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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

protease inhibitors, hiv, call, people, drugs, hour, medication, addiction, substances, vasquez, substance abuse, hatch, side effect, coke, pill, talk, schedule, ball, cocktails, bumps

SPEAKERS

Jason, Jimmy Carper



00:03

For those who didn't catch the number of the hatch line earlier, who are looking for information on hatch or wanting to join hatch, the number is 713-942-7002. That's Area code 713-942-7002. This is a voicemail box and all calls are returned confidentially.



00:30

This is only possibility



Jimmy Carper 00:38

and you're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. We are the sound of Texas.



00:46

Absolutely. This is just I have been listening to this station almost day and night since they've been doing the Summerfest because they all the shows have been doing some incredible production.



Jimmy Carper 01:02

Absolutely. That live music show. They have women's day



01:07

well right Another show was featuring Bella Abzug for like an hour or two I was fascinated by

well, right? Another show was featuring Benda / Azdag for like, an hour or two. I was fascinated by her. I thought I was fascinated beforehand. She just amazes me, the more I learned about her,



01:19

there's been some great shows coming at us just Yeah. And



01:22

we did we did the only here we they do here



01:25

interview with capac, Liffey, Alaska, an hour interview. And all of that is to get you to to call us in call to us with your pledge of support for after hours and KPFT at 5265738. The we asked for a minimal pledge of \$35. But for 6090 120. And so so forth, there are thank you gifts. If if that will it incite you to do to? I gotta give up on this.



02:02

It'll inspire you to Yeah, funny. Yes,



02:05

thank you. Thank you. Thank you for the help there.



Jason 02:07

Jimmy's been doing this for a while,



02:10

senility setting in.



Jason 02:12

But before we played that song, I just wanted to give everybody a second to retrospect or to really think about what we said before we went into that song, right? That was the connection of using substances being careless, because of the substances you're tracking ah, and then contracting HIV from the careless mistakes you make while you're on the subjects substances. I mean, that's



02:37

sad. Well, using drugs or drinking is going to influence your judgment. So, you know, if you make a bad judgment call and decide not to use condoms with a stranger, then you've taken a risk.



Jason 02:51

Yes. And another thing I think that, especially with Jim mentioned earlier about the gay youth, especially from 16, I believe, to 2425. Was it being, you know, a very high growing



Jimmy Carper 03:05

action? Right? Yes, yes, it's, it's an alarming figure.



Jason 03:09

I think part of it is the, quote, indestructible youth. Sure. And that also has to do with the substance abuse, cocaine, and crystal meth will never affect me, because I'm young, and I'm too young to die, and it's not going to happen.



03:23

Well, and then the nature of HIV disease is changing with the new medications and new treatments. For those of us who have been around a little bit longer, we have seen friends die, and we have seen how terrible the disease HIV disease can be.



Jason 03:43

And Scott and I both are, I guess, pretty much exceptions in the the gay youth that we've both seen people die. And we've seen people go through a lot. Whether or not they're dying, whether or not protease inhibitors are helping them



04:00

or whether or not they're already dead.



Jimmy Carper 04:02

Protease inhibitors are keeping people alive. But let's face it, it is a poison that you're putting in your body and it



04:11

they don't work for everyone



Jimmy Carper 04:12

know when they don't work for everyone and what a lot of what it does is like age, your insides



Jason 04:19

and rapidly very nothing else, if nothing else will will take you know, get into your mind. It's expensive. Not



Jimmy Carper 04:27

fun nowadays, and no side effects are hell.



04:32

Yeah, it's not quite the cocktails that a lot of people like to go out and enjoy.



Jason 04:36

And if you start going on protease inhibitors, guess what if you want to live and you want to increase your chances of them taking effect, you're going to have to slow down in your life anyway.



Jimmy Carper 04:46

Michael, how do you get people to slow down on drug use? I mean, what how do you start I mean, I know the person has to want to, but But what are the steps I mean? How do you That's incredible.



05:03

Now, we have the question of substance abuse versus addiction and get someone to slow down versus how do you get someone to stop? Oh, okay,



Jimmy Carper 05:10

well, what's the difference between difference between abuse and addiction, then?



