Transforming Care.
Since 1983, Zuckerberg San Francisco General has been a global leader in HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, research and education. At the helm of the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases and Global Health is Dr. Diane Havlir and a peerless team of caregivers and scientists.

Havlir and her team are revolutionizing prevention, care and treatment through their leadership in all aspects of San Francisco’s multi-sector and multi-stakeholder Getting to Zero Consortium. The Consortium, strongly supported by the Mayor, city leadership, Health Department and the larger community, aims to make San Francisco the first municipal jurisdiction to achieve UNAIDS goals of zero HIV transmissions, zero HIV deaths and zero HIV stigma. The near-term goals are to reduce new transmissions and deaths by 90 percent by 2020. Zuckerberg San Francisco General, with its mission to provide care to all San Franciscans regardless of resources, is a key player in this effort.

At its historic and world-renowned clinic, Ward 86, some of the hardest to treat and retain in-care patients are seen. The roughly 2,800 patients comprise over a quarter of HIV patients in the city and the clinic is able to achieve treatment success undetectable levels of virus in almost 90 percent of patients. One of the key innovations of the Getting to Zero effort, and one that is now copied around the country and the world, is the RAPID program developed by caregivers and researchers at Ward 86.

The program links patients to care and starts them on medications immediately on diagnosis, said Havlir.

The Consortium, founded in 2013, has a three-pronged approach. They are working to expand access to pre-exposure prophylaxis, expand the reach of the RAPID program within San Francisco's multi-sector and multi-stakeholder Getting to Zero Consortium.
In many hospitals, an inpatient ward dedicated to HIV/AIDS patients might have been unrelentingly gloomy. But at San Francisco General Hospital, Ward 5A had moments of brightness and fun. Rita Rockett, a single mother and dancer, was close friends with four men who had AIDS.

In their honor, she began organizing parties at Ward 5A every other Sunday, putting on tap dancing shows and bringing home-cooked lunches for the patients. Her events brought some sunshine into the lives of the ward’s patients and staff, and they named a sitting area after her in thanks.

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital is still a leader in treating patients today.

HIV/AIDS FIGHT POINT IN HISTORY

1987

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