

2012 SUMMIT ON THE  
**SCIENCE OF ELIMINATING  
HEALTH DISPARITIES**  
**BUILDING A HEALTHIER SOCIETY**  
INTEGRATING SCIENCE, POLICY AND PRACTICE  
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2, 2012  
GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTER  
NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND



# **BUILDING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE GLOBAL HEALTH: THE USA-CARIBBEAN ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., Principal Investigator

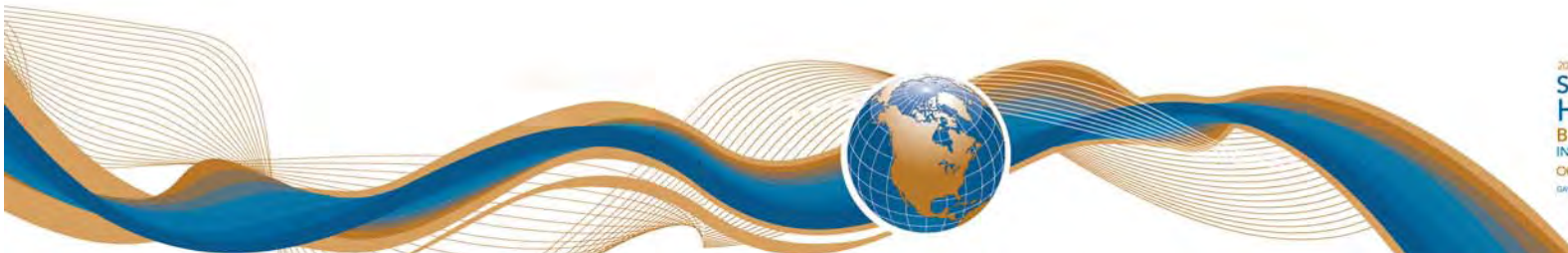
Marlene Y. MacLeish, Ed. D., Project Director

The Sullivan Alliance to Transform the Health Professions

# LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO DRIVE GLOBAL HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

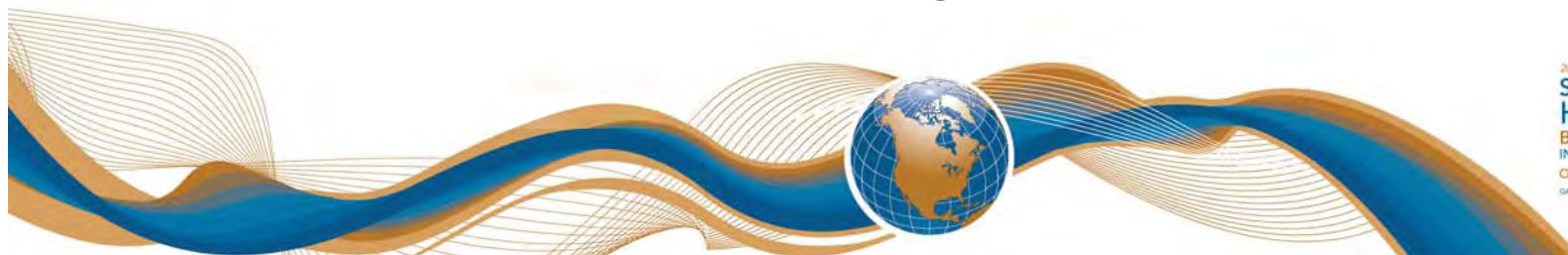
## The USA-Caribbean Alliance for Health Disparities Research Program (US-CAHDR)

- Innovative Partnership
  - The Sullivan Alliance (SA) to Transform the Health Professions
  - The University of the West Indies (UWI)
- USCAHDR's vision of success is framed by the Institute of Medicine 2009 Report's recommendation that US governmental and nongovernmental organizations should improve global health disparities by:
  - lessening existing knowledge gap on health disparities reduction
  - building effective partnerships to generate global health research data
  - investing in value-added capacity building with global partners



