or are even dangerous. In the last few years, the anti-vax denialists have been in the

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BUYING THIS BOOK WILL HELP TREAT PEOPLE WITH HIV IN AFRICA!!



Order *Denying AIDS* from Amazon.com and save 34% off the store price.

media spotlight due to their elaborate campaigns and the outspoken celebrities like Jenny McCarthy who have taken up the anti-vax fight. But there is another camp of deniers festering away in the underbelly of alternative medicine. These people are the AIDS deniers; people who claim that AIDS is not caused by the HIV virus, but rather that it is actually caused by drug use. Some even go so far as to claim that HIV does not exist! Given the horrifying prevalence of AIDS in third world nations and even its alarming proliferation in developed nations, increasing support for AIDS denialism is not simply worrying but outright dangerous.

AIDS denialism has been known to me for some time, having learned about it from reading about Nobel Prize winner Kary Mullis, who is one of AIDS denialism's best known proponents. Though, given Mullis' colorful personality I figured he was just a lone crank. It was not until this past week when a good friend of mine, SofiaRune, began to get comments on a Youtube video she produced about debunking the link between HIV infection rates and male circumcision. A user by the name of "mykoolaidtastesfunny" made a variety of claims about how AIDS and HIV are not linked, and how HIV has not been shown to exist. He also posted a video by a variety of AIDS "skeptics" repeating his points. Immediately we began to investigate these claims. In the following series of posts, I'll address the claims of the AIDS "skeptics". In Part I, I will focus on the video that started it all...

To read the entire post (and others), [click here](#)

Posted by Seth Kalichman at [8:29 AM](#)

17 comments:

  [sofiarune said...](#)

I'd be really interested to hear your views on male circumcision and HIV prevention. It seems to have become a really hot topic since the US introduced PEPFAR which includes male circumcision as an preventive method against HIV infection. I know the original trials had some serious flaws,

All Royalties from Denying AIDS buy HIV medications in Africa



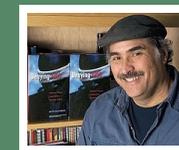
Visit the Family Treatment Fund [here](#)

Review of Denying AIDS in Miller-McCune Magazine



Am I really that angry?

About the Author



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See Seth's AIDS Denialism talk at Yale University's 2009 AIDS Science Day

Ben Goldacre's 'Bad Science'



including ethical questions raised by behavioural changes in circumcised men. I know it's not so much denialism as it is potentially a red herring but I'd love to hear your opinion nonetheless.

January 31, 2011 11:27 AM



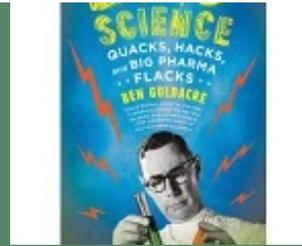
Seth Kalichman said...

Hi
my views on Male Circumcision (MC) for HIV prevention...ok...

1. The evidence that MC prevents HIV transmission from women to men is beyond compelling.
2. The reduction in risk is probably around 50%..an amazing amount of protection.
3. If every male baby in southern Africa were to receive MC we would see a huge reduction, dare I say near elimination, of HIV in a couple generations. But that will never happen and it is foolish to think that it could. MC has huge cultural, religious, social, and personal aspects that cannot be ignored..although some people have ignored them.
4. There is a considerable problem with circumcised men who correctly believe they are partially protected from HIV stopping use of condoms (100% protective). This is called risk compensation and it is what my research group has been studying.
5. A mistake would be to think that MC alone is the answer to HIV prevention, and no one is really saying that.

So in summary, MC prevents HIV transmission, but it will not stop HIV epidemics...No one prevention strategy will. Behavioral counseling can enhance the effects of MC by reducing risk compensation.

I wrote commentary in PLOS Medicine about neonatal MC that



Finally, The US Edition!

Climate change sceptics likened to those who denied HIV/AIDS



"The arguments from those who deny the science look more and more like those who denied the association between HIV and Aids or smoking and cancer."

