



**Charles Gilks
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Charles Gilks is Director Coordinator of the ART & HIV Care team in the HIV Department in WHO Headquarters, Geneva. He is Professor of International Health at Imperial College London, and has been seconded to WHO since 2002 by DFID, UK Government to help shape the 3by5 initiative and to work on HIV/AIDS care and treatment in resource-poor countries. He has been working in this field since 1988 largely in Africa and has seen first hand how the epidemic has grown out of control, the suffering and untimely death of hundreds of his patients, and the distortions imposed on already weak health care systems. Based in Kenya for five years his group was the first to highlight the importance of bacterial infections in HIV/AIDS patients in Africa, and more recently the interaction of HIV with malaria. Becoming the Professor of Tropical Medicine in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, his group evaluated several interventions to try to preserve the health of people falling sick with HIV. Some worked but most did not. The inescapable conclusion was that only anti-retroviral therapy will prolong life and restore quality of life, a fact well recognised in the US and Europe. He is one of the Principal Investigator for the DART trial, a multicentre, multicountry trial of treatment strategies in Uganda and Zimbabwe, the largest ART trial in Africa.

Dr Gilks is from London, studied sociology and politics in Cambridge, completed his clinical training in London and his doctorate in malaria in Oxford. He has worked in Papua New Guinea and Brazil. He is married to Marina who along with his three children remind him that there is more to life than work. He continues to support Arsenal despite having been exiled from London for many years.