

THE CURE CHRONICLES

October 2021 ISSUE

Enabling affordable and accessible advanced medicines

Hello,

Welcome to our inaugural issue of **The Cure Chronicles**. In each issue we will update you with insights from the field and updates on our current activities.

This month in our Community Advocates Spotlight we highlight the work of **Moses Supercharger**, a community activist and organizer based in Uganda who is living positively with HIV, and encouraging others to do the same. Check out his activist and musical legacy!

In addition to the Spotlight below, we have lots more information and link to a Supercharger's music video under the "Impact Initiative" section of the website:

[JABASA Treatment and Research Literacy Centre](#)

News

Here's the latest on what we are excited about:

We have recently published a report in the journal *Gene Therapy* describing the formation of the "**Global Gene Therapy Initiative**," including views from our diverse community of stakeholders, and introducing our plans for two gene therapy trials in Uganda and India by 2024.

GGTI is setting a roadmap to overcome the unacceptable exclusion of low- and middle-income countries in gene therapy development and

implementation.

[Towards access for all: 1st Working Group Report for the Global Gene Therapy Initiative \(GGTI\) | Gene Therapy \(nature.com\)](#)

A well-recognized approach to driving down the cost, and thereby accessibility, of CAR-T and modified stem cell production is to carry out place-of-care production of the cell therapy product.

To create place-of-care manufacturing, centers will require the development of a new regulatory framework that can encompass using the same protocols in a diversity of facilities.

The UK government is currently seeking consultation as to how such a framework might be formulated. This is another example of the forward-looking approach regulatory bodies have taken for cell and gene therapy in the UK.

[Point of Care Consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

CVS Caremark has taken aim at improving the health of patients with sickle cell disease and HIV. They plan to double the number of patients on hydroxyurea and to improve adherence. Likewise, they are expanding programs for HIV education as they participate in DHHS's Ready, Set PrEP initiative.

We look forward to the education, outreach, testing, and promotion of access to health services they propose.

[CVS Caremark takes aim at health inequities, starting with sickle cell, HIV | FierceHealthcare](#)

A new preliminary study for HIV treatment using CAR-T cells demonstrates continued optimism for a curative therapy featuring engineered T cells.

[JCI - Broadly neutralizing antibody-derived CAR T cells reduce viral reservoir in individuals infected with HIV-1](#)

Community Advocate Spotlight

Moses Supercharger



Tell us about your background and how you came to be in your current position.

I am a musician and a person living with HIV since 1994. When I first tested positive, I did not start treatment until 1998 and when I started, it did not work because of my poor adherence and the mono-targeting nature of the drugs prescribed. I developed treatment resistance which nearly killed me. In the year 2000, I was saved by doctors at the Joint Clinical Research Centre in Kampala. I had been taking a very challenging course of medications, seven huge tablets every day from 2000 to 2021 and was recently switched to a three tablets a day regimen in January 2021. I come from Uganda, a country

with a population of 1.2m people taking HIV anti-retroviral drugs. Close to 150,000 people have experienced Anti-retroviral “Resistance” due to poor adherence, poor treatment literacy, and a lack of programs to motivate adherence. It is against this background that I chose to fully participate in research to improve the quality of our treatments and most importantly help to find a safe and scalable cure for HIV. My passion is to support any research that benefits my fellow human beings, especially we- the people who are living with HIV. I am a proud member of the GGTI (Global Gene Therapy Initiative) CAB (community advisory board) and the JCRC CAB and head a community-based organization called Joint adherent brothers and sisters against AIDS (JABASA). At JABASA we are currently creating an adherence orientation program and a rehabilitation center, the first of its kind in Africa.

Tell us what the focus of your efforts is at the present time and what motivates you.

My focus is to see that all people with HIV understand and promote the importance of early treatment, adherence, continued research, and positive living. I want to break down HIV science for people at the grass-roots level, so they may understand, participate, and educate others. We support research towards an HIV cure, as our hope is to drastically reduce the daily sufferings we go through. To meet the needs of today we are planning to complete an adherence educational center which we are constructing in Uganda. What motivates me is to see the energy of researchers working towards a cure for HIV. This community working together amplifies my passion for adherence-- so that I can be alive and participate in trials for an HIV cure.

What is your vision for the future and how would you overcome any challenges?

