

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

A total of 350 delegates attended the two day conference. Delegates consists of doctors (68%) pharmacists (7%) nurse clinicians (25%). Most of the delegates were from KZN (70%), others were from other provinces and Africa.

PURPOSE OF ADVANCED CARE COURSE FOR CLINICIANS

1. Develop experienced clinicians to work independently and serve as consultants in HIV medicine in different district and community health institutions
2. Translate the latest evidence based research into good clinical practice specifically for resource constrained areas
3. Provide an opportunity to share best practice models of care developed by clinicians in various aspects of the AIDS care and treatment programme
4. Create an opportunity for networking between HIV clinicians, academicians, researchers and policy makers.

The workshop is directed to meet the needs of ongoing education in HIV Medicine for professionals from all disciplines of medicine-nurse practitioners, pharmacists, medical practitioners, paramedical professionals and specialists from all fields (internal medicine, maternal and child health, infectious diseases, family medicine, public health and laboratory based faculties)

FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS

1. HAST unit ,Department of health, KZN - Dr T Mayise and Ms Hope Ngobese from HAST conveyed her appreciation to the organisers of AWACC for forging ahead with the 2011 AWACC. It has been acknowledged that this conference is unique as it is aimed at training experienced HIV clinicians. Thus it will assist in maintaining /ensuring that the best quality of care could continue to be provided to the ARV roll out programme in the years ahead. Clinicians from all districts in KZN have been identified to attend.

Dr. V.Friedland spoke on behalf of the DOH about nurse led ART initiation (NIMART).He presented the successful programme at Mseleni as the basis for his discussion.The session was very beneficial and practical.

2. The ID unit, Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, UKZN- Prof Moosa continues to serves as co-chair. He is committed to continue to improve the quality of care at the local district/regional hospital level in KZN. This programme will aim to train the trainer so that referrals to tertiary centers could be reduced and clinicians equipped to manage patients locally.

3. I D Unit, Mass General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and Centre for AIDS research (CFAR),Harvard University - Dr.Raj Gandhi will continue to be a co-chair. He has thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to teach and learn through AWACC. He is also the director of the clinical core of the Centre for AIDS research in Harvard University. CFAR has been a

committed partner again in 2011. Their financial support has provided the opportunity for many ID physicians from the USA to participate as speakers in their fields of specialization.

4. HIV Unit, Dept of Medicine, McCord Hospital, Durban - Dr Holst, CEO of McCord hospital has expressed great satisfaction with and support for the ongoing progress of AWACC. She is pleased that part of the vision of McCord hospital is being fulfilled viz. to facilitate the expansion of good clinical care for AIDS patients into our province, country continent. Dr Sunpath, co - chair and director of the AWACC is very encouraged by the numbers of delegates attending and the support of various partners. The conference is expected to grow in size and appeal. It is envisaged that the organizational capacity of AWACC will be improved.

5. South African HIV clinicians society - Dr Franscois Venter has expressed his thanks and commendation for the successful conference which was thoroughly enjoyable and most educational. The society will encourage attendance by clinicians nationally and in Africa

6. Other organisations /dept represented -

- ***Dept of Palliative Medicine, School of Family Med and Public health, UCT*** - Dr Liz Gwyther was grateful for the opportunity to present the AIDS palliative care talk which was very well received. She hopes to provide a network with palliative care specialists in Africa.
- ***Enhancing Care Initiative, UKZN*** - Prof Lalloo was grateful to be part of the conference. As Dean of the Nelson R Mandela, School of Medicine, he has expressed his ongoing support for this yearly event.
- ***Dept of Paeds, NRM school of Medicine, UKZN*** - Dr K Naidoo and M. Archary have expressed appreciation for the excellent organization and attendance. They would like to continue to use this conference to promote care for children in the ARV programme.
- ***Department of Primary health care-UCT.***
- Prof S.Reid organized a very valuable session on QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN CHRONIC HIV CARE. Prof N.Levitt had input into this session and his department had indicated support for ongoing training in improving systems of care for PLHIV.
- ***Other Sponsors*** – MSD, Adcock Ingram, Aspen, Abbott, Global, Novagen, Duromed, Sanofi Aventis, Cipla and Right to Care.

All these organizations have indicated great satisfaction with the exposure they received at this year's AWACC.

FEEDBACK FROM DELEGATES.

1. 220 delegates filled in course survey forms. 98% of them gave the course a “good to excellent” rating for more than 90% of the sessions. The most frequent suggestion was that more time for discussion was needed. It was also recommended that more case based discussions /conference take place.

1. Topics requested to be covered were:

- HIV & the kidney
- Haematology
- HIV & the liver
- Challenges in HIV testing
- ART Adherence
- Opportunistic Infections

CONCLUSIONS

1. There is a growing appreciation of the level /quality of learning that AWACC provides.
2. Areas for improvement will be discussed and solutions found.
3. The conference will be held annually-the provisional dates will be 06 and 07 October 2011 in Durban.
4. We invite comments from all those interested in advising the co-chairs re the content and logistics of future conferences.
5. A full report of the main conclusions of this annual workshop will be submitted to the DoH. The SAHIVCS Journal will also publish this report shortly

Prepared by

Dr. H. Sunpath, (McCord Hospital, Durban)

On Behalf of the co-chairs AWACC 2011

All correspondence to be directed to henrysunpath@vebo.co.za

Please also note AWACC 2011 will be published in the SAHIVCS Journal.