

Principal's Message

That the West Indian Medical Journal has dedicated this second special issue to publicizing the outcomes of the collaborative "Paediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS Leadership Initiative in Kingston, Jamaica" speaks to the success of the project and the significant amount of work accomplished over the five-year period of collaborative intervention.

Despite significant challenges, the healthcare team established since September 2002 and comprising the "Kingston Paediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS Programme" (KPAIDS) from The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Jamaica Ministry of Health, functioned effectively to achieve the objectives of its five-point plan. As this special issue will attest, the plan's objectives to intervene through leadership and training, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (pMTCT) of HIV/AIDS, treatment and care of women, infants, children and families, outcomes-based research as well as regional and international outreach have been achieved so that during the five-year period between 2002 and 2007 there was significant reduction in the HIV-attributable morbidity and mortality as well as prolonged and improved quality of life in HIV-infected children.

The advocacy role that the team has played and the prestigious awards that it has received throughout the five-year programme period are indicative of the team's good standing internationally. This will enable them to continue the work towards achieving the ultimate mission to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Jamaica and to provide the care to HIV-infected children that will ensure successful adult lives.

Sincerest and heartiest congratulations to the collaborative team, anchored by Professor J Peter Figueroa, for its outstanding contribution, through this programme, to the Jamaican people. The sponsorship provided to support their efforts has been tremendous. Without it, the work would have been stillborn. The UWI looks forward to sustained collaboration, exemplified in this project, to foster its work in promoting the health and wellbeing of the Caribbean people.

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