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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NOVA “ENDING HIV IN AMERICA” EXAMINES THE REMARKABLE PROGRESS SCIENCE HAS MADE AGAINST HIV AND HOW CLOSE WE MAY BE TO ENDING THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IN THE U.S.**

***New film from NOVA, Global Health Reporting Center, and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios reveals how scientists and affected communities are partnering to deliver new advances to those still struggling on the front lines of the crisis***

**Premieres Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 9pm ET/8C on PBS**

**Also available for streaming at** [**pbs.org/nova**](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/ending-hiv-in-america/) **and via the** [**PBS Video app**](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/)

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**BOSTON, MA; September 9, 2022—ENDING HIV IN AMERICA,** a one-hour special from **NOVA**—a **production of GBH**—explores the extraordinary scientific progress that has been made in the fight against HIV, highlights the activism and commitment of communities that are still hard hit by the virus, and reveals how close we may be getting to what once seemed unthinkable—the end of HIV in America. The film follows the unexpected twists and turns that HIV treatment has taken since scientists identified the virus almost 40 years ago, against the backdrop of two American cities—San Francisco, California and Birmingham, Alabama—that represent the real-world challenges of getting that treatment to the people who need it most. **ENDING HIV IN AMERICA**, a productionby Global Health Reporting Center and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios in association with NOVA/GBH, premieres **Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 9pm ET/8C on PBS**. The film will also be available for streaming at [pbs.org/nova](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/ending-hiv-in-america/) and via the [PBS Video app](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/).

What began as a mysterious and ferocious plague that frustrated scientists at every turn, led to a long—and global—scientific quest that produced a string of extraordinary discoveries. Yet to deliver those discoveries to the people most in need, equally innovative partnerships had to be created between the public health community and communities who were often neglected or discriminated against by health authorities. **ENDING HIV IN AMERICA** examines many important questions, including: How did scientists gain the upper hand on one of the most elusive and deadly pathogens ever known? Could innovative drugs and treatment regimens eventually bring new infections to zero? The U.S. government set a bold target in 2019: to cut new infections by 90% by the year 2030. But can we conquer the final hurdles in defeating the virus and address the deep-rooted challenges of accessibility and stigma that communities across the country face?

“HIV is a uniquely challenging virus to fight, and the scientific journey over the last four decades has been a dramatic roller-coaster filled with hope and frustration and some truly remarkable discoveries,” said **NOVA Co-Executive Producer Julia Cort**. “All leading to today, when public health experts say ending HIV transmission in America is within our grasp.”

Mutating faster than any known virus, HIV, which causes the disease known as AIDS, at first seemed invincible. Yet an unprecedented global scientific effort is gradually unraveling most of the virus’s secrets. The resulting breakthroughs have turned an HIV diagnosis, once a death sentence, into a chronic but manageable condition for most infected Americans. The use of antiviral therapy has proven more than 99% effective in preventing transmission, leading many experts to believe that it is possible to end the epidemic.

“Public awareness of the continuing havoc wreaked by HIV has declined over the years. This important film provides some welcome news and a timely examination of the current state of the AIDS epidemic and how we got to this point,” said **NOVA Co-Executive Producer Chris Schmidt**. “It also reveals how scientific advances in the battle against COVID-19 originated from pioneering research into HIV vaccines—including treatments like Remdesvir and Paxlovid—and how the many years of scientific research around HIV and AIDS have benefited us all in the long run.”

As with any disease, the final cases are the hardest to stamp out, but the so-called last mile looks different in different parts of the country. San Francisco—home of Ward 86, the country’s oldest HIV/AIDS clinic—vowed to be the first city to fully eliminate the virus, rolling out its plan in 2013. By focusing on its most vulnerable residents, the city managed to cut new infections by more than 60%, even as the COVID pandemic brought new challenges. The film introduces viewers to health workers who are bringing medical care to the streets and running clinics that deliver not just HIV care, but other services tailored to the city’s homeless and transgender communities. Viewers will also meet HIV-positive activists like Cecilia Chung, who have lived through the HIV/AIDS pandemic’s different eras over the last four decades.

In Birmingham, Alabama, the last mile feels a lot longer. For many residents the cost of the highly effective preventative treatment, known as PrEP, is prohibitive because the state doesn’t provide the same level of support as in San Francisco. The film follows a core group of staff at the 1917 Clinic, run by the University of Alabama at Birmingham, helping patients to navigate various challenges. Among this group are chaplain Chris Hamlin, formerly pastor at the city’s historic 16th Street Baptist Church, and Tommy Williams, who connects clients with the clinic’s services. Williams shares a bond with many patients—he too is HIV-positive—and his tireless efforts to combat the stigma surrounding HIV are a central element of the film.

