

**Abstract ID:** 763 **Session Type:** IA  
**Abstract Title:** A Successful Collaborative Effort to Train Health Care Workers in PMTCT in the Caribbean  
**Abstract Format:** 2  
**Designated Presenter:** Virginia Gonzales, EdD **Organization:** International Training and Education Center on HIV (I-TECH)  
**Abstract Score:** **Abstract Status:** REC  
**Key Issues:** *Global Health Policy/Advocacy, HIV/AIDS, Women's Health*  
**Preferred Format:** Poster

#### **Learning Objectives:**

At the end of the poster presentation, the audience will be able to understand the different ways of incorporating PMTCT training with partners.

#### **Partnership Model:**

Collaborative effort with several partners to train health care workers in Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS.

#### **Formats 1 and 2: Background**

##### **Format 3: Policy Overview and Relevant Issues**

In the Caribbean, AIDS is the leading cause of death among adults 15-44 years, and the prevention of mother-to-child-transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS is a priority issue.

The Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training (CHART) Network began operations in 2003 funded from several partners, which has led to the establishment of 5 national training centers and a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) based at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica. The International Training and Education Center on HIV (I-TECH), working in collaboration with multiple partners to support CHART, conducted an initial assessment in 2003 and found that different countries were at different levels of readiness for scaling up PMTCT activities, but there was no systematic training on PMTCT.

#### **Formats 1 and 2: Design/Methods**

##### **Format 3: Current Efforts and Implications**

The CHART RCU, CHART Bahamas, and I-TECH, with the support of stakeholders and donors agencies, developed and pilot-tested a regional PMTCT curriculum (pre-released Sept. 1, 2005).

To help implement PMTCT scale up, CHART Bahamas, chosen as a Center of Excellence for PMTCT, hosted a Scale-up Workshop in 2005, with 63 physicians and nurses from 18 Caribbean countries. The workshop represented a true collaboration between numerous agencies (CHART Bahamas, CHART RCU, Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), François Xavier Bagnoud Center (FXBC), and I-TECH).

In the last three years, the CHART RCU, in partnership with CDC and I-TECH, worked together to facilitate four Training of Trainers workshops in PMTCT using the "Teachback" methodology.

I-TECH, in collaboration with CHART Bahamas and FXBC, have now adapted and harmonized the regional curriculum with regional guidelines from the Caribbean and the World Health Organization to create a Bahamas national PMTCT curriculum that was successfully pilot-tested September 2006.

Partners (CHART RCU, FXBC, I-TECH) are now developing a training module to link HIV-infected mothers to ongoing services, and creating a national PMTCT program in Barbados.

#### **Formats 1 and 2: Results/Outcomes**

##### **Format 3: Impact of Partnerships**

A national PMTCT curriculum was developed and pilot-tested in the Bahamas with help from several partners, and could be adapted to other Caribbean countries. To date, CHART RCU has trained more than 4000 health care workers from 27 Caribbean countries on various HIV/AIDS topics, including PMTCT.

#### **Formats 1 and 2: Impact of Partnership**

##### **Format 3: Conclusions**

A collaborative effort towards training and creating a PMTCT curriculum has been successful in raising awareness of PMTCT.

#### **Co-Authors**

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