

HIV Social, Behavioural, and Epidemiological Studies Unit

Department of
Public Health
Sciences
Faculty of Medicine

Members of the HIV Social, Behavioural, and Epidemiological Studies Unit, Department of Public Health Sciences, had an integral role in the organization and operation of the *2006 International AIDS Conference*, held in Toronto, August 13th to 18th. With an estimated attendance of 20,000 delegates, the International AIDS Conference garnered nearly 13,000 abstract submissions. Dr. Liviana Calzavara Deputy Director of the Unit served on the Conference Organising Committee and Co-chaired the Scientific Programme Committee. The Unit Director, Dr. Ted Myers was a member of the Scientific Programme Committee and served as Scientific Co-chair of *Track D: Social, Behavioural, and Economic Sciences*. Dr. Robert Remis served as member of *Track C: Epidemiology, Prevention and Prevention Research*. Dr. Myers and Mr. Dan Allman served on the rapporteur team for Track D. Dr. Calzavara also chaired two Scientific Symposia entitled *Canada's National and Global HIV Research: What Have We Done, Where Are We Going, and How Do We Get There?* and *The Price of Inaction – Emerging Epidemics in China, Eastern Europe, and India*. Dr. Peggy Millson coordinated the Short Course on *Evidenced-based HIV Prevention & Control for Managers from Developing Countries* which followed the conference. Further, the Unit took a lead role in organising the joint University of Toronto-McGill Exhibitor's booth.

Members, affiliates, past and current students of the Unit presented research findings culminating in a total of 5 oral and 45 poster presentations and abstracts on a range of topics, including HIV fear, denial, stigma and discrimination in African and Caribbean immigrant communities; HIV/AIDS in East African communities in Toronto; Nigerian men who have sex with men; the Russian Polaris HIV Cohort Study; HIV testing among aboriginal youth. It is through these scientific contributions as well as a firm commitment to diversity and hard to reach populations affected by HIV/AIDS, community involvement, and knowledge transfer, that the Unit continues to serve a vital role in HIV prevention and care both nationally and internationally.



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