# THE SULLIVAN ALLIANCE TO TRANSFORM THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

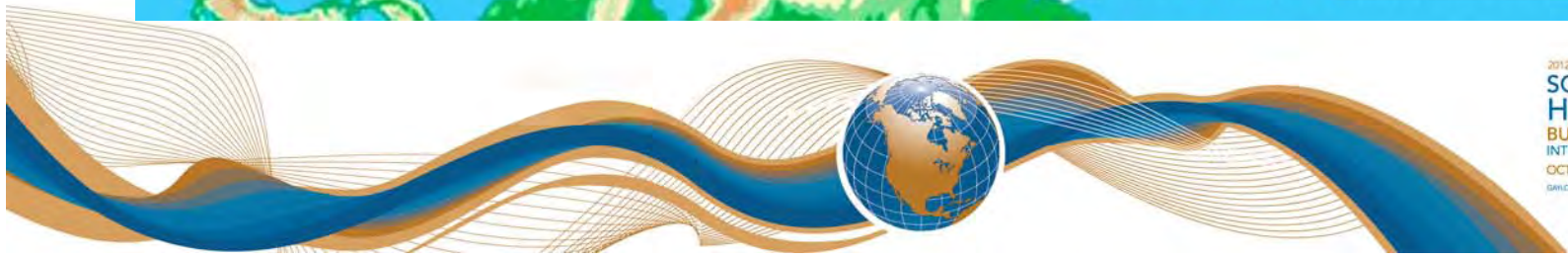
- 2005: Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, formed *The Sullivan Alliance to Transform the Health Professions* .
- 2011: *The Alliance* was registered as a 501c.3 non-profit organization
- Sullivan Alliance's mission is:
  - to drive US national-international health disparities research agenda through partnerships with health professionals, academia, governmental-nongovernmental organizations, and other stake holders.
- National
  - Five State Alliances: Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia-Nebraska
  - W.K. Kellogg Foundation: expand access to dental care by training mid-level dental health professionals
- International
  - The NIMHD-funded USCAHDR Program





# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

INFORMATION SOURCE: E. NIGEL HARRIS, UWI VICE CHANCELLOR,  
USCAHDR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 2011



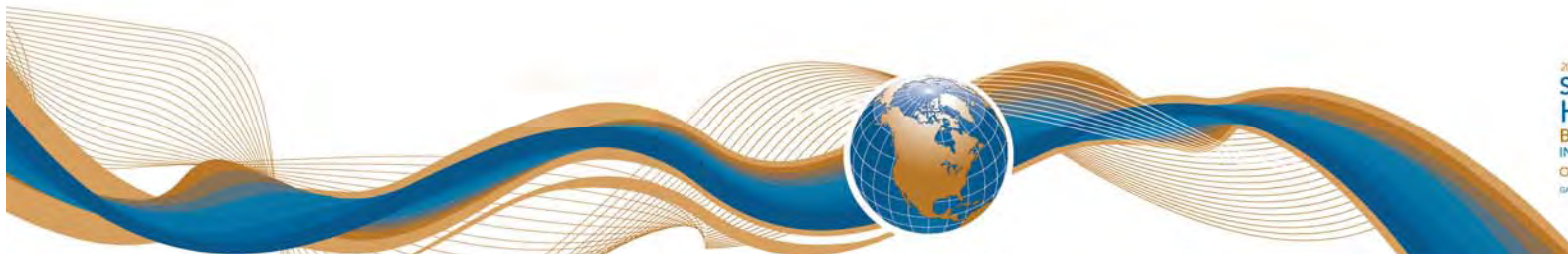
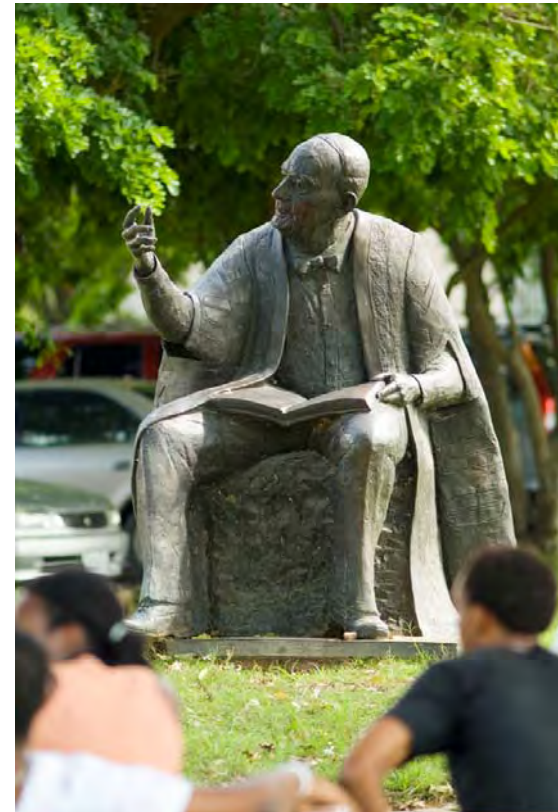
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# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

INFORMATION SOURCE: E. NIGEL HARRIS, UWI VICE CHANCELLOR,  
USCAHDR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 2011

