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**Wrongful Death: The AIDS Trial** by Stephen Davis. Virtualbookworm.com, 2006. 384 pp. \$17.95 (paper). ISBN 1-58939-868-8, Order at [www.theaidstrial.com/order.htm](http://www.theaidstrial.com/order.htm): autographed, \$25; from publisher, \$17.95, or e-book .pdf for \$9.95; audio-book (10 CDs) \$39.95. ISBN 0-58939-868-8.

Anyone who thinks that HIV has been proven to cause AIDS and that antiretroviral drugs have made AIDS a manageable disease should read this book. Those who have already learned better will nevertheless find points of interest as well as enjoyment here.

The story is told in the form of a legal proceedings, an appropriate device for presenting evidence; and there are a couple of ingenious twists. It may well be that HIV/AIDS theory will only be unseated when a court hearing of some sort forces the orthodoxy to defend its claims. The particular approach imagined here could probably not be used in practice, according to the Epilogue; nevertheless, this book may serve as a salutary stimulant to ponder what actual options there might be for pertinent legal maneuvers.

The *AIDS Trial* is a class-action suit by relatives of those who died needlessly because they had followed the orthodox recommendation to treat “HIV-positive” with AZT, a substance long known to be so toxic that it could not even be used for cancer chemotherapy. This is the most gut-wrenching corollary of HIV/AIDS dogma, and the author handles well the interplay of emotion and evidence. Though the explicit focus is on AZT, the case that HIV does not cause AIDS is soundly explicated as well.

The *AIDS Trial* is very timely, because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are urging that HIV-testing become routine. The mainstream view is that HIV-positive suggests that treatment with antiretrovirals may be called for. However, such treatment is usually debilitating and ultimately fatal, whereas HIV-positive is not necessarily a sign of serious ill-health (Bauer 2005, 2006a,b, and references therein). If testing does become routine, on the order of 1 million healthy Americans will be urged to start a life-time course of toxic chemotherapy, setting in motion potentially the largest iatrogenic massacre in history.

A disclaimer, said to be for legal reasons, describes the book as fiction and claims fictional character for most of the people, other than the best known ones.

Still, several others are readily identified, not only through their views or actions but also because the initials of their names are not altered. There is considerable, warranted, detail about the documented misdeeds of Robert Gallo and his laboratory. It remains for this reviewer a matter of astonishment that these publicly known facts about Gallo, and about the toxicity of AZT documented in innumerable publications, and other facts as well, continue to be ignored.

It is in the nature of novels in this genre, which intend direct instruction on matters of substance, that the characters are ready-made rather than individually developed—think of Upton Sinclair, Sinclair Lewis, Ayn Rand, Michael Crichton in *State of Fear*. Like the last, this novel is garnished with citations to the scientific and popular literature, in this case some 900 of them. I did not attempt to check them all, but the important ones are certainly there.

I began reading this book with no inkling that I would be comparing it to those of the just-mentioned writers. The AIDS Trial had three strikes against it in my expectations: it is self-published; it is a first novel from a non-professional writer; and it is a novel-with-a-message. None of those augurs well, and the combination tends to be devastating. But I did not want to put this book down before I had finished it. It is well paced. It stops how and when it should stop, truly a rarity. The characters may be stock, there may be a few farfetched devices, there is a bit of soap opera here; but so there is in the works I cited, which also sought to bring to public attention matters of singular importance. I doubt that the task could be much better done than Stephen Davis has done it.

I noticed only a few errors, none of them central to the story:

- That "HIV-positive" is found at about the same rate everywhere in the population (p. 272).

No. It varies drastically with geography and other demographics, see Bauer (2005, 2006a,b). But the essential point is correct, that the distributions of HIV and of AIDS are vastly different.

That the male-to-female ratio among HIV-positive people is about 1 (pp. 275–6).

No. It varies with age, but on average is about 2. Again, however, the essential point is correct, that it differs greatly from the ratio for AIDS.

That most of African AIDS may be iatrogenic (p. 289).

No. Antiretrovirals have not been much used there (as yet). African AIDS is chiefly malaria, tuberculosis, and other endemic diseases exacerbated by failing economies and infrastructures and the associated widespread poverty and malnutrition.

That tiny number of substantive inaccuracies is a far better performance than the contemporary norm in most of the mainstream literature. Moreover I noticed no more than two or three typos, which far exceeds the contemporary norm for publishers' competence.

The author notes that the book was written first as the script for a film. What a movie this could make! Given the publication of Celia Farber's article in

*Harper's* (Farber, 2006a), and her collection of essays (Farber, 2006b), and several books by other skeptics and dissidents in the offing, and a pending court case in Australia, perhaps the tide is about to turn. This movie may yet be made in the lifetime of some now living. That is devoutly to be wished. In the meantime, there is this book to savor.

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**Malignant Medical Myths: Why Medical Treatment Causes 200,000 Deaths in the USA Each Year, and How to Protect Yourself** by Joel M. Kauffman. Infinity Publishing, West Conshohocken, PA, 2006. 326 pp. \$24.95 (paper) ISBN 0-7414-2909-8, Infinity Publishing.com.

In the brilliant new book, *Malignant Medical Myths: Why Medical Treatment Causes 200,000 Deaths in the USA Each Year, and How to Protect Yourself*, Professor Joel M. Kauffman analyzes 11 cherished dogmas of the medical and public health establishment. He concludes that the advice to the public concerning these myths is based on unsound and unsupported science and may be responsible for as many as 200,000 deaths in the USA annually.

The myths described in this book range from (1) aspirin therapy for prevention of vascular disease, to (2) the ineffectiveness of low carbohydrate diets for losing weight, (3) the use of cholesterol lowering statin drugs for prevention of mortality, (4) drug therapy for moderate hypertension, (5) prolongation of lifespan by moderate alcohol consumption, (6) exercise to extend lifespan, (7) the ineffectiveness of EDTA chelation therapy for atherosclerosis, (8) the danger of low dose ionizing radiation, (9) prolongation of life by annual mammography in women, (10) improved rates of cancer survival from early detection and therapy, and (11) water fluoridation to prevent dental caries. In each case Professor