05:15

Well, in addition a person's life, there are negative consequences to their using. with substance abuse, a person does not necessarily experience the negative consequences of losing jobs, losing homes, spending so much money on drugs or alcohol, if they're not able to pay their rent, family relationships are strained, or, you know, they lose significant others, because they use that would indicate a number or combination of those kinds of things would indicate that someone is addicted. And we have, you know, all the clinical stuff that we use to diagnose someone as chemically dependent. Then there's also the same, the same diagnostic references would indicate whether someone was a substance abuser, or someone simply used substances on occasion, you know, the idea of the social drinker, someone who can go out and have a glass of wine with dinner, and maybe not even finished that one glass of wine, and they're not looking to get high. They're not looking to get drunk. Now, someone is someone who's abusing substances, then they're, you know, they're using too much they're using excessive amounts, or they're using it to medicate feelings, using it for inappropriate,



06:32

ah, let's talk about maybe we should talk about these inappropriate reasons, feelings, or you know, using this to mask feelings or using this to help you through a bad spot. Or if you have stress, let me have a drink or let me have a



06:50

ride. I don't know anybody who



06:53

leaves, let's leave the line off the air.



Jason 06:57

I especially did not have popped blood vessels in my eyes from using doing that.



07:03

Mm hmm. It's accepted. I mean, people say have a drink, relax, sit down, have a cocktail relax, take take a load off.



07:15

Well, since you couldn't relax without it, right? Well, I



07:17

think it was also, you know, we're, we tend to be a very indulgent culture in America. Yes. And I think that's partially a factor of it. And that, that in that high level of indulgence lends itself to addiction.



Jason 07:33

I think it's more than you go,



07:34

you're feeling bad, have a drink, you're feeling bad. Eat a gallon of ice cream, you're



07:40

feeling that have a drink.



07:42

Have a drink,



Jason 07:43

I think it's more than accepted. It's encouraged. It's your,



07:46

it's your 21st birthday, let's go out and get you so snug, or that you can't walk for three days, especially



Jason 07:52

if you're in a bad mood. Whenever anybody is in a bad mood, your friends want to make you feel better. So I'm not going to blame anybody here. You know, you can't really blame anybody but yourself when you get in a situation like, but when you're in a bad mood. Your friends are like, Hey, come out, get drunk. Have a good time. You know, I give you Hey, don't worry about it.



08:12

Alcohol is a depressant. So if you're depressed, it's probably not a good idea to take.



Jason 08:19

Alcoholism, depressant, but most people don't realize Alcohol is a depressant. And so they don't know that thing. They're



08:24

thinking you're gonna get drunk, gonna do things you normally wouldn't, you'll be really happy because you're just



Jason 08:31

having a giggly and spins around.



08:34

And this is when we start to get we start approaching the area of addiction, because part of the consequence of using is feeling guilty about one's using. And so if one goes out and gets drunk, then they wake up the next morning, and they feel guilty and ashamed about what they did. And then there's questions of, you know, did I do something really stupid going back to the unprotected sex? There is clearly a problem there. And we need to look at that and see what we need to do to fix that.



09:08

What can we do to fix?



09:10

Well, someone's got has got to get to a place where they've decided that yeah, there is a problem. And I need to start talking about this problem. And what am I going to do with this?



Jimmy Carper 09:20

Because it sounds like a vicious circle. I mean, if if you wake up and no, I'll never do this again. And and then you do and you keep doing this over and over again and get to a point where it's down. Like like Scott got to a point where



09:37

well, but I was I was actually fairly shameless in my, in my abuse and your directness. Yeah, the drug that I primarily was into was cocaine. And I I was fairly shameless. I'd, you know, I'd stay out or stay up all night. You know, couldn't get to sleep. You know, on the weekends, I'd party all hours, you know, didn't feel like resetting my sleep schedule, when I'd have to go to school. I had a little plastic, you know, bullet small little, you know, different seed dispenser for, you know, people who aren't familiar with coke terminology. used to carry a bullet full of coke with me to school so I could bump and stay awake during class.



