1. Communicable, maternal and perinatal diseases are responsible for most (56%) deaths among the poorest 20% of the world population, but a much lower percentage (8%) among the richest 20%. (D. R. Gwaltin & P. Heuveline, BMJ, 315:497, 1997).

2. Despite a ten-year AIDS prevention education programme (including the use of old drawings from the Kama Sutra to "advertise" monogamy), India has more HIV-infected individuals than any other country in the world (K.S. Jayaraman, Nature Medicine, 2:951, 1996).

3. Sixteen years after the first reports of AIDS and nearly $50 billion spent since the discovery of HIV there is still no vaccine.

4. A successful vaccine against HIV will need to achieve a difficult balance between safety, which is dependent upon a high degree of virus attenuation, and efficacy, which may be directly related to the ability of the virus to replicate in its host. (This thesis).

5. Infection of macaques with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) offers a valuable model for studying the complex interaction between lentiviruses and host immune system. (This thesis).

6. Increasing evidence indicates a role for antiviral cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) in the control of primate immunodeficiency viruses. However, protective CTL may limit rather than completely prevent virus replication. (This thesis).


8. Measles is a leading cause of childhood morbidity and mortality in developing countries, with fatality rates in hospitalised children often exceeding 10%.

9. In the United States, an estimated 16,000 people die each year of chronic liver disease associated with persistent infection with hepatitis B or C viruses. (S. M. Lemon & D. L. Thomas, NEJM 336:196,1997).

10. Cellular phones can interfere with the function of implanted cardiac pacemakers. However, when phones are placed over the ear, the normal position, this interference does not pose a health risk. (D. L. Hayes et al., NEJM 336:1473,1997).