With unforgettable portraits and interviews with pioneers of HIV science and community leadership—Drs. Michael Saag, Lawrence Corey, John Mascola, Monica Gandhi, Myron Cohen, Cecilia Cheung, and the Reverend Christopher Hamlin—**ENDING HIV IN AMERICA** is a story of both struggle and triumph, showing how the fight against HIV reshaped the world of science and medicine, as healthcare providers confront the challenge of getting treatments to the people who need them most.

“Tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic has been one of the greatest scientific and societal challenges of the past four decades, and that effort contributed mightily to our preparation for COVID,” said **Head of HHMI Tangled Bank Studios Sean B. Carroll**. “Now we can see the light at the end of that long tunnel. We’re proud to help bring this important story to audiences and to bring hope to the communities most affected by this terrible disease.”

The Global Health Reporting Center, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, and NOVA/GBH, will lead an impact campaign tied to the film that will include additional HIV-related content, film screenings and panel discussions in key cities, and a program to get the film and associated educational materials to medical students nationwide.

“What both Covid and HIV teach us is that no virus can be conquered without both great science and great public health,” said **Global Health Reporting Center Co-founder and President Janet Tobias**. “In the fight against HIV-AIDS, there has been a groundbreaking collaboration between patients, activists, and scientists. It is because of extraordinary leadership by all of these groups, that it is now possible to imagine ending HIV in America.”

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**ENDING HIV IN AMERICA** is a productionby Global Health Reporting Center and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios in association with NOVA/GBH. Written and Produced by Caleb Hellerman. Directed by Shayon Maitra. Executive Producers for Global Health Reporting Center are Janet Tobias and Rogger Lopez. Executive Producers for HHMI Tangled Bank Studios are Jared Lipworth and Sean B. Carroll. Executive Producers for NOVA are Julia Cort and Chris Schmidt. NOVA is a production of GBH.

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**About NOVA**

NOVA is the most popular primetime science series on American television, demystifying the scientific and technological concepts that shape and define our lives, our planet, and our universe. The PBS series is also one of the most widely distributed science programs around the world, and is a multimedia, multiplatform brand reaching more than 55 million Americans every year on TV and online. NOVA’s important and inspiring stories of human ingenuity, exploration, and the quest for knowledge are regularly recognized with the industry’s most prestigious awards. As part of its mission to make the scientific enterprise accessible to all, NOVA is committed to diversity and inclusiveness in all its work, from the production process to the range of stories we tell and the voices we amplify. In addition, science educators across the country rely on NOVA for resources used in the classroom as well as in museums, libraries, and after-school programs. NOVA is a production of GBH Boston; more information can be found at pbs.org/nova, or by following NOVA on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

**About PBS**

PBS, with nearly 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches nearly 100 million people through television and nearly 28 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’ broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS’ premier children’s media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV – including a new 24/7 channel, online at pbskids.org, via an array of mobile apps and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at www.pbs.org, one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following PBS on Twitter, Facebook or through our apps for mobile and connected devices. Specific program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following PBS Pressroom on Twitter.

**About GBH**

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates and inspires, through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. It is the creator of such signature programs as MASTERPIECE, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, FRONTLINE, NOVA, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, *Arthur* and *Molly of Denali,* as well as WORLD Channel and a catalog of streaming series, podcasts and on-demand video. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston’s Local NPR®; CRB Classical 99.5; and CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR® station. Dedicated to making media accessible to and inclusive of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. GBH creates curriculum-based digital content for educators nationwide with PBS LearningMedia and has been recognized with hundreds of the nation’s premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at wgbh.org.

​​**About HHMI Tangled Bank Studios**

HHMI Tangled Bank Studios is a mission-driven production company that seeks to shine a light on some of the most significant scientific challenges and breakthroughs of our time. Recent films include Emmy Award-winners *The Serengeti Rules* and *The Farthest – Voyager In Space*; Emmy-nominated *Nature’s Fear Factor*; Peabody Award winner *Inventing Tomorrow*; and *All That Breathes*, the only film to win best documentary at both the Sundance and Cannes film festivals. To extend the reach and impact of each film, the studio undertakes educational and public outreach efforts in partnership with mission-aligned organizations. For more information, please visit [WWW.TANGLEDBANKSTUDIOS.ORG](http://www.tangledbankstudios.org).

**About Global Health Reporting Center**

The Global Health Reporting Center (GHRC) is an independent, nonprofit newsroom committed to producing in-depth health journalism, documentary films and other nonfiction content about the vital health challenges of our time. The GHRC reports from every continent, bringing local expertise and a global perspective. Recent and current projects include the award-winning documentary film *“Race For the Vaccine,”* and “*Vitals,*” PBS Digital Studios’ flagship show about health and medicine. The GHRC also produces regular content for the PBS NewsHour, CNN and other news outlets. For more information, please visit For more information: ghrc.org

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