



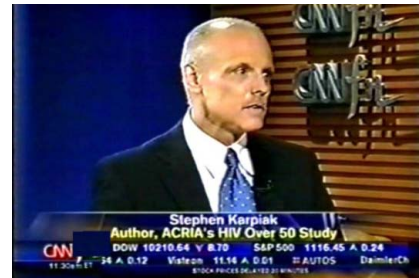
## Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation June 12 & 13, 2009 Forum & Annual General Meeting Key Note Speaker

### The Graying HIV Epidemic: Evolution Requires Revolution

Each year there are more people living and aging with HIV as a result of effective treatment. HIV is taking its place as one among many chronic illnesses. The evolution of the HIV epidemic must precipitate a revolution in how care is delivered to this aging population who has been given the hope of living longer lives. Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) prevents the collapse of the immune system (AIDS). But HAART is not sufficient to meet the challenges of the graying HIV epidemic. HIV/AIDS stigma remains a powerful destructive force in the lives of these older adults who are socially isolated, with elevated levels of loneliness and high rates of depression. Part of the needed revolution in care will require psychosocial factors be integrated into decision processes. Stigma prevents many of these older adults from accessing needed care giving and community support services. How we provide care for these adults with HIV will define who we are as a community.

### Biography: Stephen E. Karpiak PhD

After earning his PhD in Neurobiology and completing post-graduate work in immunology, Stephen Karpiak joined the faculty of Columbia University Medical School in 1972 with appointments in Neurology & Psychiatry. During his first decade at Columbia he conducted National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) funded research on the immunological etiology of seizure and behavioral disorders. In his last decade at Columbia he achieved national and international recognition for his research on how the brain adapts and repairs after stroke.



After leaving Columbia (1995), Stephen focused on the delivery of health care for those with HIV/AIDS. As a Program Director at *AIDS Project Arizona*, he founded the *Arizona AIDS Project Wellness Center* which effectively combined the treatment modalities of both allopathic and naturopathic physicians.

For the last six years he has been the Director for Research at ACRIA – *AIDS Community Research Initiative of America* in NYC. At ACRIA Stephen initiated a historic research effort. Utilizing a 1000 person cohort his research assessed the little noticed growing aging HIV population in NYC. The effort is called ROAH (Research on Older Adults with HIV). ROAH data has alerted health care providers to the unanticipated collision of the management of HIV and the comorbidities of aging. His research was pivotal in causing the NYC Council to award two years of funding to address the neglected issue of HIV infection in older adults. These efforts on this issue were instrumental in the US government (Health and Human Services) designating an annual HIV and Aging Awareness Day effective 9/18/2008.

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