



**THE DAVID GEFEN CENTER
APLA DENTAL SERVICES
NECESSITIES OF LIFE PROGRAM**
*Long Beach South Los Angeles
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ADMINISTRATION
The David Geffen Center
611 South Kingsley Drive
Los Angeles, California 90005
Telephone 213.201.1600
Fax 213.201.1595
Website www.apla.org

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**In Memoriam
R. Scott Hitt, M.D.**

AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) mourns the death of AIDS physician R. Scott Hitt, M.D., a member of the agency's board of directors from 1991 to 1997.

Dr. Hitt, who served as Chair of the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS during the Clinton administration, died November 8, 2007 in West Hollywood after a long battle with colon cancer.

At APLA, Dr. Hitt chaired the Public Policy Committee, where he helped guide the agency's decision-making during the astonishing decade when new drugs – including combination therapy – came to market just as HIV disease had become the leading cause of death of Americans between 25 and 44 years of age.

Dr. Hitt understood clearly and deeply the multiple challenges of AIDS. He warned against losing sight of the need for robust prevention efforts, even in the face of encouraging news about the possible management of HIV disease. He anticipated the increased client load and corresponding need for services at APLA and other organizations that new AIDS drugs made a reality. And he predicted that the cost of new treatments would create major public policy challenges, arguing that funding for Medicaid, the Ryan White CARE Act and AIDS Drug Assistance Programs be maintained at levels commensurate with the epidemic. Those battles continue to be waged today.

In addition to his work in the Clinton administration, Dr. Hitt also co-founded Access Now for Gay and Lesbian Equality (ANGLE) and founded the American Academy of HIV Medicine. More recently, he founded The Scott Hitt Foundation, an organization that develops and trains young activists to be leaders in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

To the family members who survive him and to his partner Alex Koleszar, we at APLA extend our condolences for the loss of Scott Hitt, a physician, activist, counselor and friend to people with HIV/AIDS.