BOOK REVIEWS etc

- ➔ [Lizr128's Blog Review of Hartford Evening on Denial](#)
- ➔ [Review in Miller-McCune Magazine](#)
- ➔ [Review in Lancet Infectious Diseases](#)
- ➔ [REVIEW in International Journal of STD and AIDS](#)
- ➔ [REVIEW in Gay & Lesbian Psychology Review, Australia](#)
- ➔ [REVIEW in Nature](#)
- ➔ [REVIEW IN Journal of African](#)

may be of interest..

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.1000219>

January 31, 2011 12:53 PM

Don't Cut The Kids said...

Sofiarune.

Really, asking Kalichman to comment on circumcision is akin to questioning his religious faith, of course he's going to recommend it.

Try looking at Doctors Who Oppose Circumcision. All qualified M.D's, all believers in HIV/AIDS and all opposed to circumcision as it DOES NOT prevent the transmission of the virus.

<http://www.nocirc.org/statements/hiv2003.php>

Perhaps they are circumcision denialists? most likely they just ain't Jewish. Now who originally proposed this theory?

Aaron J. FINK M.D. and of what faith would you think he is?

Kalichman has perpetual trouble sorting fact from fiction in his faith based science beliefs. But then that's not uncommon in his fantasy world.

January 31, 2011 4:53 PM



Seth Kalichman said...

Yes, that is right.

I am biased in my interpretation of 20 years of epidemiological research and three randomized controlled trials because I am Jewish. It is the medical establishment, run by Jews, that is conspiring to promote male circumcision for HIV prevention. It is no coincidence that the leading circumcision researcher is named Moses. Yes, I went over...

American Studies

➤ [POZ Magazine interviews Seth on AIDS Denial](#)

➤ [BOOK REVIEW Vue Weekly, Edmonton](#)

➤ [Denying AIDS Preface and Chapter 6 at thebody.com](#)

➤ [AIDS Denial article and interview at New Scientist Magazine](#)

➤ [thebody.com interviews Seth on AIDS denial](#)

➤ [Times Higher Education article on academic denialists](#)

➤ [Interview with UK Skeptic Richard Wison](#)

➤ [POZ Magazine on Denying AIDS](#)

➤ [BOOK REVIEW by Mark Hoofnagle at the Denialism Blog](#)

➤ [BOOK REVIEW Nature](#)

➤ [denialism blog features Nature review of Denying AIDS](#)

➤ [BOOK REVIEW Butterflies & Wheels on Denying AIDS](#)

➤ [The Hartford Courant's coverage of AIDS Denialism features Denying AIDS.](#)

➤ [Product\(Red\) links to Denying AIDS Author's blog! \(Hello Bono!\)](#)

➤ [Richard Wilson, UK's Top Skeptic, discusses Denying AIDS](#)

➤ [University of Connecticut](#)

circumcision researcher is named Moses. Yes, I want every male child circumcised because that will make them Jews and we can take over the world, not just the Liberal Media and banks.

Now that I am talking Crazy, do you understand me better? You AIDS Deniers are your own worst enemy. No one can explain how insane you are better than you can and do. Good job, and thanks again!

January 31, 2011 10:35 PM

 **Eliza Jane said...**

Can anyone confirm.. I heard that Kary Stockley's CMV anailitis has returned and she is in the hospital again. Is she still refusing HIV treatment? Does she need more surgery? How grave is her condition?

January 31, 2011 10:37 PM

 **Joe Newton said...**

Cat got your tongue or you just censoring again? Atypical behaviour of the AIDS Junta.

February 3, 2011 5:02 AM

  **sofiarune said...**

Didn't mean to start a bit of a spat. I actually didn't know that Seth was Jewish so his religious background is irrelevant to me. I sincerely wanted to know what his opinion on the RCTs in Africa was. The data are what the data are.

I disagree with him (kind of) but it's not because I think his Jewish background is clouding the issue. We both come from academic backgrounds and I'm confident that we could discuss the concept in a purely scholarly way. I'll probably follow up via email but I've been pretty busy and now I've managed to get sick so it might take me a while.

