

Welcome to the HIV/AIDS special issue of Engineering Letters.

Considering that a large number of people in any community do not know that they are HIV positive, and consequently, that the HIV prevalence estimates in any country are usually unreliable, any new attempts at estimating these numbers are always welcome. There must be a way to improve upon the statements which estimate the HIV prevalence at 'somewhere between 26000 and 86000 people' (previously published UNAIDS estimates for Canada) and at 'somewhere between 3.4 million and 9.4 million people' (currently published UNAIDS estimates for India). The aim of ICMHA 2006 was to explore that way. One of the papers in this collection is the result of that exploration.

Another paper in this collection is an attempt to better understand how the antiretroviral drugs affect the hiv virus in a human body. These drugs are very recent (the AIDS pandemic itself is very recent!) and their effects are still pretty much unknown. Any light shed on this topic is a welcome addition to human knowledge. The paper makes a mathematical model to mimic the advance of hiv virus in the patient and tries to study the effect of these drugs in the model. The results should interest you.

Still another paper asks the question, "when will gold hit 2000?" If you are waiting for gold to hit 2000, the connection with AIDS should be interesting. This is because a very important question in the development of HIV virus in the human body is "when will the CD4+ T cell count go down to $200/mm^3$?" The significance of this question is known to everyone who is familiar with HIV/AIDS. The count of $200/mm^3$ is considered to be the start of AIDS.

There are other interesting papers in this collection. Hope you enjoy it. This was our first attempt at an International Conference on HIV/AIDS and ICMHA 2006 was the result. We shall improve. Look forward to the future ones.

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