

## **Report from Caribbean HIV Conference**

The third Caribbean HIV Conference took place at the Atlantis Hotel in the Bahamas (November 18-21, 2011). More than 2,000 persons from over 30 countries were present. The University of the West Indies was one of the official partners of the conference. UWI students, staff and alumni played a significant part in this important regional meeting, which was co-sponsored by the Government of the Bahamas, the Office of AIDS Research (US National Institutes of Health) and the University of Puerto Rico. UWI personnel gave oral and poster presentations and participated in strategic discussions.

On November 19th, Dr. J Peter Figueroa, Professor of Epidemiology, Public Health and AIDS in the Department of Community Health & Psychiatry at the UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica, was one of the main plenary speakers on, presenting a comprehensive overview of the HIV epidemic in the Caribbean. He identified several challenges facing Caribbean countries as we continue to respond to the epidemic and made several recommendations to the audience.

UWI had contributed significantly to the planning of this event through the contribution of the following Faculty and students:

### **1) Planning Committee Members**

- a) Professor Brendan Bain, Director, Regional Coordinating Unit, Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART), Office of the Vice-chancellor
- b) Mr. Kyle DeFreitas, Student, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago
- c) Mr. Roger McLean, Centre for Health Economics, UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago

### **2) Track Committee Members**

- a) Professor Rose Marie Antoine, Faculty of Law, UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
- b) Mrs. Althea Bailey, Lecturer, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Mona Campus, Jamaica
- c) Ms. Yolanda Simon, Student, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago

### **3) Abstract Reviewer**

Dr. Shelly Trim, CHART Regional Coordinating Unit, Vice-Chancellery

### **4) Members of Scholarship Review Committee**

- a) Mrs. Maxine Ruddock-Small, CHLI, Vice-Chancellery, Jamaica
- b) Mrs. Jasneth Mullings, UWI Health Centre, Mona Campus, Jamaica