

PRESS RELEASE

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Global HIV/AIDS Expert to Speak about Human Rights Dilemmas

Presentation a part of local World AIDS Day activities

Eugene, OR – Eugene will be visited by global HIV/AIDS expert Dr. Bob Fischer for a presentation on controversial international human rights issues in sex work, human trafficking, HIV testing and vaccine development. His presentation, “HIV/AIDS: International Human Rights Challenges”, will be held on Tuesday, December 1st from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom at the University of Oregon. Dr. Fischer is also available for interviews upon request.

Dr. Fischer will grapple with ethical dilemmas he encountered in his extensive career with the World Health Organization and National Institutes of Health in Asia, Russia and Africa. He questions the line between smart public health and human exploitation in such areas as enforced condom use in brothels, mandatory HIV testing for returning seafarers, and the withholding of HIV education to vaccine trial subjects. His discussion dovetails with this year’s World AIDS Day theme of “Universal Access and Human Rights”.

Dr. Fischer has served in many international health leadership positions including Chief Medical Officer for International Health for the National Institutes of Health, Senior Medical Officer for the Health Resources and Services Administration, Country Representative for the World Health Organization in Haiti, and International Health Attaché in Geneva. He has numerous publications and awards for his work including recognition from the US Public Health Services for “exceptional leadership in developing an HIV prevention and vaccine efficacy trial program.”

HIV Alliance will host several additional activities in commemoration of World AIDS Day prior to Dr. Fischer’s presentation. Community members are invited to attend free events on December 1st at 1966 Garden Ave including an Open House at 4:00 p.m., a Volunteer Appreciation at 5:00 p.m., and a Memorial Ceremony at 5:30 p.m. The University of Oregon will hold its annual Condom Fashion Show in the EMU Ballroom on Friday, December 4th.

HIV Alliance has prevented new HIV infections and supported individuals living with HIV/AIDS for the past 15 years. HIV Alliance assists and supports people of all cultures by offering health care and advocacy to those living with and affected by HIV. HIV Alliance also provides community education, outreach information and services to empower individuals to make healthy choices. For more information, visit www.hivalliance.org.

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