

Latest News on Matthias Rath

Matthias Rath is working with AIDS denialist Anthony Brink to mislead the public on HIV/AIDS. They are endangering the lives of people with HIV.

Rath Conducts Illegal Experiments on South Africans with HIV

The Dr. Rath Health Foundation conducts medical experiments on Cape Town area residents without the approval of the Medicines Control Council (MCC). This is illegal and dangerous. The TAC has lodged a complaint and communicated several times with the MCC to take action against these illegal human experiments. If the MCC does not act soon, the TAC will pursue litigation to move them into action. TAC has also lodged a complaint with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, which in turn brought charges against Rath with the Khayelitsha police. To date the police have not yet arrested Rath.

SACP/COSATU Khayelitsha Alliance against Rath

The South African Communist Party (SACP) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in Khayelitsha met on 22 June 2005 to publicly recognize that Rath sells untested and unproven medicines. As a result, SACP/COSATU vowed to use any legal means to banish the Rath Foundation from continuing to confuse people about HIV/AIDS treatment and distributing its potentially harmful products.

Two Court Cases Pending Against Matthias Rath

The TAC seeks to prevent the Rath Foundation and its head, Matthias Rath, from defaming TAC by calling TAC a front for drug companies. Thus, the TAC has filed two cases against Rath to stop him from stating his unsubstantiated affronts. The first case concluded on 21 June 2005, which sought an interim interdict to stop the Rath Foundation from defaming TAC until a second full court hearing takes place. The judgment from the first court case is pending; the date of the second court case is forthcoming.

Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang Will Support Rath until Rath's Products are Proven Toxic

On 27 June 2005, Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang stated that she will not condemn Rath – even though it is now public knowledge that Rath conducts illegal medical experiments on South Africans with HIV and distributes unregistered and untested products which he claims will “drastically reverse” the “cause of AIDS.” Although the Minister has the power to hasten an end to Rath's illegal medical experiments and distribution of unregistered products through the MCC, she has not taken such action. It is confounding that the Health Minister will not condemn Rath despite the fact that Rath supports vitamins as the only treatment measure for HIV and calls antiretroviral medicines excessively toxic. It is Department of Health official policy in the *Operational Plan for Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment for SA* (19 November 2003) to provide antiretroviral medicines as treatment for those in the late stages of HIV.

Rath Distributes Untested and Potentially Dangerous Medicines – This Warrants MCC Action

Rath makes unproven and exaggerated medical claims about the effects of vitamins on HIV. He distributes his own brand of vitamins to people with HIV in Khayelitsha. These products may contain substances that are unregistered and untested, and may be extremely harmful and possibly fatal. The MCC is the government organization with the task of approving medicines that have been tested and found to be safe and effective. Rath's products have not been approved by the MCC. Further, his products may contain a Scheduled substance which requires MCC approval. The MCC is obligated to ensure regulatory oversight functions take place; it must test Rath's products, and stop him from distributing his untested and potentially harmful products.

Matthias Rath and Anthony Brink Make Dangerous Claims About HIV and Other Illnesses Such as Cancer

Rath continues to say that AZT and nevirapine are toxic and deadly. On a related note, in a 21 June 2005 *702 Talk Radio* interview with Kieno Kammies, Anthony Brink said that people with cancer should not use chemotherapy. But these essential therapies for treating AIDS and cancer, respectively, have been approved by the South African government because of the overwhelming evidence that they are effective and their benefits outweigh their risks.

In addition, Rath is under investigation in Germany for causing the death of a boy named Dominic who had cancer. He convinced Dominic's parents to take him off chemotherapy and put him on Rath's products. Although Rath marketed the boy as proof that his products worked against cancer, Dominic actually died from cancer after taking Rath's advice.

Other Responses to Rath's Dangerous Activities

“... Antiretroviral treatment prolongs life, decreases illness and improves the quality of life of people with AIDS. This is well documented in numerous well-designed and scientifically sound studies conducted locally and abroad ... more than 7000 patients on treatment in the Western Cape ... are experiencing the same benefits.”

– **Western Cape Minister of Health, Pierre Uys**

“[Rath's] kind of quackery deserves the old Afrikaans response: Voetsek!”

– **Former Education Minister Kader Asmal**

“Vitamins and nutritional supplements alone cannot take the place of comprehensive treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, including prophylaxis and treatment for opportunistic infections and antiretroviral therapy, where indicated, as well as a good, balanced diet.”

– **UNAIDS statement**

