Smear Campaign

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Many AIDS docs are slow to catch up with the latest research developments—a failing that risks PWAs' lives. But for women with HIV, the tracks and traditions of medical sexism slow the information train even more than usual. For years, word of the heightened risk of cervical cancer for HIV positive women—and thus the importance of Pap smears—has been poorly spread (p. 88). Now, a new advance in testing technology offers the chance to catch even more cases early. This highlights yet again the crucial importance of PWAs taking charge of their own health care and pushing their practitioners to stay state-of-the-art on these matters of life and death.—Bob Lederer

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