I offer my apologies Seth, I didn't mean for Jewish

[promotes Denying AIDS](#)

 [BOOK REVIEW at Open Mind, Insert Book on Denying AIDS](#)

 [FOREWORD to Denying AIDS at Quackwatch.com](#)

 [Yale University AIDS Science Day kicks off with AIDS Denialism talk.](#)

 [AIDS TREATMENT NEWS announces Denying AIDS](#)

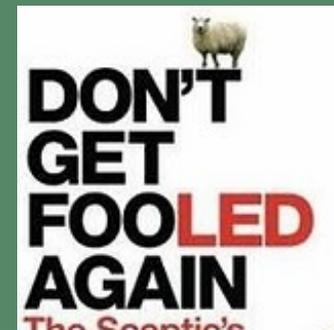
 [Article 'AIDS Denialism's House of Cards' at ButterfliesAndWheels](#)

 [AIDS Denial article and interview at New Scientist Magazine](#)

Read Ben Goldacre and keep up with Bad Science



Don't Get Fooled Again: The Skeptic's Guide to Life by Richard Wilson



conspiracies to be triggered via my comment. :P

February 3, 2011 4:34 PM

 **Bookie said...**

What is the spread on who's going to kick it first- Bannon or Stokely? I'd put Stokely in at 2:1 odds...

February 3, 2011 5:35 PM



 **Seth Kalichman said...**

sofiarune

No problem at all.

I appreciate your asking.

No apologies needed.

You are correct about my interest in MC for HIV prevention, particularly the behavioral aspects. If you are familiar with the RCT's, then you can see that the data suggest behavioral problems like risk compensation far more than the authors conclude. Especially the Kenya and South Africa trials.

Any way, do not mind the nut cases that have chimed in here. I post their comments so that readers can see for themselves how insane AIDS Denialists are. You did nothing to provoke the crazy Jewish comment. They are not equipped to have a legitimate discussion of a real issue in HIV/AIDS, like the merits and meaning of MC for prevention. They believe there should be a debate about whether HIV exists and in the mean time miss the real debates that are happening in the field...

We must remember what the great philosopher Joe Walsh once said.."You can't argue with a sick mind".

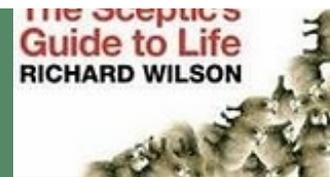
People like you bring substance to my blog. People like Bill, Clark Baker and the other Deniers who try to comment here are purely entertainment.

Thanks again

February 3, 2011 11:48 PM

 **Anonymous said...**

How's that global warming going up there in Connecticut Seth?



A World of AIDS Denialism

- [AIDS Denialism on YouTube](#)
- [Alien Planets AIDS Conspiracy](#)
- [Australia Perth Group](#)
- [Brazil - Temas Atuais na Promoção da Saúde](#)
- [Canada - HEAL Toronto](#)
- [Canada Alberta Reapprasing AIDS](#)
- [Columbia - Roberto Giraldo](#)
- [David Rasnick](#)
- [France - Association Mark Griffiths](#)
- [France - SIDA ou Sante](#)
- [Germany - Rath Foundation](#)
- [Germany - Rethinking AIDS Deutschland](#)
- [Germany Über die wissenschaftliche AIDS-Kritik](#)
- [Greece HIV as a Passing Wave](#)
- [House of Numbers Denialist Film Blog](#)
- [India - AIDS Myth](#)
- [Korea - Cafe Daum](#)
- [Mexico - La Verdad del SIDA](#)
- [Mexico - Monarcas](#)
- [Russia](#)

Ah, that's right the worst blizzards in history are proof that the planet is warming, silly me.

February 4, 2011 11:33 PM

 **sofiarune said...**

Wow you have all of them here don't you? Global warming denialists, Jewish conspiracies... I could start a game called "Guess the next nutjob" every time I come to your blog haha.

