Kissy-Kissy

ASOs demand expanded access for protease inhibitor

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Follow-up: Gay Men's Health Crisis' (GMHC) Treatment Issues reports that the nation's leading AIDS organizations have petitioned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Hoffman-LaRoche to quickly implement an expanded access program for Roche's saquinavir, an HIV protease inhibitor. Roche has announced no plans for an expanded access program and, in addition to GMHC, the petition is being put forth by such heavyweights as the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), AIDS Action Council and the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). Behind its obvious purpose, the petition has a deeper significance as the manifestation of a truce between several groups that were recently at each other's throats over the subject of the speed of drug trials versus their thoroughness ("TAG, ACT UP in Hot Fax War," POZ No. 4). By signing on to the petition, ACT UP's Treatment + Data Committee, Project Inform and Treatment Action Group (TAG) have agreed to reach beyond their differing priorities -- and personal antagonisms -- and once again confront the drug companies, FDA and research establishment with a united front.

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