



AIDS and the Duesberg Phenomenon

by

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Part I

The scientific community has been alternately challenged, irritated, frustrated, and bemused by Dr. Peter Duesberg of the University of California at Berkeley and his position on AIDS. Duesberg, a renowned virologist and a member of the prestigious National Academy of Science, does not believe that HIV causes AIDS. Rather, he claims that AIDS is the result of recreational and anti-HIV drugs. Virtually all scientists who have studied the issue believe Duesberg's opinions to be extreme, although some maintain that HIV is not the sole cause of AIDS.

Your Assignment

1. Read the following papers published in *Science* as well as the authors' respective rebuttals:
 - Duesberg, P. 1988. HIV is Not the Cause of AIDS. *Science* 241(4865): 514.
 - Blattner and Colleagues Respond to Duesberg. *Science* 241 (4865): 514 & 517.
 - Blattner, W., R.C. Gallo, and H.M. Temin. 1988. HIV Causes AIDS. *Science* 241(4865): 515.
 - Duesberg's Response to Blattner and Colleagues. *Science* 241 (4865): 515-516.
2. In your groups, identify the issues or questions that are important in these papers, as well any terms, concepts, and information you need to understand in order to resolve those issues or questions. Divide up the workload and use the library, Internet, and your textbooks to find answers.

Part II

1. After sharing the information you collected with the other members of your group, read the following papers:
 - Duesberg, P. 1991. AIDS Epidemiology: Inconsistencies with Human Immunodeficiency Virus and with Infectious Disease. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 88: 1575-1579.
 - Moore, J. 1996. A Duesberg Adieu! *Nature* 380: 293-294.
 - Nowak, M.A., and A.J. McMichael. 1995. How HIV Defeats the Immune System. *Scientific American* Aug. 1995: 58-65.
2. Again, as a group, identify any terms, concepts, and information you need to understand in order to resolve the issue. Divide up the workload and use the library, Internet, and your textbooks to find your answers.

Part III

Now that you have become experts on the topic, your assignment is to evaluate the nine points that Duesberg made in his original *Science* article where he claimed that "HIV is not the cause of AIDS because it fails to meet the postulates of Koch and Henle, as well as six cardinal rules of virology." In class, as a group, write a brief summary of each of the nine points in light of the information you have collected.