



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SECRETARIAT
NATIONAL STD/AIDS PROGRAMME

Quality of the Brazilian Aids Program will be defended at the World Bank

Director of the Program will present in Washington the results of the study showing Brazil has the lowest rate of viral resistance to treatment

The results of the research study, coordinated by the scientist Amilcar Tanuri of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, on the quality of antiretroviral therapy being used in Brazil, appear in the last edition of the American Scientific journal *Aids*. The results will be presented publicly by the Director of the Brazilian Aids Program, Dr. Paulo Roberto Teixeira, at a World Bank meeting to be held tomorrow and Wednesday (17 and 18 June) in Washington, to assess the results of a number of treatments funded by the Bank in certain African and Caribbean countries.

Teixeira intends, with the above-mentioned study, to prove the absence of any basis for the concern shown by certain foreign scientists to international organizations regarding the alleged development of resistance to HIV during treatment carried out in a number of developing countries, including Brazil. According to Paulo Teixeira, one of the arguments used by these scientists against the distribution of Aids drugs in poorer countries is that the lower educational levels of the infected population could lead to lower adherence to treatment, thereby causing generic mutations in the HIV and as a consequence greater resistance to treatment.

This type of concern is not founded on any research and could put at risk funding projects for developing countries which cover access to antiretroviral treatment, such as the projects supported by the World Bank. Research shows, on the contrary, that resistance in Brazil's case to the treatment is the lowest in the world: 6.6% ,as compared with 15% in the US, 23% in Spain,

14% in the United Kingdom, 13% in Germany and 10% in France.

“This low percentage shows the correctness of our therapeutic consensus, reviewed once a year, which confirms the excellent quality of our generic Aids drugs and shows that adherence to the treatment is high” says Paulo Teixeira. By presenting a defence for Brazilian Aids treatment at the World Bank *workshop* , the head of our Aids Program is making a contribution to supporting other developing countries in their efforts.

*Further information: Assessoria de Imprensa.
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