

## A NOTE ON METHOD

To protect informants I have chosen to identify them by pseudonyms. An exception is Robert Helms, who asked me to identify him by his real name. Anonymity is particularly important to avoid retaliation in cases when paid subjects are still active in clinical trials. The Community-Based Trial Organization (CBTO) is also a fictitious name. Despite my efforts, those knowledgeable about the AIDS institutional landscape in Philadelphia might be able to uncover the real site behind CBTO. I hope that nothing in this book compromises the mission of the organization. I could have gone further, concealing the identity of Philadelphia by referring to it only as a Northeastern city, but doing so would have deprived the reader of the full sociohistorical context in which this research is deeply embedded.