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From Scourge to Healthy Families: New E-book Takes Readers Behind the Scenes Through the Biggest HIV Breakthroughs of the Last Decade

Recently, Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS, declared that, if we ramp up HIV treatment, “we will be on track to end the epidemic by 2030.” Bold words for a virus that decimated a generation and still lingers in the mind as an instant and grisly death sentence.

How did HIV go from scourge to manageable illness marked by long lives and healthy babies? As the International AIDS Conference begins in Melbourne this weekend, ***Positively Negative: Love, Pregnancy, and Science’s Surprising Victory Over HIV*** (\$2.49, Amazon, July 2014) takes readers behind the scenes of the crucial last 15 years of the crisis, when scientific detectives forged a new understanding of the virus and the potent antiretroviral medications that would tame it. Then, follow two HIV-affected couples (in which one person has HIV and the other does not) as they pioneer a path to parenthood, harnessing the power of the new science in the service of the most natural of all drives—the formation of a family.

In 65 brief pages, veteran journalist Heather Boerner weaves a narrative that’s part love story and part medical mystery, all in language that it’s easy for readers to understand.

In it, readers will learn:

- One method for the birth of the first HIV-free generation;
- What it means when the news talks about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), Truvada, and treatment as prevention;
- Why nearly 50 percent (47.7 percent) of all those who have used PrEP have been women, even though all the attention has been on gay men;
- How condoms went from the de facto safe-sex method to one of several options;
- How far we have to go to implement the science and get to zero new HIV cases.

“When I first met Susan and Dan Hartmanns, in 2009, I was blown away by their story—how could someone have sex without a condom, not pass on the virus and have a healthy baby? It went against everything we’ve heard about unprotected sex for decades,” said Boerner. “I wanted to hear more, and I knew others would, as well. The science has surpassed the culture, and it’s time the culture catch up.”

Boerner has been a journalist for 17 years, having graduated from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1997 and having spent the past decade as a healthcare journalist. Her work has appeared in Al Jazeera America, The San

Francisco *Chronicle* and San Francisco *Chronicle Sunday Magazine*, *Better Homes and Gardens* and KPBS, among others. She is a recipient of a Dennis A. Hunt Grant for Health Care Journalism at the University of Southern California and a winner of an Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism from the Association of Health Care Journalists.

Positively Negative: Love, Pregnancy, and Science's Surprising Victory Over HIV (Amazon Digital Publishing, \$2.49, 65 pages, ebook) is available at amazon.com. For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/zisQP>.

Useful links:

Amazon: <http://ow.ly/zisQP>

Goodreads: <http://ow.ly/zit00>

Book website: <http://ow.ly/zit1O>

Heather Boerner's website: <http://www.heatherboerner.com>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/HeatherBoerner>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PositivelyNegative>

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