

Nelson R. Vergel

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EXPERIENCE:

Program for Wellness Restoration 08/1994 – present Houston, Texas
Position: Founding Director

Setting up, promoting and providing over 400 educational programs in English and Spanish to HIV-positive patients and their physicians, nurses and case managers about treatments, wellness, adherence, side effect management, and quality of life issues. Assisting research groups at the AIDS Clinical Trials Group and pharmaceutical companies in designing community sensitive research protocols. Interfacing with other treatment activists and AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) in training and mentoring programs. Managing fundraising and public relations for the organization. Managing volunteers. Providing treatment/wellness information in Internet newsgroups and three web sites on a daily manner to hundreds of patients. Advocating for funding and formulary expansion in AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). Helping set up the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC) as a non-profit corporation. Serving as community consultant to pharmaceutical companies in product launches and marketing programs.

Body Positive Wellness Clinic 06/1998 – 01/2001 Houston, Texas
Position: Founding Director

Designing, implementing and trouble-shooting a first-of-its-kind comprehensive wellness clinic in the US for people with HIV that included treatment education programs, exercise and physical therapy, nutritional counseling, hormonal treatments, stress management techniques, and research protocols. Managing a staff of 12 and a yearly budget of \$450,000. Managing fundraising, public relations and research efforts. Empowering and motivating a board of 18 directors to attain goals and mission. Advocating for funding at the Houston Ryan White Council.

Shell Oil Company 11/1990 – 08/1994 Houston, Texas
Position: Senior Environmental Project Engineer

Managing multi-million dollar projects in the area of environmental engineering at six refineries, two chemical plants and several service stations. Promoted every year. Among the top 20% of engineers in the company. Awarded the Environmental Excellence Award for preventing EPA fines in several refineries.

Quantum Chemicals 12/1988 – 09/1990 Houston, Texas
Position: Start-up Process Engineer

Responsible for managing design, installation, start-up and troubleshooting activities of a utilities section of an ethylene plant in Houston within the required timeline. Supervised a crew of 75 plant operators. Met all required timelines and was promoted to senior process engineer in a year.

Aqua Process

06/1985 – 12/1988

Houston, Texas

Position: Sales Engineer

Responsible for selling industrial water and waste water treatment chemicals to refineries and chemical plants and providing the service and technical support required to maintain these accounts. Responsible for accounts totaling over a million dollars.

Lagoven, S. A. (ex-subsiary of Exxon Corp.)

06/1981 – 12/1984

Maracaibo, Venezuela

Position: Process Engineer

Responsible for design, start up and maintenance supervision activities of 14 secondary oil recovery water injection plants in Lake Maracaibo. Supervised a crew of 25 operators. Selected to be part of an accelerated training program that provided 35 courses on management, legislative issues, environmental law, and rotation in all company departments.

EDUCATION:

University of Houston

06/1988

Houston, Texas

Master's Degree

Master of Business Administration

Major: Marketing. GPA 3.65

McGill University

05/1981

Montreal, Canada

Bachelor's Degree

Chemical Engineering Degree

Graduated cum laude GPA 3.7

COMMUNITY HIV ORGANIZATIONS

Founding member of ATAC (AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition), 2003 – present; duties include bylaw writing, corporate set up, fundraising, designing mentoring and training programs, and being an active member of the Drug Development Working Group to provide community input to pharmaceutical companies, the FDA, and the research community.

Council Member, Ryan White Planning Council- Houston, 2001

Creator and Director of the Body Positive Wellness Clinic in Houston 1998-2001

Community Constituency Group member of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), 1995-1998

Member of the University of Texas- Galveston Community Advisory Board, 1996-1998

CDC Certified HIV Counselor, Montrose Clinic, Houston, 1989-1991

PUBLICATIONS/INTERNET

Co-author of book "Built to Survive", released on January 2000; in fourth edition; all proceeds for HIV

Co-editor of the booklet "How to Manage Side Effects", December 2001

Contributing Editor, Out Smart Magazine, The Texas Triangle, POZ magazine and Test Positive Aware

Contributing Editor, Medibolics newsletter and web site

Expert at TheBody.com to answer patients' questions

Founder, facialwasting.org and salvagetherapies.org

Moderator and founder, pozhealth yahoo newsgroup (1800 members as of 08/05)

PHARMACEUTICAL CONSULTING

Provided input in research protocol and expanded access programs for Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Schering-Plough, Tanox, Incyte, Panacos, Tibotec, Gilead Sciences, Glaxo-SmithKline, Solvay, Auxilium, and Roche. Provided training sessions to pharmaceutical sales personnel in several companies about HIV related consumer issues and how to interact with HIV/AIDS service organizations.

Provided input in the drug development process to 12 companies through the work of the Drug Development Committee of the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC)

Provided community input and sales force training in the launch of the following HIV specialty products:

Oxandrin, Androgel, Testim, Anadrol, Marinol, and Sculptra.

, HIV CONFERENCES

Organizer, International Conference in HIV Facial Wasting, San Diego, September 2002

Organizer, International Conference on AIDS Wasting, Ft. Lauderdale, Nov. 1997

RECOGNITIONS

Featured on the cover and main article in HIV Plus- Sept 2005 for my work to advance salvage therapy access

Awarded the "Nelson Vergel Day" (Sept. 13, 2001) proclamation by Houston's Mayor Lee Brown for contributions to the community in Houston

Given the "Vision and Advocacy" Award by the Body Positive Wellness Clinic board of directors, 1997

Environmental Excellent Award, Shell Oil 1992

SKILLS

Public Speaking - 14 years experience, providing over 400 seminars in English and Spanish.

Languages - Bilingual Spanish/English; good knowledge of French

Management Experience - 22 years in both private and non-profit sectors

Computer - Microsoft Office for 7 years; website experience

HIV Treatment and Access Advocacy Expertise- 11 years experience

Events Coordination - 11 years experience

Writing Skills - strong grasp of medical terminology, especially as it applies to the field of HIV

REFERENCES

Shannon Shrader, MD Physician

Phone Number: 713-520-5537

Email: doc4jazz@aol.com

Reference type: Professional (research)

Anthony Mills, MD Physician

Phone Number: 310-550-1010

Email: AnthonyMMD@aol.com

Reference type: Professional (fellow lecturer)

Kathleen Mulligan, PhD USCF, SF Gen

Hospital - Assist. Professor of Medicine

Phone Number: 415-206-5882

Reference type: Professional (ACTG relationship)

Peter Sharpe MDC Technology (subsidiary of

Emerson Electric) VP of Operations

Phone Number: 281-219-1234 x 102

Email: sharpe@mdctech.com

Reference type: Personal (friend)

Michael Mooney SuperNutrition, Inc.

National Sales Manager

Phone Number: 310-657-0327

Email: mmooney@medibolics.com

Reference type: Professional (co-author of my book)