



TELEPHONE PRESS CONFERENCE LIVE UP CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Thursday, March 8, 2007

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

DR. ALLYSON LEACOCK

CHAIR, CARIBBEAN BROADCAST MEDIA PARTNERSHIP ON HIV/AIDS
PRESIDENT, A. I. LEACOCK CONSULTANCY, BARBADOS

Dr. Allyson I. Leacock has been the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS (CBMP) since its inception in May 2006. From 2003 – 2006, she held the post of General Manager of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). In addition to Chairing the CBMP, she now owns her own consultancy firm, A.I. Leacock Consultancy Inc., which has been contracted to produce the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Closing Ceremony.

Dr. Leacock began in broadcasting as an announcer at Rediffusion and moved up to Assistant Programme Manager, Voice of Barbados. At CBC, she was first TV News Anchor and Presenter, before assuming the position of General Manager in 2003. She trained at the BBC and has a certificate in International Broadcasting from Syracuse University. In 2004, she was elected to the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) and acted as host broadcaster for the CBA Regional Conference which was held in April this year.

Dr. Leacock has worked for the Central Bank of Barbados as the first Manager of the Frank Collymore Hall and at the University of the West Indies Distance Education Centre as Officer-In-Charge and Student Support Services before serving as Director of Culture from 1999 to 2003 until becoming the General Manager of CBC.

Dr. Leacock possesses both Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Educational Technology from Concordia University, Canada. Her first Degree was completed at Stirling University, UK where she gained a BA (First Class Honours) in English and Education and the Diploma in Education. She is also a trained professional with Diplomas in the areas of Human Resource Management, Facility Management and Arts Management.

SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE

UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HIV/AIDS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Sir George Alleyne, OCC, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.A.C.P. (Hon), DSc (Hon), a native of Barbados, became Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB), Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on February 1, 1995 and completed a second four-year term on January 31, 2003. In 2003, he was elected Director Emeritus of the PASB. In February 2003, Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, appointed him as his Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. In October 2003 he was appointed Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. He currently holds an Adjunct professorship at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Alleyne has received numerous awards in recognition of his work, including prestigious decorations and national honors from many countries of the Americas. In 2001, he was awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community, the highest honor that can be conferred on a Caribbean national.

JON LONG

MANAGER, MEMBER SERVICES AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COUNCIL

Having managed communications activities for the ICC since 2002, including event media operations at major events and ongoing crisis management, Jon Long was appointed to set up a new department in May 2006 that combines Corporate Affairs with an important new area for the ICC, Member Services. The introduction of this department reflects a commitment from the ICC to build partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, especially its 97 Members, on a wide range of issues from anti-doping to women's cricket. It is also responsible for fulfilling the ICC's commitment to promote the 'spirit of cricket' through initiatives on and off the field of play, including building partnerships to raise awareness and reduce stigma about HIV and AIDS across the cricket world.

A law graduate from the University of Nottingham and passionate sports participant and follower; prior to the ICC he worked with a range of international sports federations and edited a football website.

JENNIFER GRANT

VICE PRESIDENT BROADCAST SERVICES,
CVM COMMUNICATION GROUP

Jennifer Grant has over ten years of experience and professional accomplishments in radio, television and government. She is currently Vice President of Broadcast Services at CVM Communications Group in Jamaica where she manages programming outputs across the media entities of CVM Communications Group which includes: CVM Television, HOT 102 Radio, CVM PLUS Cable, Internet and X-New Print. Prior to joining CVM, Ms. Grant was Senior Director of Entertainment with the Ministry of Industry and Tourism for the Government of Jamaica. In 1996 Ms. Grant became the first Vice President of the Caribbean Media Workers Association; and in 1993 she was the first female president of the Press Association of Jamaica spearheading its efforts to have "Freedom of Press" enshrined in the Jamaican constitution. Ms. Grant is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS (CBMP).

Ms. Grant possesses a Masters in Liberal Arts (MLA) from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours from the University of the West Indies, MONA. She is also an award winning human interest journalist.

AMERY BROWNE, M.D.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE, TRINIDAD

A medical doctor by profession, Dr. Browne has served as the Technical Director of the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) since its inception in late 2003. He is the former Registrar of the Trinidad Public Health Laboratory and the National Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of CARE, Trinidad and Tobago's first and largest NGO that aims to improve the lives of persons living with HIV and AIDS.

He has years of experience working in Trinidad and Tobago's Sexually Transmitted Infection and Antiretroviral Treatment Programs, and brings passion and commitment to the task of reversing the negative impact of HIV and AIDS, by involving all sectors of society in the response to the epidemic.

Dr. Browne is a Lead Trainer with the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART), and a member of the Caribbean Coalition of National AIDS Programme Coordinators (CCNAPC). He is also a member of Creative Advisory Team for the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS (CBMP).

AINSLEY K. REID

PROGRAM OFFICER
CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES, JAMAICA

Ainsley K. Reid is a person living with HIV since 1992. He is married, has a sero-discordant relationship since 1999, and is supported (overwhelmingly) by his family and friends. He is a well-known and sought-after resource person on issues relating to HIV/AIDS and People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the Caribbean since 1998. To date, he has conducted workshops for PLWHA, Churches, and community groups.

Ainsley is the co-founder of the Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JNPlus). He was part of the First Regional Capacity Workshop from which the Caribbean Regional Network of PLWHA (CRN+) was formed. From 1998 – 2000, Reid served as a Caribbean Representative on the Board of the Global Network of PLWHA (GNP+). In 2001, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) recruited him as National Coordinator for the Greater Involvement of PLWHA (GIPA) Project in Jamaica. The GIPA Project was part of a regional initiative to mobilize and build the capacities of PLWHA groups in selected Caribbean territories. Ainsley has worked with PLWHA communities in DR, Haiti, St. Lucia, Suriname, and other Caribbean territories using his unique style of capacity building, mentoring and coaching of PLWHAs.

He is known as the GIPA guru although he has experienced his share of stigma, discrimination, and abuse in Jamaica. However, this has not deterred Ainsley's profound commitment to actively bring awareness (about Living with HIV/AIDS) to the peoples in the Caribbean, especially Jamaica and recently through churches.

Presently Reid is Programme Officer (HIV/AIDS) at the Jamaica Programme Centre, CCC. In that position he has worked in Bahamas, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Haiti, Dominica Republic, Antigua, and St. Kitts. He is also Vice President of AIDS Empowerment Treatment International (AIDSETI), an organization based in Washington D.C., for and by PLWHA who are in-country community activists in the Caribbean and Africa. With regards to JNPlus, Reid provides support to the network as a member of the Panel of Advisors. He has also benefited from the capacity building initiatives and support of many national, regional, and international organizations.

Most recently, Ainsley is one of two persons speaking openly about his HIV positive status in the National HIV/STI Control Programme's Anti-Stigma Campaign, entitled Positive, Truly Positive and Getting on with life.