- 1948: Established through special relationship with the University of London, England
- UWI is one of two regional universities in the world (University of the South Pacific)
- Supported by 16 sovereign countries with unique demographics
- Forty two Learning Centers
- Mission is: “...to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of West Indian society through teaching, research, innovation, advisory and community services and intellectual leadership.”
- USCAHDR Program located on two campuses:
  - 1948: Jamaica, Mona Campus
  - 1963: Barbados, Cave Hill Campus



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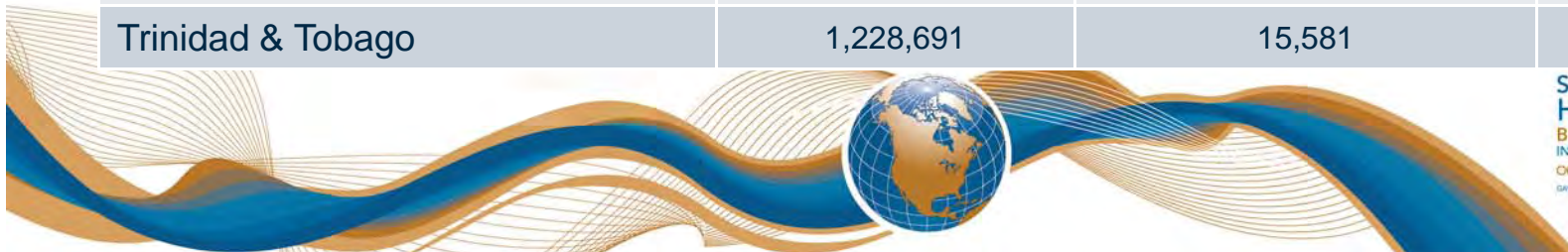




# UNIQUE DEMOGRAPHICS: SIXTEEN UWI PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES

INFORMATION SOURCE: E. NIGEL HARRIS, UWI VICE CHANCELLOR,  
USCAHDR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 2011

	Population Estimates	GDP Per Capita 2009 (IMF estimate) US\$	2009 - Human Dev. Index (Composite of life expectancy, education, and income indices to rank countries)
Antigua & Barbuda	86,754	13,852	47
Bahamas	310,426	21,529	52
<b>Barbados</b>	<b>285,653</b>	<b>13,003</b>	<b>37</b>
Belize	314,522	4,045	93
Dominica	72,813	4,949	73
Grenada	107,818	5,969	74
<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>2,847,232</b>	<b>4,390</b>	<b>100</b>
Saint Lucia	160,922	5,671	69
St. Kitts & Nevis	49,898	10,315	62
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	104,217	5,291	91
Trinidad & Tobago	1,228,691	15,581	64

