

Preface

This book contains selected papers from a conference with the same title held at the Australian National University, Canberra on 28-30 April 1999. Because one purpose in producing the book was to present its findings to the African Regional AIDS Conference in Lusaka, Zambia in September 1999, most papers selected were from the sub-Saharan African region.

The conference was built around a research program begun twelve years earlier with funding successively from the Australian National University and the Rockefeller Foundation's Health Services Division. The program expanded from 1992 when funds began to be received from SAREC, the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries, which was later incorporated into SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency. The conference was funded by SIDA/SAREC together with AusAID, the Australian Agency for International Development.

The research program focused on behavioural aspects of the AIDS epidemic while the conference was more closely focused still on obstacles to behavioural change. The principal investigators of the research program were I.O. Orubuloye, State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria; John Anarfi, University of Ghana, Accra; Kofi Awusabo-Asare, University of Cape Coast, Ghana; James Ntozi, Makerere University, Uganda; and Pat Caldwell and myself from the Australian National University, Canberra. The program was assisted by Per Bolme, successively of SAREC and SIDA/SAREC, Stockholm.

The conference was expanded beyond the research program to include a selection of those relatively few other researchers who have focused on the cultural, social and behavioural aspects of the African epidemic. It was expanded still further to include Asian researchers so that the African experience could be interpreted in the light of that of Asia and so that Asian researchers could learn about the situation in the severer epidemic found in East and Southern Africa.

Special thanks must go to SIDA/SAREC who provided funding for the conference and this book, to AusAID for conference funding, to the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) and its parent body the Australian National University for many back-up services, and to Per Bolme for guidance. Jeff Marck, the Conference Secretary, carried the main load of the conference, and Wendy Cosford, Rachel Colombo and Elaine Hollings the burden of producing this publication. Finally, Pat Caldwell and I would like to thank our African colleagues, listed above, for their collegiality, insights and devotion to worthwhile research.

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