

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Basin and Hispanic ATTC National Conference

## Introduction

The Caribbean Basin and Hispanic Addiction Technology Transfer Center (CBHATTC) at the Universidad Central del Caribe, School of Medicine (UCC) in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, will be hosting a three-day conference entitled, The Second National Conference on the Hispanic Family in the New Millennium. This conference will be held on August 18-20, 2004, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Its main goal is to communicate the latest scientific and culture-based information and best practices on "The Hispanic/Latino Family as a System of Drug Treatment and Prevention."

The conference is being developed in concert with multiple public, private, and community-based organizations in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. mainland. Prominent scientists, government officials, and service providers will attend as presenters and participants. There is an imperative need to address the issues affecting the Hispanic population nationwide. The conference program has been strategically designed to provide participants with skills, techniques, and information to enhance their ability to treat Hispanic families and individuals with drug-use problems.

The growth of the Hispanic population nationwide, the high prevalence of multiple health and social problems within this population including drug and alcohol use and HIV infection, and the importance of the Hispanic family's role in providing support to its members, all attest to the potential of this conference to make a significant contribution toward helping this critical unit within Hispanic communities.

The conference has been planned in line with some of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment's priority themes, and will consist of nine different workshops,

six plenary sessions, poster presentations, and exhibitions of training and treatment protocols. Planning efforts began in February 2003, and seven committees are currently working on the different components of the conference. These committees are comprised of members of organizations that represent our target population, among them, researchers, policy-makers, and providers serving Hispanic populations in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. mainland. Years of creating links with organizations such as the National Council of La Raza, the Latino Behavioral Health Institute, the CSAT National Latino Coalition, NIDA's National Hispanic Science Network, and CSAT, CSAP, and NIDA, will help ensure the broad participation of the Hispanic drug treatment, drug use prevention, health care services, and research communities. We invite you to reach over 300 persons by being a sponsor of this Conference.

This conference main goal is to provide attendants with tools, skills and state-of-the-art information that will be valuable and helpful to their performance as service providers. The themes for each plenary and workshop were carefully selected to cover all major areas in drug addiction treatment and prevention. Since we are emphasizing on a holistic approach, the speakers and presenters selected represent different areas in the substance abuse field, such as: neurogenetics, behavioral sciences, criminal justice, neuropharmacology and spirituality. They come from the public and private sector in the United States, as well as Puerto Rico, and are veterans in the substance abuse prevention and treatment field. Most are widely recognized and all are well respected among their colleagues. For a better understanding of each workshop theme, we are including a brief description helping you know what you should expect from it.

