

STELLINGEN

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. Gwatkin & 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*).
7. The identification of the co-receptor mediating HIV-1 entry raises new hopes in the treatment of AIDS. (*D.S. Dimetrov, Nature Medicine, 2:640, 1996*).
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*).