**RESPONSE:** Ex-PMB man Anthony Brink is sticking to his belief that ARVs are deathly da

# ‘Anti-retrovirals are still toxic’

ANTHONY BRINK

JULIA Denny-Dimitriou’s review of Kerry Cullinan and Anso Thom’s new book *The Virus, Vitamins & Vegetables* on May 8 has me as the villain of the piece, and a shame on my former home town: “Our own ‘City of ...hoice’ gets a mention in what has to be one of the most shocking chapters — the story of the government’s strange denialist bedfellows including Anthony Brink ... described by a prominent international scientist as ‘delusional’.”

She quotes Cullinan claiming I’m responsible for “the madness, sheer weirdness and despair of a decade with Thabo Mbeki and Tshabalala-Msimang”, and that I “came to have the ear of the president, Health minister, and other top officials ... by exploiting divisions etched by apartheid ... with nothing to offer other than ideology in place of ARVs for people with weak immune systems”. What twittering nonsense.

Actually I “came to have the ear of the president, Health minister, and other top officials” with the manuscript of my first book, *Debating AZT*, then subtitled *Questions of safety and utility*, in which I showed the drug to be completely useless and deadly poisonous. After reading it, Mbeki duly alerted the people of our country in a speech given in the National Council of Provinces on October 28, 1999 to the fact that there “exists a large volume of scientific literature alleging that, among other things, the toxicity of this drug is such that it is in fact a danger to health”.

Serious journalists were equally appalled by my revelations. *noseweek* editor and publisher Martin Welz noted in the foreword he wrote for the book that I’d “tracked and digested every important reference to AZT in contemporary medical literature. The result is a comprehensive and alarming review of the findings of medical researchers on the clinical use of the drug”. My “argument” against it, he said, “is devastatingly clear”. The brilliant English investigative journalist, the late Paul Foot, agreed: “Very good. Convinced me completely.” This newspaper’s deputy editor shared their high opinions: “... hefty blow for free speech and against the strictures of dogma ... crisp. Logical ... Bristlingly intelligent. ... For anyone who wants to know what Mbeki’s on about, it’s all here, in a nutshell.” None found me or my book “strange”, “weird”, “mad”, “delusional” and “denialist”.

Among effusive plaudits from numerous senior scientists around the world, the very inventor of the drug ... Professor Richard Pelt...

peutic use of AZT, or its use in pregnant women, because of its demonstrated toxicity and side effects. Unfortunately, the devastating effects of AZT emerged only after the final level of experiments was well under way ... Your effort is a worthy one ... I hope you succeed in convincing your government not to make AZT available.”

The “devastating effects of AZT” arise from the fact that it’s a nucleoside analogue, a class of toxin routinely used to poison cells in cancer chemotherapy. Accordingly, when supplying a minuscule 25 mg for research use — one quarter the quantity in a single 100 mg capsule supplied by GlaxoSmithKline — the chemical company Sigma-Aldrich bottles it with a label bearing a bright-orange stripe and skull-and-crossbones icon to signify a potentially-fatal toxic chemical danger to the handler, spelt out: “TOXIC. Toxic to inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed. Target organ(s): blood bone marrow. In case of accident or if you feel unwell, seek medical advice immediately (show the label where possible). Wear suitable protective clothing.”

Marketing AZT to be “swallowed” not by “accident”, but on purpose as an alleged medicine, GlaxoSmithKline warns in an FDA-mandated “Black Box” toxic hazard notice at the top of its package insert that it indiscriminately poisons cells and is “POTENTIALLY FATAL”. The insert commences: “WARNING: RETROVIR (ZIDOVUDINE) MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING GRANULOCYTOPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA”. Namely massive destruction of blood cells, including immune cells, as Sigma-Aldrich cautions — “Target organ(s): blood bone marrow” — and innumerable studies have found.