Jimmy Carper 10:27

Okay, the beginning of drug use or alcohol use? Or is to have fun.



10:33

Yeah. And for me, it was



Jimmy Carper 10:36

and you know, stay up and have more fun? And what happens? When When does it? When does it turn on you?



10:45

And I'm not,



Jimmy Carper 10:46

I'm not Do you not even realize it's turning,



10:48

I don't think you realize that it's turning on you because you get so caught up, or at least I got so caught up in, you know, going out, you know, and coke is a real thing, or as far as getting people hooked, because you know, your tolerance, your tolerance can go down really quickly on coke. And so you need more and more and more, so you need more and more and more, you know, you know, when I'm when I was first starting out, I do maybe two, three bumps. And that would keep me going most of the night. Towards the end of the period that I was addicted, I would need to do at least three quarters of an eight ball to get through the evening. And that



11:29

. ..

tells me nothing.



11:29

An eight ball. That's an awful lot. Yeah, and eight ball is an eighth of a gram, which is a lot of coke. Because Coke is a very lightweight powder. Coat, an eight ball of coke is okay, how many bumps is that? I mean, you saved the eight ball is enough to probably fuel a party of four or five with a couple lines to each person not just bumps, I mean lines of bumpers where you stick the little bullet up your nose and and pull, you know if real hard line is where you've actually got, you know distinguishable? Yes. You know, thick line, usually down a mirror. seen other services use? Yeah, I've seen the movies. Yeah. So a line or an eight ball is is good to feel a party of, you know, several people. And so, and eventually I got to the point where I was using three quarters to an entire eight



12:30

ball doesn't make it expensive. Well,



12:34

I was dating somebody who was supplying me with it. So it didn't really get expensive for me. I got lucky on the connection, if you can really call that luck,



12:45

huh? Yeah, I don't know. The Luck was I think



12:49

the luck was the the HIV was the fact that I didn't have HIV. Right. Right. It was it was fortunately a fairly benign wake up call.



Jimmy Carper 13:03

Michael, do you see folks waking up in that way? Or do you more see them? contracting HIV first.



13:16

Actually, most of what I'm seeing right now is people that have had HIV for a number of years or the head, they have known that they have it for a number of years, and have gone back out and continued using, because they felt like there was no hope for them. And so here's seven years later, they're starting to hear stuff. You know, there might be some hope that maybe they

could start taking some medication. And so they come in to get treatment. And we're looking at a different kind of demographic in that in that in that area. Yeah, you know, but with regards to the gay community, and young gay men and women. Substance abuse is clearly a problem. And we have the transmission rate increasing in both male to male sexual contact, contact, and in the 18 to 24 year old age group, which would indicate that young gay men are at high risk, very high risk. And I wanted to mention earlier when we started talking about HIV medications and how effective they are and how they may not work for some people, but they do work quite well for others. If you do not take the medication exactly as prescribed, oh, yes, then Oh, yeah. always the possibility that the virus could develop resistance, which would mean that the medication doesn't work, which means that you got to try a different medication.



14:43

Well, something else I've heard though, is that if you try one medication and doesn't work, that may may negate the effect of just about every other right medication available to you. It can and I would have heard it's like a 5050 shot if the first one doesn't work as First, if anything is going to work after that,



Jimmy Carper 15:03

I was also reading on an alarming statistic that 43% of people taking the protease inhibitors admitted to missing several doses. And that is something you just can't do, you have to take the doses when you're supposed to take the doses.



15:19

And that



15:20

that's why they've been nicknamed cocktails is because you take them at specific prescribed times, just like the social event. There you go.



15:27


There you go.





15:30


And also using either alcohol or drugs is going to interfere with one's taking their medication and eating right. Sure. And so that could have implications in treating HIV infection, as well. That's why I created the group that I referred to earlier for HIV positive gay men who are concerned about their substance use their party habits, if you will. And it's been referred to as the HIV positive party years group. And I've had calls I have had some calls of men that are


interested in coming. It's just kind of a discussion wrap group. Sure. That's good to kind of talk about that. That's good. Start some dialogue. And so there's some interest. But unfortunately, I don't have quite enough people to get it started. I say, I'm keeping numbers and as soon as I have enough people, then we'll start of course, that's 5290037. That's right, the Montrose Counseling Center. I


 Jimmy Carper 16:23
have 290037


 16:27
and ask for Michael. Yeah.


