

## **Editorial**

### **Health, Well-Being and Development in the Caribbean**

For this second issue of our first volume the Journal of the Department of Behavioural Sciences (JDBS) invited submissions from across disciplines that addressed the theme “Health, Well-Being and Development in the Caribbean.”

A broad definition of health including both physical and mental health was considered. Submissions covered the breadth of the Caribbean and reflected the important consequences health has for people’s social functioning and their quality of life.

While by no means able to cover completely what is a vast field all the papers in this issue nonetheless come together to provide understanding of how social, economic, historical, psychological and cultural processes interact to facilitate particular understandings of physical and mental health, and attendant institutional arrangements and practices in the Caribbean. This is important for improving our localised and regional understandings of health and well-being and how they can be developed.

In the pages that follow researchers working on the Caribbean consider the historical realities of race and mental healthcare in Jamaica; the interaction of local socio-cultural environment and dengue prevention in two Caribbean communities; the pervasiveness of HIV-related stigma in Dominica; the relationship between eating disorders and self esteem in adolescents in Trinidad; the silence and lack of awareness surrounding fibroids as a health problem in Trinidad and Tobago; an investigation into the psychological well-being of individuals over 60 in the Caribbean; and an evaluation of the Trinidad and Tobago national HIV/Aids strategic plan 2004-2008.

Modern transformations such as globalisation, neoliberalism, and the rapid innovation and use of new and emerging health technologies, all impact on the discourses and personal realities connected with good physical and mental health, and access to health care. The discourses in this issue surround fields such as adolescent health, adult health, mental health and physical health – all distinct yet interlinked through public health systems, cultural environments, and the organisation, financing, delivery and quality of their services within communities and the resulting impact on population health.

This special issue was edited and peer-reviewed by academics and international experts drawn from the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine and Mona), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Ministry of Health in Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Althea La Foucade and the Health Economics Unit at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, also helped the JDBS editorial team greatly over the course of this issue, and are offered a large thank you for their ideas and contributions.

For further information about the journal including the CFP for Issue 2, Volume 1, please see our web page at: <http://journals.sta.uwi.edu/jbs/index.asp>

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Editor