February 5, 2011 9:31 PM

 **Cecilia said...**

So who are you and what is your problem? Do you live under a rock? This AIDS bullshit is just that, BULLSHIT, and how many people have been killed by the drugs, not to mention suicides after they tested positive on the phony HIV test. Get real. The time is coming, little by little people are becoming aware of this massive hoax.

February 5, 2011 11:18 PM



 **Seth Kalichman said...**

Yes sofiarune
You will find them all here.
It is like a nut farm. As you can see, they are quite the bunch.
As ignorant of climate change as they are HIV/AIDS.
Crazy is as crazy does...

February 5, 2011 11:23 PM

 **Gay Hornet said...**

➤ [South Africa - Treatment Information Group](#)

➤ [South Africa Anthony Brink](#)

➤ [Spain REPLANTEAR EL SIDA](#)

➤ [The AIDS Conspiracy](#)

➤ [United Kingdom - Immunity Resource Foundation](#)

➤ [United Kingdom Immunity Resource Foundation](#)

➤ [United Kingdom HEAL London](#)

➤ [USA - Portland](#)

➤ [USA LG Starr Right Wing Extreme \[and denialism\] Blog](#)

➤ [USA Los Angeles - Christine Maggiore](#)

➤ [USA New York - Liam Scheff](#)

➤ [USA Office of Scientific Justice](#)

➤ [USA San Francisco - ACTUP SF](#)

➤ [USA, New York Big Pharma AIDS Conspiracy](#)

➤ [World Wide \(10+ countries\) - AIDS Myth Exposed](#)

➤ [World Wide - Rethinking AIDS](#)

➤ [Worldwide Medical Wiki World](#)

Listen to Neil Denny Interview Seth about AIDS Denialism on Little Atoms

I would like to point out to "anonymous" that "Global Warming" is a misnomer and shows your extreme ignorance. The real science focuses on Climate Change which is a much better description of what is happening. Perhaps you should do a little more studying and spend less time on your Tin Foil Helmet.

February 6, 2011 8:33 PM

Anonymous said...

Ah, that's right the worst blizzards in history are proof that the planet is warming, silly me.

Actually it is. There's not a lot of ice up in the Arctic right now. The Arctic Oscillation is in a negative phase which sends cold air south.

If that doesn't convince you, consider the drought in the Amazon rain forest, or the floods in Australia linked to warmer ocean temperatures.

February 7, 2011 3:40 PM

Kralc Rekab said...

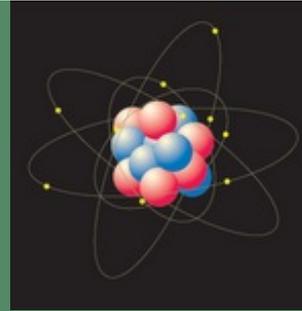
Don't try convincing Clarkie Baker that climate change is happening. Clark is uneducated and tries to compensate for his low station in life by posting silly rants online. He is an example of the crossover of AIDS Denialism/Climate Change Denialism/ 9-11 Conspiracy Theorists - and other idiotic whackjobs.

February 11, 2011 8:19 AM

Anonymous said...

Seth Kalichman, you may be an epidemiologist, but your statements are either exaggerated, unproven, or plain incorrect. You said:

1) "The evidence that MC prevents HIV transmission from women to men is beyond compelling."



Little Atoms is the UK's top talk show about ideas

AIDS Denialism on Law & Order



If you missed the Law & Order episode 'Retro' on AIDS denialism you will want to see the 2-minute Replay. This episode portrays a woman who denies she has HIV in which she and her infant daughter both die of AIDS. Sound familiar? Click the pic to watch.

AIDS Denialists claim Law & Order killed Christine Maggiore, not AIDS.