 16:30
And if you'd like to call us here at KPFT, that number is 713-526-5738. That's five to 6k P F T, right.

 Jason 16:41
And if you'd like to call us at hatch, it's 713-942-7002.

 16:47
Can we gather some music right now?

 Jason 16:49
Music right now. This song is what a beaut What a beautiful day on Jr. Vasquez lays latest CD, which is actually a two CD set. Again, we're not going to actually get through the whole song because it's actually eight minutes and no problem. We're gonna we're gonna play the good part of the song. Oh, okay. So here it goes.

 17:14
Okay, that was Jr Vasquez. You should look fantastic. Oh, that's okay. For

 Jimmy Carper 17:21
our and you are listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. We are the sound of Texas. And we want your money, lots of it. And now at

526-573-8526 KPFT in support of this show. And KPFT coming up at the three o'clock hour at the top of the hour we'll be Big Daddy j with the Red Eye special starting off the super blues Sunday that runs through till 6pm. Wow. Yes, we do a lot of blues here a lot of blues. And we start off with the old and end up with the kind of the new. The Joe's Roadhouse is more kind of like a bluesy rock stuff. Anyway, we are wrapping up a discussion on substance abuse in the teen community. With Jason Scott, Michael from the Montrose Counseling Center, and me, Jimmy,



18:31

Wow, fantastic. Well, I guess I was kind of curious, as I guess sort of a final warning, as far as people who think that well, AIDS is manageable. And, you know, it's not that bad with all the medications. What kind of a schedule do you have for your medication? Well, just to give some people an idea of how rigorous the prescriptions are,



Jimmy Carper 18:56

okay, when when you get up, I take about 40 pills a day. Included, that includes vitamins, and some I have to take on an empty stomach. Some I have to take with food. So I have to juggle not only my pill schedule, but my meal schedule. And sometimes I have to eat when I'm not hungry. Because I have to take the pills at that time, with food with food. And sometimes when I'm really hungry and or I'm out with people and everybody sitting down to have food. I have a glass of tea because I can't have food. Because I've just taken that pill. Or it was time to take the note. Well, I call it the no Ed pill and the ED pill.



19:43

And we're not talking about at Berkow



19:46

no and and no and fortunately for me on the type of protease inhibitors I'm on. I only have to do that twice a day. Okay, a lot of folks have to do that three times a day.



19:59

What about sleep habits? Well, you



20:05

know, a lot of things change your whole body changes. I've had diarrhea since 1993. Thanks for the Yes, yes, you know it, you know, I just buy a whole lot of Imodium a D and you know, they have good days and bad days, some days or No, today was a no Imodium a D some days or three Imodium a D Day? You know, it just it's just when you get out one of the nasty side

effects when you get up you have to see what your digestive system is going to do that day. That's number one. Yes. Sleep. Um, I seldom sleep more than two or three hours at a time because I have to get up and pee. And sometimes I don't get back to sleep for another hour.



20:54

And often, often on some of the medications, people have to get up and prepare the medication, yes, and then have a snack and then take the medication, right and then go back to sleep. If they can.



Jimmy Carper 21:08

Fortunately, I don't have to do that then a lot of people have insomnia. I haven't had that problem



Jason 21:13

yet. So folks out there who think that protease inhibitors is a cure. What I have is



Jimmy Carper 21:19

neuropathy, neuropathy of the feet. I don't have any of the hands but of the feet, where numbness tingling. I have to wear socks to walk on a bare kitchen floor. Because it's painful if I don't. And that may, a lot of that is probably permanent. And that's what everyone who gets on protease inhibitors has to look forward to.



21:46

It's not. Well,



21:48

if I'm scared, I hope I good I hope I am because HIV is not a fun disease. It is barely manageable. I have you know, I'm living longer now than I ever thought I would. But I have no idea how much longer?