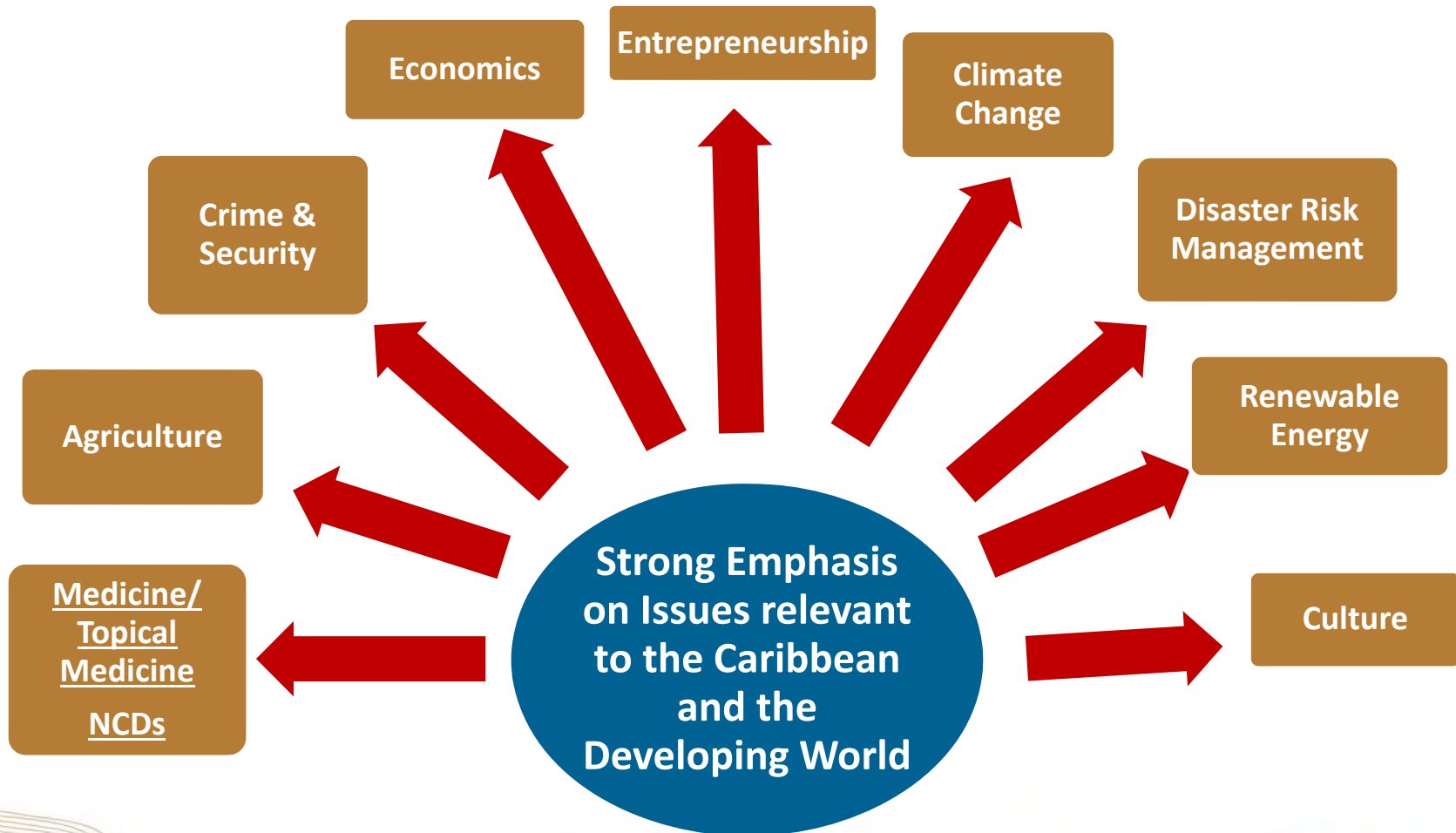


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# REGIONAL ISSUES DRIVING UWI AGENDA

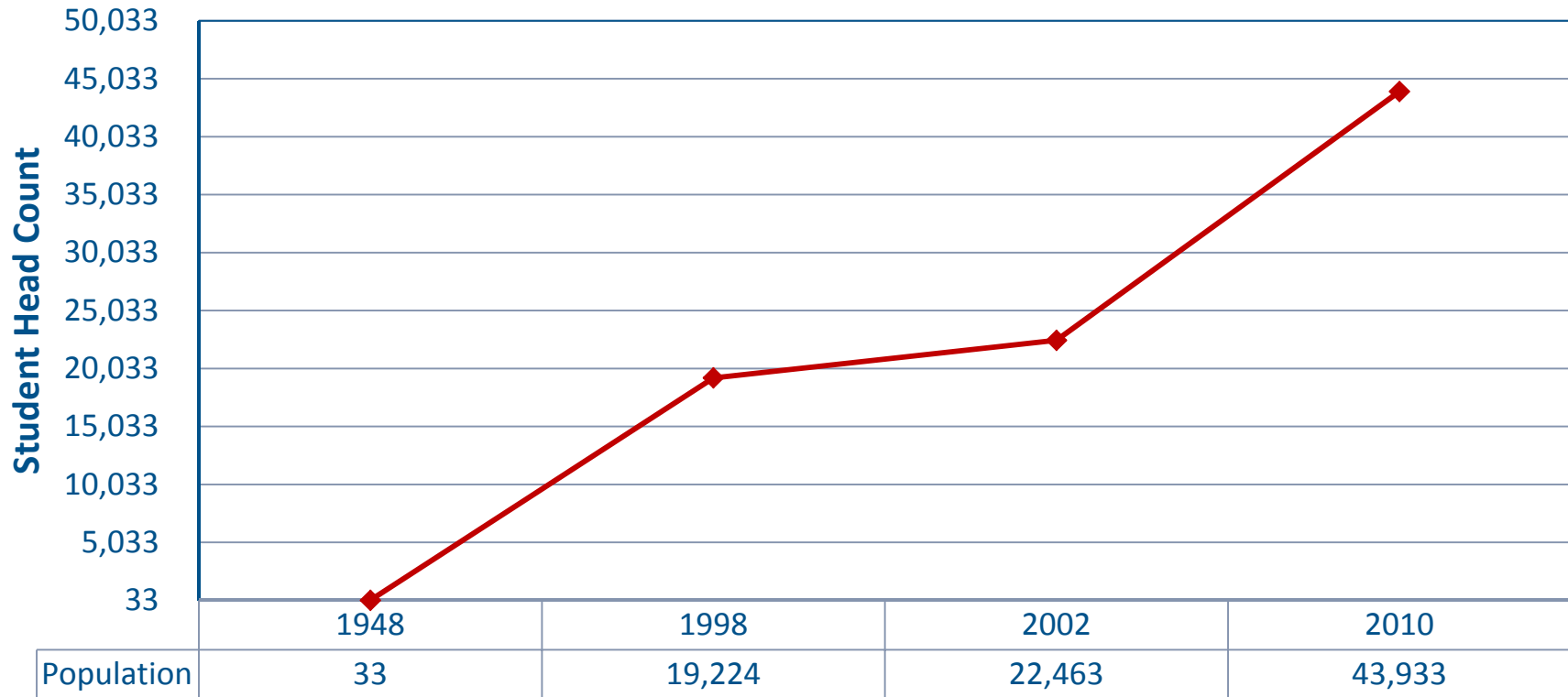
INFORMATION SOURCE: E. NIGEL HARRIS, UWI VICE CHANCELLOR,  
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# UWI ENROLMENT TREND: 2010