My Favorite Blogs

- ➔ 365 Reasons To Quit Hiv
- ➔ Ben Goldacre's Bad Science
- ➔ Breaking Bauer
- ➔ Correcting the AIDS Lies
- ➔ Denialism Blog: don't mistake denialism with debate
- ➔ Don't Get Fooled Again

NO, the evidence that MC prevents HIV is NOT proven, although there is SOME evidence that it helps to reduce HIV transmission via heterosexual sex. The three RCTs found a 50-60% reduction over about 18 months (in real terms, not particularly good). However, the RCTs may be much more context-specific than you imagine, and their results are evidently not projectable onto other countries, particularly developed nations. The HIV pandemic is now of 30 years' standing, yet there is still absolutely no evidence that uncircumcised men in any developed nation (e.g in the USA) have statistically more HIV infection than the circumcised men of that population.

Physiology: According to research by de Witte, published in the Lancet (2007), foreskin Langerhans cells DESTROY invading HIV viruses (by releasing the viricide, Langerin, and also by stimulating an immune response against the viral invaders). However, if the exposure to HIV is VERY HIGH (or above a certain threshold), then presumably immune, protective cells can get overwhelmed, and in that scenario, the foreskin would present as little more than extra surface area for HIV invasion. In practical terms, this means that circumcision may confer some small protection on men who indulge in promiscuous sex with, for example, Sub-Saharan prostitutes (who have very high HIV infectivity). The corollary, however, is that the foreskin could confer NET PROTECTION against HIV if the exposure to HIV is within a more normal or lower range, in which Langerhans cells are effective. This scenario, or hypothesis, would help to explain why non-circumcising Europe and Japan have the LEAST incidences of HIV in the world (lower than the 80% circumcised USA). HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE VERY LOW HETEROSEXUAL TRANSMISSION OF HIV IN THE INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN NATIONS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE STATISTICALLY NO MORE HIV THAN ISRAEL? (See: "cia world fact book hiv/aids adult prevalence rate"). As many epidemiologic studies show, the prevalence of HIV is related statistically to socioeconomic factors. probably not

- ➔ [Dr. Rivka](#)
- ➔ [Jonny Neviripine's Blog](#)
- ➔ [Reckless Endangerment](#)
- ➔ [Respectful Insolence](#)
- ➔ [Swallowing the Camel](#)
- ➔ [United Against AIDS Denial \[facebook Group\]](#)

Blog Posts on Denying AIDS

- ▼ 2011 (29)
 - ▶ August (6)
 - ▶ June (1)
 - ▶ May (3)
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 - ▶ March (5)
 - ▶ February (6)
 - ▼ January (6)
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 - [Junk Science Isn't a Victimless Crime](#)
 - [AIDS Denialists Plan Another Conference: Are AIDS ...](#)
- ▶ 2010 (58)

circumcision status.

Even within Africa there is much conflicting data, e.g. meta-analyses performed by Garenne (2008), Van Howe (1999), Way (2006), Connolly (2008), and others in Africa have failed to validate circumcision as protective against HIV.

2. You said: "The reduction in risk is probably around 50%..an amazing amount of protection."

As an epidemiologist, you should know that a relative risk reduction of 50% is poor, and remember, it has only been found over a period of about 18 months (duration of the trials). This means that if a circumcised man continues to indulge in unprotected promiscuity, he will come down with HIV regardless. He may be protected a little longer than if he were not circumcised - but that's all! It is unscientific and senseless to compare circumcision to a vaccine (not you).

3). You said: "If every male baby in southern Africa were to receive MC we would see a huge reduction, dare I say near elimination, of HIV in a couple generations."

That is a ridiculously unscientific statement, not predicated on any facts! Based on a relative reduction of only about 50%, you have no grounds to come to that conclusion. The only way to eliminate HIV is safe sex practice. Circumcision is the LEAST protective method, and appears to be ineffective in many environments.

