

AWACC 2012 REPORT

Chairperson of the organizing committee and co chair –Dr. Henry Sunpath

329 delegates attended the two day workshop. Approximately two thirds (216) were doctors and the rest were nurse practitioners (70), and pharmacists and health care administrators (43).

Dr Thami Mayise, Director of HIV/AIDS care in KZN concluded the session with an expression of thanks for the outstanding workshop held for health care workers in KZN. This exposure will enable the delegates to train and supervise others in their institutions. Dr Mayise has expressed his intention to work with AWACC to deliver yearly updates to all ART sites in KZN.

There are a few recommendations from this years conference that are will be reinforced in DOH policy.

1. IPT is government policy and should be implemented.
2. Support for NIMART needs to come from doctors who must be willing to mentor nurses
3. Hospitals need to link start inpatient ART and link this to proper outpatient follow up-reduce mortality in hospitals
4. Guidelines for resistance testing and managing second line failures
5. Linkage to care after testing- linking HIV care into all ANCs and TB clinics.
6. All workers to incorporate prevention strategies into routine care –reduce population level of HIV.

The support from the following institutions has enabled us to subsidize the costs of the conference. Speakers have been sponsored to attend the workshop. All the speakers from SA and abroad have given their expertise and shared their research work freely.

Regarding the delegates feedback –these were the salient points:

1. More than 90 % of the delegates assigned a very good to excellent evaluation of all the sessions of the workshop
2. The requests for a little more interaction with questions and /or panel discussions were requested.
3. Most thought that the course was just right in duration and the venue was appropriate.
4. Requests for sessions on the ff topics: Nutrition; Psychosocial interventions in caring for PLHV; ART resistance cases; Haematology; Women's health issues