My vision is to see the end of suffering caused by the HIV virus. The biggest challenges are stigma from others who still regard us as infectious agents, and not people boldly facing the future. It has also been a challenge to locate supporters to help us realize our dreams. We can overcome these challenges by networking with people who care about the struggles we go through. I also want us to learn more about the existing safe interventions and advocate for them to be brought to Africa. We can also demystify HIV and combat stigma by working harder ourselves, and demonstrating that we are amazing, impactful people, maybe even with more drive than those who are HIV negative.

If there is one thing that would make a difference to your efforts, what would it be?

Finding a supporter to help us complete the construction of the HIV education center in Uganda and to see our approach duplicated in other African countries.

What is a fun fact about yourself that you would like to share?

I love modern music and really love the times when I am producing music around HIV/AIDS awareness because it flows nicely- combining my two passions. I love buffet food, sitting in an airplane for a long journey and I love making presentations to a big lively audience.

Success Stories

Our featured Patient Success story this month highlights Sandra. Diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, she entered a CAR-T therapy trial led by Dr. Marcos DeLima at the Seidman Cancer Center-University Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, when her disease relapsed. Her courage is an inspiration to us all.

[!\[\]\(0aff635c4179ba9e710b00f4b01d3b20_img.jpg\) Read the full story here](#)

Whitepapers

Interested in learning more? Read our latest whitepapers on the Caring Cross website. Click below to access them.

[!\[\]\(8bba887393ca45b761e5cb49e755e762_img.jpg\) Introduction to Chimeric Antigen Receptor \(CAR\) engineered immune cells](#)

Upcoming Events

Next month's **education tutorial** will be the second in a series of 8 presented by Rimas Orentas, PhD -

From T Cells to Engineered Effectors: CAR-T cell background (series 2/8).

In this webinar, you'll learn how fundamental advances in molecular immunology led to the discovery of chimeric antigen receptors, or CARs. CARs have revolutionized how we think about using the immune system to cure leukemia, and in the future solid tumors, cancer, and even infectious diseases like HIV.

 [Register for the event](#)

Date: **November 5, 2021**

Time: **3:00pm EST / 12:00pm PST**

Location: **Zoom** (link provided upon registration)

This event will last approximately 30-40 minutes and will consist of a presentation and Q&A session following.

Next month's **seminar** will be presented by Michael Maschan, MD PhD -

A phase I/II clinical trial using locally manufactured CAR-T cells for the treatment of pediatric acute lymphocytic leukemia in Moscow, Russia.

In this webinar, you'll learn how Dr. Michael Maschan created a clinical service that treats childhood leukemia using state-of-the-art chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) modified T cells. Using place-of-care manufacturing, his hospital-based center in Moscow, Russia, has brought new hope to children and their families.

 [Register for the event](#)

Date: **November 19, 2021**

Time: **3:00pm EST / 12:00pm PST**

Location: **Zoom** (link provided upon registration)

This event will last approximately 30-40 minutes and will consist of a presentation and Q&A session following.

All our events are on Fridays at 3pm EST, and require registration to access the live webinar. A recorded replay will be available to Caring Cross Community members only.

Recent Events

If you missed these recent events, click on the links below to view them (membership required).

[Enabling Affordable and Accessible CAR-T cells and other advanced medicines](#)

[Cancer Immunobiology: The Role of T Cells](#)

If you are not a member, you can [become a member](#) and view all our past events.

Caring Cross Community

If you are interested in the work of the GGTI (see news link above to our recent publication), and are inspired by the work of Moses Supercharger, please consider joining the Global Gene Therapy Initiative group.

We created this membership community to connect healthcare professionals, scientists and engineers, community advocates and business leaders that are on a mission to develop new advanced medicinal cures - and help make them affordable to all who need them.

Join us inside to collaborate in a group, learn from seminars and training, and gain access to job opportunities or internships.

[→ Become a member](#)

Updates On Our Projects

On our website you can directly donate to the projects described by Moses Supercharger, as featured in our Spotlight Story this issue. These finds will go directly to these projects.

[→ Give to support this project today](#)

What else would you like to hear about in this newsletter?

Reply to let us know.

Thank you for being here, and please look out for another update next month!

- Caring Cross



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Caring Cross Inc.
708 Quince Orchard Road
Suite 250-D
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

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