22:05

Yeah, and also, you know, the truth is, yes, HIV is manageable. On the other side of that is, how much of your personal comfort and schedule sleep social eating otherwise, do you want to sacrifice for one night of frivolous and protective?



Jason 22:24

Same time? It's also not manageable for everyone? Because protease inhibitors do not work for everyone.



Jimmy Carper 22:30

No, that's true. Or they stopped working? Then where are you? You want to scare him some more Michael?



22:39

How about some? How about some facts on Drug Abuse?



22:44

I've actually heard people say, Well, if I get it, it's no big deal. I just take the pills



22:50

Wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Wrong. Like I've told you, you know, there's the strain schedules, you have to do things you're not used to doing. The other side effects are losing muscle mass, I'm not as strong as I used to be. And also



Jason 23:09

and then there's also that side effect of your wallet being a heck of a lot lighter.



23:13

Kidding. Well fortunately, I'm on I don't have insurance I'm on I'm on a dat the AIDS drug assistance program. So I get a majority of drugs there, but not some of them like Diflucan. And, and so you know, it costs me it costs my lover probably about 1000 a month between doctors and the drugs that I don't get from the state. And it would be probably 2500 or more, if I had to pay for all of them



23:47

will also something else I wanted to throw in there is that the losing muscle mass is not is not necessarily just a side effect of the drugs. That's a side effect. A lot of times it just having HIV, expending so much energy. It's a symptom of what is something that is now just recently been

classified as an opportunistic disease, which is called wasting wasting syndrome. And if if you run far enough along on wasting regardless of what drugs you're on, if you lose enough of your body mass, you will die.

 Jason 24:21


At the same time we'll talk about wasting though. Let's also make sure that everybody out there realizes that not everybody who has HIV or AIDS has wasted that strengthen saying somebody looks healthy. Does by no means they are

 24:38

out. That's right. That's right. But

 Jason 24:41

we need to begin to wrap it up.

 Jimmy Carper 24:43

Yes. Enough about me when you

 Jason 24:46

hear if you hear some background music, it's again Jr. Vasquez on his latest on his latest album and this is off of the first CD. I don't remember the name of the song.

 24:55

We'll also you know we had to go ahead and queue it up while we're talking. Yeah, don't be afraid As you know, just tie back into what we were originally discussing, which was addiction. Age is not the only ramification of addiction. You can also run the gamut from alienating your family, your friends, you can lose everything to addiction.

 25:20

You almost did. Yeah.

 25:23

I almost did. I have a feeling that if I had continued on a few more years, I probably would have. And I've seen people literally go from nice, big, lovely homes and great parts of towns to a

couple years later seeing them on the street, skinny as a lamppost, because they still do too much crystal.

 Jimmy Carper 25:43

If somebody has that problem and wants to do something about it, Michael, how can they get in touch with you?

 25:50

Or they can call me at the Montrose Counseling Center 529037

 25:55

Just as for Michael Right, this one Michael there.

 25:58

I'm the only one there

 Jason 25:58

okay. And you're listening to KPFT Houston and KU is College Station.

 26:04

This is after hours queer radio, with attitude. Absolutely.

 26:09

Attitude

 Jimmy Carper 26:10

and we are the sound of Texas

 Jason 26:12

and we are hatch at and you can reach us at 713-942-7002. Again whether or not you want to find out about becoming a member or having us do a speaker's panel or any other questions you have about hatch again that number is 713-942-7002 and it is a voicemail line and all calls

you have about match again that number is 715-942-7002 and it is a voicemail line and all calls are returned with the utmost confidentiality



26:38

we'd like to thank anonymous for very nice pledge that just came in. And you can still call in your pledges at 52657385 to six KPFT coming up at the top of the hour. We'll be Big Daddy j with the red eyes special.



26:56

Ooh, that was so much I try



27:03

Welcome to the Red Eye special. I'm Big Daddy j and this is KPFT 90.1 and Houston KEOS 89.1 in College Station, the sound of Texas and the blues.