Detectable Mistakes in the Media

Accuracy Watchdog corrects erroneous reporting about HIV transmission risks.

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It can be a challenge to keep up with the latest HIV data, especially when updated research arrives daily and when the new facts contradict long-held presumptions about HIV. To help ensure that the correct information gets to the public, the Prevention Access Campaign (PAC) partnered with LGBT advocacy group Human Rights Campaign (HRC) to create Accuracy Watchdog. The initiative aims to correct the media when it makes mistakes about HIV transmission risks. Most important, Accuracy Watchdog wants it understood that when a person with HIV maintains an undetectable viral load, there's effectively zero risk of transmission and that when HIV-negative people adhere to a daily regimen of Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), they're protected by as much as over 99 percent.

"We believe sharing this information will help dismantle HIV stigma, which is not only harmful to people living with HIV but is perhaps the greatest barrier to ending the epidemic," PAC's Bruce Richman and John Byrne explain in an HRC article about Accuracy Watchdog.

At least one POZ reader agrees with them, commenting online: "This is absolutely wonderful. It lets people like me start to enjoy life better."

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