

CRITICAL REVIEW: CHIVA CONFERENCE May 12th 2017 From HIV to ONE world health-changing perspectives

**Dr Ralph Weigel Honorary consultant Liverpool School of tropical
medicine Alder Hey Children's Hospital**

Dr Weigel discussed his career to date, he went from working in Berlin with a small HIV paediatric cohort, to Malawi where in 2002, 10% of the population were HIV positive (around 1 million people) of which less than 3,000 were on ante retroviral therapy (ARV). The services were segregated and people had to pay. Following the advent of the Global funding for ARV & "End AIDS by 2030" there was a rapid start-up of treatment. Now there are 70% of people on ARVs compared to <1% in 2002. Dr Weigel's lecture highlighted the differences in care planning and service delivery in a country with a heavily infected population, who are experiencing extreme poverty, and have very limited resources. I find this humbling, for example to hear the nurses may treat up to 300 children per day. We need to look and learn from what's going on globally, and realise how lucky we are that by virtue of being born in the West where we have access to a wealth of services. In Malawi, he explained when the antenatal clinic and ARV services were separate (by just 500 meters) only 119 women out of 279 took medication. However 131 out of 132 were taking treatment when ANC and ARV services were joined together. He described how in 2001 <2% of children were tested and of the HIV positive children <50% were on ARV, resulting in large numbers of undiagnosed children with opportunistic infections and the subsequent impact on Children's mortality and morbidity. He presented some findings from research demonstrating the enormous impact ARV's have on children's development. By contrast we are occupied with issues such as disclosure, whilst colleagues in Malawi are faced with problems we find hard to imagine. An enlightening, and thought provoking presentation.

Donna Rees