

UWC HIV & AIDS
programme



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE



UWC HIV & AIDS programme



The University of the Western Cape's HIV & AIDS Programme was established in 2001 to prevent, manage and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the university. Its vision is to develop a model, integrated response to the challenge of HIV & AIDS, based on the values and practice of **caring, compassion and non-discrimination**.

The HIV & AIDS programme at UWC strives to address all the key functions of a tertiary learning institution as they relate to HIV & AIDS, namely,

- teaching
- research
- management
- prevention
- care and support
- advocacy and
- community outreach.

The activities of the programme are framed by the UWC HIV & AIDS policy. The policy can be accessed via the programme website: www.hivaidswwc.org.za

- Promote the mainstreaming of HIV & AIDS-related content into all courses taught at the university to produce AIDS-competent graduates
- Coordinate HIV prevention activities across campus - this includes providing information, skills-based training, addressing stigma and discrimination, actively fostering gender equality, promoting voluntary counseling and testing and providing access to free condoms
- Foster volunteer programmes that link students with community organizations and schools to address HIV & AIDS.
- Promote local, regional, national and international linkages and partnerships relating to HIV & AIDS
- Offer consultancy services on a wide range of issues relating to HIV & AIDS
- Provide intellectual leadership and advocate for a better response to the pandemic

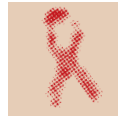


Care and support services



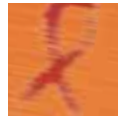
All students who test positive for HIV are linked into a care and support programme that provides access to individual supportive counselling, support groups, nutritional support, spiritual counselling, treatment of opportunistic infections, staging of the disease, access to ARV treatment via Tygerberg Hospital and information on wellness and healthy living. The care and support system for HIV+ students at UWC has developed into a model programme that is increasingly being recognized as such both locally and internationally.





Focusing on gender

All our peer education programmes address the central role of gender and power issues in HIV prevention. Among our approaches are to use senior students to facilitate small group sessions with first year students in university residences focusing on gender issues, fostering communication skills and building self-esteem. Our interventions focus on both men and women.



Fostering SADC collaboration

UWC is committed to working collaboratively with other tertiary institutions in Africa to develop and research peer education approaches to HIV prevention. From 2002 - 2010, we were the lead institution in a sub-Saharan HIV prevention programme using peer education involving the universities of Zambia, Malawi and Namibia.

For more information on our peer education programmes contact: Joachim Jacobs,
Tel: 021 959 3091: jjjacobs@uwc.ac.za



HIV and AIDS in the Education curriculum

The HIV & AIDS Programme and the Faculty of Education have developed innovative approaches to AIDS education and teacher development. Central to this work is the understanding that: 1) HIV is only one of many contemporary threats to well-being; 2) the AIDS pandemic is about people, not simply the HI virus, and as such requires that the focus of HIV prevention and AIDS education be placed on people; and 3) given South Africa's socio-historical context, AIDS education needs to be linked with broader issues of social transformation and healing. The HIV & AIDS Programme, in collaboration with the Faculty of Education, currently offers the following courses: On-going ACE modules, a one year module in AIDS education for PGCE students, and the focus area specialization in AIDS education for the BEd (Honours) programme.



Using Health Promoters

A key element of our care, support and prevention programme is using health promoters, who live openly and positively with HIV. Our health promoters act as role models for students and staff, provide information about HIV and AIDS, present training workshops, facilitate support groups and provide individual supportive counselling.





UWC Centre for Research in HIV&AIDS

In 2009, the new UWC Centre for Research in HIV and AIDS was created to foster synergies among UWC research teams and develop major new research efforts to build an African and global centre of excellence. It actively engages communities, schools, the health system, and gender and social equity advocates in developing, conducting, sharing, and applying research and teaching. Housed in the **School of Public Health** and working closely with the **HIV&AIDS Programme**, the centre catalyzes and coordinates engaged, multidisciplinary HIV-related research **across the university** and implements strategic activities to support and add value to research and its use (symposia, clearing house and website, seminars, recruiting and hosting graduate students and postdoctoral and other fellows, publication series). The Research Centre emphasizes **systems and society**, initially concentrating on: **health policies and systems; education and learning; gender and gender-based violence; and capacity strengthening.**

To learn more about The UWC Centre for Research in HIV & AIDS go to: www.hivaids-uwc.org.za
or contact: Christina Zarowsky
Tel: 021 959 9394; czarowsky@uwc.ac.za



My challenge to the UWC community is to be **leaders of a social revolution**, a transformation where everyone in South Africa embraces those who are infected with this virus, responds to them as **patriots** when they declare their infection, cherishes them and **cares** for them while assisting them to care for themselves. If we fail to do this and those infected fail to ascertain their status and fail to respond to it with our **help** so that they can **live productive lives** with the infection, then millions in whom we have invested much time, energy and money will die and our country will go into dramatic decline. I remain confident that UWC will not fail our people.

Prof Brian O'Connell, Vice Chancellor, University of the Western Cape.