But Cullinan is all for “ARVs for people with weak immune systems” — even though, as Mbeki pointed out in his letter to Tony Leon on July 1, 2000, “AZT is immuno-suppressive. Contrary to the claims you make in promotion of AZT, all responsible medical authorities repeatedly issue serious warnings about the toxicity of anti-retroviral drugs, including AZT”, citing stacks of supporting data in Castro Hlongwane ... *HIV/Aids and the Struggle for the Humanisation of the African*, his radical exposition of the scientific fallacies and ideological poison in the foundations of the HIV/Aids model.

Thanks to the false marketing propaganda the pharmaceutical industry embeds in the media, it’s almost universally believed by the newspaper...

PHOTO: AP

A person living with Aids takes his ARVs. ‘All responsible medical authorities repeatedly issue serious warnings about the toxicity of anti-retroviral drugs,’ writes the author.

recently confirmed they don’t.

In August 2006, the anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) Cohort Collaboration reported its dismal findings in *Lancet* 368:451–458: “The results of this collaborative study, which involved ... over 20 000 patients with HIV-1 ... show that the virological response after starting Haart [highly active antiretroviral therapy] has improved steadily since 1996. However, there was no corresponding decrease in the rates of Aids, or death, up to one year of follow-up.

“Conversely, there was some evidence for an increase in the rate of Aids in the most recent period. [We noted a] discrepancy between the clear improvement we recorded for ... virological response and the apparent ... rates of clinical pro... “viral

> “I showed the drug to be completely useless and deadly poisonous.”
>
> **ANTHONY BRINK** in his book ‘Debating AZT’.

An editorial commenting on “these somewhat paradoxical trends” noted: “The major findings are that ... there were no significant [improvements] in “an estimated 343 000 deaths, for which Mbeki and his cabinet must bear collective responsibility”.

In an article in the *Mail & Guardian* on November 24, 2004 and again in a press statement thre... ...ded and began ...

...ticularly to the blood cells of the immune system” and “Numerous studies have found that children exposed to AZT in the womb and after birth suffer brain damage, neurological disorders, paralysis, spasticity, mental retardation, epilepsy, other serious diseases and early death.”

The studies in point are reviewed in *Debating AZT: Mbeki and the Aids drug controversy* and *Poisoning our Children: AZT in pregnancy*, both online at www.tig.org.za

In early 2008, under intense propaganda, pressure from ARV-promoting journalists like Cullinan and Thom, and served with an ultimatum from the Treatment Action Campaign threatening further litigation against ...

...tragedy I tried to prevent.

Last month, at the Fourth South African Aids Conference in Durban, Professor Joanne Potterton of Wits presented an abstract of her research on the benefits of a “basic home stimulation programme” in Soweto for “motor and cognitive development in HIV-positive children under 30 months” suffering “developmental delay, failure to achieve development milestones ... deterioration of intellectual abilities ... spastic quadriparesis [a spastic rigidity of the limbs often accompanied by difficulty in swallowing and seizures], dystonic posturing [abnormal or “locked in” movements] and regression in motor milestones”.

Potterton reported that her “stimulation programme” had limited value ... brain-damaged African chil...

# Aids scepticism

I WAS very interested to read Anthony Brink’s article “Antiretrovirals still toxic” (*The Witness*, May 18) and particularly his quotation of Luc Montagnier on how healthy people have nothing to fear from HIV.

In 1999 I was engaged to get married. When a broker friend of mine tried to get life insurance for my fiancée and me, we had to undergo HIV tests. The result came back positive for me and I was denied insurance cover.

When I told my fiancée, we had a terrible break-up. I was suicidal and believed I was going to die. I started abusing alcohol to block the depression.

Five years later I met a beautiful woman and through one night of “irresponsible behaviour” she got pregnant. We decided to get married and five years later my wife and I are still happily together and we have two lovely children.

None of them has ever tested HIV-positive and we are all enjoying a normal healthy life.

In my opinion the biggest cause of death by Aids is the power of suggestion, the death sentence handed down by doctors and journalists who insist on telling you that HIV=Aids=death; a most diabolical lie.

**LIVING PROOF**
**Pietermaritzburg**