

The two companies are preparing for the imminent launch of the life-saving drug in the US, but sales will be constrained by limited production capacity. Only 12,000 to 15,000 patients worldwide are expected to get the drug by the end of 2003. Roche expects demand to exceed supply initially while it works to increase production capacity. By the end of 2004, Roche and Trimeris expect to be able to supply the drug to a maximum of 32,000 people, rising to 39,000 by the end of 2005.

Fuzeon, also known as T-20, has been eagerly awaited because it is the first real alternative treatment in seven years for AIDS patients running out of options. “The accelerated approval of this new drug should provide new hope for those suffering from advanced HIV infection,” US Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said.

**SOURCE:** From an article written by Michael Shields, *Reuters–Zurich*, dated March 14, 2003.

### **NAADAC Applauds New Inhalant Treatment Guidance**

NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals, applauded the release of a new substance abuse treatment advisory on March 13, 2003, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition that provides guidance on treatment for inhalant abuse.

“I have seen the devastating effects of inhalants to both individual users and their families,” NAADAC President Roger A. Curtiss said.

“With the prevalence of brain damage and the potential for death, inhalant use cannot be ignored. This is an important advisory that will heighten public awareness and provide addiction professionals with additional tools for effective treatment.”

Curtiss is the director of Alcohol and Drug Services of Anaconda/Deer Lodge County in Anaconda, Montana.

“Inhalants are a serious problem in Montana, especially on reservations,” Curtiss said. “There is a high frequency of use among Native American adolescents.”

Over 10 percent of individuals treated primarily for inhalant use in 2000 were Native American, according to the advisory, although they constitute just one percent of the total US population. Native American inhalant use has declined, however, since the mid-1990s due to targeted prevention efforts.

**SOURCE:** From a press release written by Richard Schmitz, *NAADAC*, dated March 13, 2003.

### **Study Finds Lasting Effects of Stimulant Drug Abuse**

The effect of cocaine and other stimulant drugs on the brain may linger long after a person stops abusing drugs, researchers report.

“There are still some effects even after a year of not using the drug,” said Dr. Rosemary Toomey in an interview with Reuters Health.

The study included 50 sets of adult twins. One of each twin pair had abused cocaine or amphetamines but had been drug-free for at least one year and the other had not abused drugs. The twin with the drug abuse history had lower scores on several tests of attention and motor skills than the one who had not abused cocaine or amphetamines.

“It looks like there are deficits that continue,” said Toomey, who is at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts.

The differences in attention and motor skills were “subtle,” Toomey said. She noted that all the scores were still within the normal range. Still, the findings show that the effects of drug abuse may be long-lasting, she said. These effects could be more severe in some people, according to Toomey, who is the first author of a report on the findings that appears in the March issue