

Paediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS in Jamaica

CM Wilfert

The Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) proudly applauds Professor Celia Christie and her colleagues who have assembled an impressive array of papers detailing their work in Jamaica. Professor Christie leads with inspiration and effectiveness as the recipient of the Elizabeth Glaser International Leadership Award. She has developed a team of both academic and government healthcare personnel in Jamaica to collaboratively treat women and children with HIV/AIDS. They have implemented a programme to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and supported more than 69 000 women in five years who came to the clinics for antenatal care. Counselling reaches 80% women and the acceptance of testing is now 100%. They observed a decrease in transmission of HIV from infected women to their infants from 25% to 4.75%. It is estimated that between 100 and 200 infections in infants were averted. Evaluation of more than 1570 children for HIV resulted in appropriate

antiretroviral therapy for 79% of the infected children. Additionally, the team has built the capacity to do outcomes research and Professor Christie has mentored 31 healthcare professionals including 12 paediatricians.

This issue of the *West Indian Medical Journal* is the second time a complete issue of the Journal has reported the work of Professor Christie and her colleagues. This compendium has had the benefit of two devoted and superb Editors, Professor Paul Krogstad and Professor Sten Vermund.

The support of EGPAF to Professor Christie has prevented significant numbers of Jamaican children from acquiring HIV, provided treatment for those who are infected and care for their families. Professor Christie has succeeded in training others to sustain and continue this work. We express our sincere gratitude and admiration for these accomplishments.

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