"Treating 3 million by 2005"

HIV/AIDS is still a deadly disease for millions of people, particularly in countries where anti-retroviral drugs are neither available nor affordable. To address this global health emergency, the World Health Organization (WHO) has committed itself to a project called “3 by 5”: getting HIV/AIDS treatment for 3 million people by the end of 2005.

Can this target be achieved? Is this a question of resources or of political will? How much – on a per person basis – will anti-retroviral therapy cost, using generic drugs? What lessons can be learned from tackling this global health emergency?

These are some of the issues covered in this edition of World Chronicle with guest Dr. Jim Yong Kim, Director of the HIV/AIDS Department in the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Kim, who is a MacArthur ‘genius award’ winner, is on secondment to WHO from the Harvard Medical School, where he is the Director of the programme on Infectious Diseases and Social Change.