

## NATIONAL HIV DRUG RESISTANCE MONITORING SURVEY LAUNCH

*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, April, 2011*

### ***CARA LODGE HOTEL***

The HIV Drug Resistance Monitoring Survey was launched last 21 April 2011; the event took place at Cara Lodge and remarks by Dr. Beverley Barnett (PWR/PAHO/WHO) were delivered. (Attached)

The Ministry of Health of Guyana in collaboration with PanAmerican Health Organization/World Health Organization Country Office in Guyana (PAHO/WHO Guyana) has adapted the WHO generic HIV drug resistance (HIVDR) monitoring protocol to assess HIVDR prevention and factors potentially associated with emergence of resistance at the National Care and Treatment Center (NCTC) in Georgetown.

Guyana is the first country adapting the WHO generic protocol to conduct HIVDR monitoring survey in the Caribbean Region.

The protocol which has been approved by both national IRB (Inter Review Board) and PAHO/ERC (Ethical Review Committee) is a minimum-resource survey to evaluate the prevention of HIVDR in a cohort of patients initiating antiretroviral therapy (ART) with a follow up of 12 months. Routinely collected data abstracted from medical and pharmacy records, and supplemented by adherence and ARV history assessments, HIV genotyping and viral load results will be performed at a WHO-accredited genotyping laboratory. The survey includes a short oral consent process, and return of genotyping results to medical charts.

This survey, as part of HIV surveillance activities in the country, will provide strategic information for ART programme monitoring and support the planning of interventions to prevent resistance.

The Survey aims to

- a. estimate the proportion of the ART site population achieving HIVDR prevention, as measured by viral load suppression ( $\geq 70\%$  viral suppression in populations after one year of first-line ART);
- b. Identify specific HIVDR mutations and mutation patterns in populations not achieving prevention of HIVDR on first-line ART<sup>i</sup>
- c. Identify programmatic factors potentially associated with the prevention (or non-prevention) of HIVDR

- d. Report and disseminate results and recommendations for HIVDR monitoring, programmatic and expansion purposes. Outcomes and experiences gained will be fully integrated into routine HIV prevention and surveillance activities in Guyana

As part of the implementation of the HIVDR Survey, training was conducted (Fig. 1-2) and, the NCTC is ready to start identifying the eligible patients and collect the samples.

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Fig 1 HIVDR Survey training conducted at NCTC.



Fig. 2 Lab personnel is trained to start the Survey