July 31, 2011 6:18 PM

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World AIDS Day 2009 Book Signing



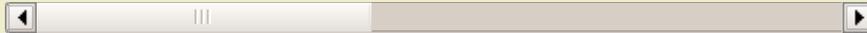
Peter Duesberg, included in The 12 Worst Predictions about the Future ever



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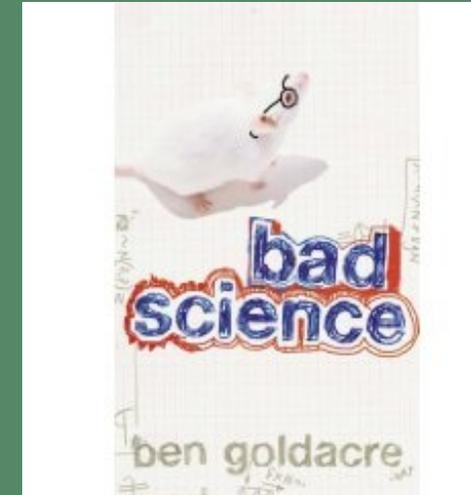
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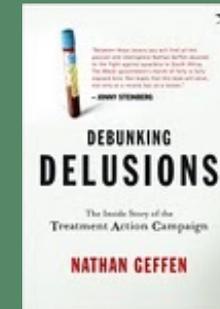
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“That virus [HIV] is a pussycat.”--
Dr. Peter Duesberg, molecular-
biology professor at U.C. Berkeley,
1988

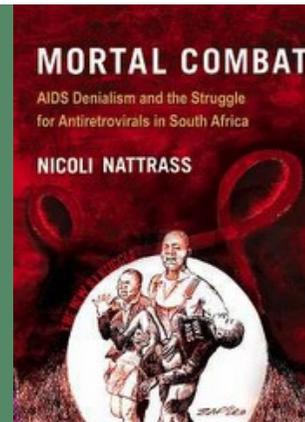
Bad Science by Ben Goldacre



New Book on AIDS Denialism by Nathan Geffen

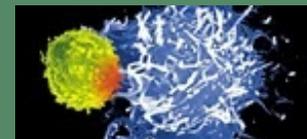


To learn about AIDS Denialism
in South Africa



Read Nicoli Nattrass' book *Mortal Combat: The Struggle for Antiretrovirals in South Africa* (published by University of KwaZulu-Natal Press)

Scientists film HIV spreading



Report published in *Science*,
March 27, 2009
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/323/5922/1743>

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Reviews of Denying AIDS: Conspiracy Theories, Pseudoscience, and Human Tragedy

In *Denying AIDS*, Seth Kalichman provides a fascinating look into the thinking of those who propagate AIDS myths and the negative impact they have on our response to a deadly disease. He shows us how AIDS pseudoscience confuses the public and threatens sound public health policy. Anyone who cares about the global HIV/AIDS pandemic should read this book. **Helene D. Gayle, Chair of the 2009 US Presidential Council on AIDS, CEO CARE USA, former Assistant Surgeon General**

Seth Kalichman brilliantly uses a psychological lens to expose the wacky world that creates and maintains its presence despite the untold numbers of deaths and suffering it has caused. This book is a wake up call to policy makers and scientists, particularly in places most affected by the pandemic, that denialism must be confronted if we want to bring it under control. A must read for those who want to know more about the power and influence of pseudoscience.

Michael Merson, Director, Global Health Institute at Duke University and Former Director of the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS.

This excellent book examines the detailed history of HIV/AIDS denialism as well as its damaging impact throughout the world. HIV/AIDS denialism and its proponents have created confusion when the clear provision of scientifically accurate communication was most needed.

James Curran, Dean of the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, Former Director of the CDC HIV/AIDS Division.

Seth Kalichman has superbly captured the contradictions inherent in AIDS denialism. He has deftly uncovered its religious-like fervor, its vociferous proponents and passionate opponents as well as its destructive force when legitimized by the South African President.

Salim S. Abdool Karim, Member of the 2000 South African Presidential Panel on AIDS, Professor at University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Director of Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)



Royalties from *Denying AIDS* are donated to buy HIV treatments in Africa

- [Visit the Family Treatment Fund](#)