

“Pharmacists keeping the promise”

The Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association

reaffirms its commitment

to the principles

of the

***“Ocho Rios Statement on the Role of the Pharmacist
in the
Prevention & Management
of HIV/AIDS”***

World AIDS Day 2005



**MESSAGE FROM CPA PRESIDENT
World AIDS Day - 1 December 2005**

Pharmacists are keeping the promise

The Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association's Ocho Rios Statement on the Role of the Pharmacists in the Prevention and Management of HIV/AIDS elaborates the public health role that pharmacists can play as individual practitioners, through national associations and by collaborating with Ministries of Health and other stakeholders.

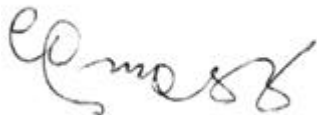
Pharmacists as valuable members of the multi-professional health care team are one of the first sought by patients, and the last one with whom they interact if a prescription is received.

On this World AIDS Day 2005, pharmacists throughout the Commonwealth are urged to 'keep the promise' to their patients by strengthening the patient-pharmacist relationship. This is achieved through listening to patients, providing advice on medicines, participating in the fight against stigma and discrimination associated with the disease and encouraging patient concordance with prescribed treatment regimes

Pharmacy associations must 'keep the promise' by ensuring their representation on national decision-making bodies and should collaborate with academic institutions and the pharmaceutical industry to kept abreast of information on the most recent medicines approved for the treatment of the disease.

Patients please know that your pharmacist cares!

The Ocho Rios Statement empowers pharmacists to 'Keep the promise'!



E. Grace Allen Young, DPharm, MRPharmS, CPP
President
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association

**“The Ocho Rios Statement on the Role of the Pharmacist
in the Prevention & Management of HIV/AIDS”**

2003

Rationale

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a significant health risk to individuals and communities living in Commonwealth countries. The two regions reported to have the highest adult prevalence rates are sub-Saharan Africa (8.8%) and the Caribbean (2.4%).¹ It is appropriate and timely that the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA) issues a Statement concerning the role of the pharmacist in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Process

The Ocho Rios Statement is based on the outcomes of a Symposium and Workshop held during the 8th CPA Conference in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, in August, 2003. Over 200 pharmacists from 40 Commonwealth countries attended the Workshop.

During the plenary sessions of the Symposium, participants were up-dated on the latest HIV/AIDS research and recent developments in approaches to prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

At Workshop sessions, participants combined their education, knowledge and experience to devise more prominent and constructive roles for pharmacists in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Practical strategies for implementation by national pharmaceutical associations, as well as individual pharmacists, resulted from intensive discussion among the diverse groups participating in the Workshop.

The general principles affirmed by pharmacists attending the Workshop and the strategies to proactively prevent and manage HIV/AIDS are contained in the “Ocho Rios Statement”.

Launch of the Statement

The “Ocho Rios Statement” was launched by the Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mr Winston Cox, and the CPA President, Mrs Grace Allen Young, at the Commonwealth Peoples Forum, in Abuja, Nigeria, December 2003.

¹ UNAIDS/WHO Regional HIV/AIDS statistics and features, end of 2002. UNAIDS; Geneva.
“Pharmacists Keeping the Promise” - World AIDS Day 1 December 2005
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association

Pharmacist Profiles

In the two years since the launch of the “Ocho Rios Statement”, pharmacists throughout the Commonwealth have been keeping the promise. Here are some of their achievements and their contributions in the fight against HIV/AIDS:

Dr Atieno Ojoo	Former Chief Pharmacist, Gertrude’s Garden Children’s Hospital, Kenya.
<p>Dr Ojoo is an active member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya’s HIV/ARV task group and has been responsible for designing a training curriculum for pharmacists, paediatricians, nurses and pharmacy technicians on paediatric HIV management. In 2004 Dr Ojoo, in collaboration with her colleague Dr J K Mbutia, published guidelines titled “Antiretroviral Drugs in Paediatrics”, updated in 2005. Dr Ojoo set up the first paediatric ARV adherence counselling program, with the help of child psychologists, and is currently advocating for appropriate paediatric formulations to be available for East Africa’s 500,000 HIV positive children.</p>	

Ms Dahlia McDaniel	Community Pharmacist – Jamaica
<p>Ms McDaniel received the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica’s Community Pharmacist of the Year Award in 2002 for her ‘Program of Care for HIV/AIDS Patients’ highlighted at the International Conference on HIV/AIDS in Durban, South Africa, in 2000. She received her Masters of Public Health at the University of the West Indies in 1996. Ms McDaniel is an active member of the Pharmacy Council of Jamaica and the National AIDS Committee.</p>	

The full text of the “Ocho Rios Statement on the Role of the Pharmacist in the Prevention & Management of HIV/AIDS” 2003 can be accessed on the website of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association www.commonwealthpharmacy.org