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Join host ANNA MARIA TREMONTI

The Current



Whole Show Blow-by-Blow

The Current for Show August 07, 2006

Our Summer host today was [Terry Milewski](#).

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Satire

It's Monday August 7th.

A massive multi-denominational World Gay Pride Parade will take place in t of Jerusalem this week. And already orthodox rabbis, imams, and priests ha denounced the event, calling homosexuality a total abomination against all : religions.

Currently...that's great...something they can finally all agree on.

This is The Current.

Newfoundland Cancer Patient

For many Canadians, a diagnosis of cancer is just the beginning of a fraugh medical journey. Sometimes surgery is involved. Sometimes painful proced involving drugs and radiation. No matter the prognosis, many take whatever treatment they believe will buy them more precious time with loved ones.

But what if you found out that the journey had been unnecessary, that you c have cancer after all, and that the tests that put you on that course were fau just plain wrong. Well, that's the shocking news some women in Newfoundl; Labrador have recently received.

First, some background. Between 1997 and 2004, tissue samples from abo thousand breast cancer patients were tested at a pathology lab in the provir largest hospital. There were some concerns over possible inaccurate result: Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority, the board that oversees the h began sending thousands of samples for retesting to Mount Sinai Hospital i Toronto.

Well, the re-test results were alarming. Mount Sinai determined that betwee

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and twenty per cent of the original tests were inaccurate. And one of the most dramatic errors was discovered in Myrtle Lewis's file. Last month, the 59-year-old from Conception Bay South was told the harrowing diagnosis she received years ago was, indeed, inaccurate. We heard her story.

Ches Crosbie is the St. John's lawyer who filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of Myrtle Lewis and about a half dozen other women involved in breast cancer testing. He represents a number of Newfoundland and Labrador women who had their breast tissue samples re-tested by Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. He was in our St. John's studio.

Newfoundland Cancer – Health Authority

No one from the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority was available to speak to The Current this morning. Late last week, George Tilley -- the Authority's President and CEO -- issued the following statement about the situation.

Our first priority was and continues to be to our patients. Eastern Health is committed to disclosure and our clinical team members have communicated individually with all patients impacted by this review.

However, patient confidentiality is an important principle in health care, not just in this province but across the country, so we do not discuss the details of individual cases publicly.

As to the statements of claim filed against the organization, every individual has the right to take whatever action they deem appropriate and we must allow the system to address the legal issues.

As a health care provider, we will stay focused on ensuring that our patients have every treatment opportunity that may be available to them and on addressing systems issues that arise.

Eastern Health would like to assure the public that we take these matters seriously and that we have a team of clinical and administrative people working on this issue. We are dedicated to improving the system, learning from our experience, and ensuring quality care.

The above statement was issued by George Tilley -- the President and CEO of the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority, in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Newfoundland Cancer – Overview

As shocking as a misdiagnosis can be, my next guest says we should not be surprised by these kinds of mistakes that are made.

Dr. Philip Hebert is a bio-ethicist and the chair of the Research Ethics Board at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital. He joined us in our Toronto studio.

Listen to The Current: [Part 1](#)

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The Current: Part 2

HIV/AIDS Documentary (repeat)

Billboards promoting condom use to prevent the spread of AIDS were once commonplace in the Ugandan capital of Kampala. In fact, President Yoweri Museveni was one of the first African political leaders to address HIV/AIDS early 90's and he was a big promoter of the three-pronged prevention strategy known as A-B-C: A for Abstinence, B for BE faithful and C for Condom use. Uganda's A-B-C plan was so successful it reduced the country's HIV/AIDS more than 20 per cent to what is now---about 6 per cent.

But condom ads in Kampala have become scarce. That's because the United and evangelical Christian organizations have put pressure on the Ugandan government to change their AIDS prevention policy. They asked for more emphasis on Abstinence rather than Condom use.

Earlier this year, the CBC's Bruce Edwards traveled to Uganda to investigate what happened after the country's prevention policy shifted to a big A, a big B, and a much smaller C.

Uganda Follow

As we just heard, Uganda's change of tactics is largely attributed to George P. A. Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief---a 15-billion dollar commitment made in 2001 towards combating global HIV/AIDS.

To take a look at how effective this plan has been, we were joined by Jodi Jacobson. She is the Executive Director of the Centre for Health and Gender Equity in Washington, an organization that studies the impact of U.S. policy on HIV prevention. And she will be a keynote speaker on this very topic at the International AIDS Conference, which opens in Toronto next week. She was in Washington

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