INFORMATION SOURCE: E. NIGEL HARRIS, UWI VICE CHANCELLOR,  
USCAHDR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 2011

## Population



## Year





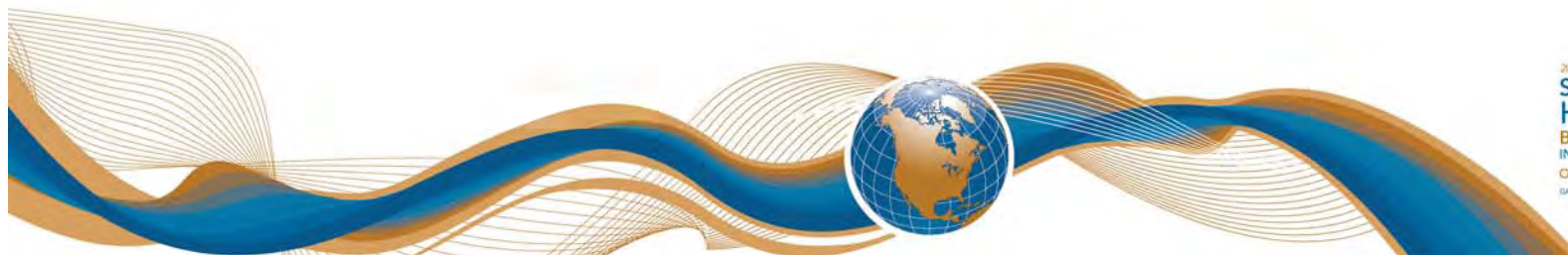
# USCAHDR PROGRAM GOALS

## GOALS:

- To conduct epidemiological research to ascertain similarities and differences among English speaking US and Caribbean populations of African descent.
- To explore how this research knowledge advances current understanding of the relationships among health determinants –history-ancestry, health practices, lifestyles and health disparities in the US and the Caribbean.

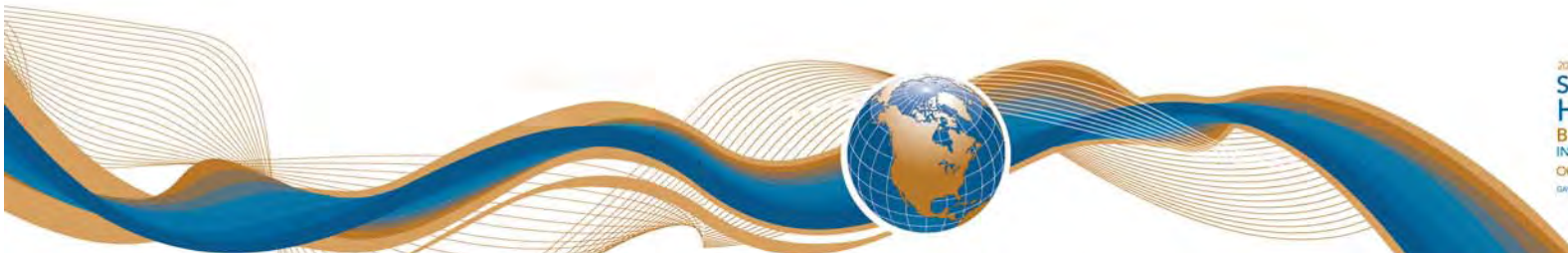
## THREE SPECIFIC AIMS:

- To build a synergistic, public-private consortium with the Sullivan Alliance (SA) and the University of the West Indies to **conduct health disparities research** on the role of social determinants – ancestry, language, indigenous health practices, lifestyles and socioeconomic status in determining health status and health outcomes among Caribbean and US populations.



# SPECIFIC AIMS

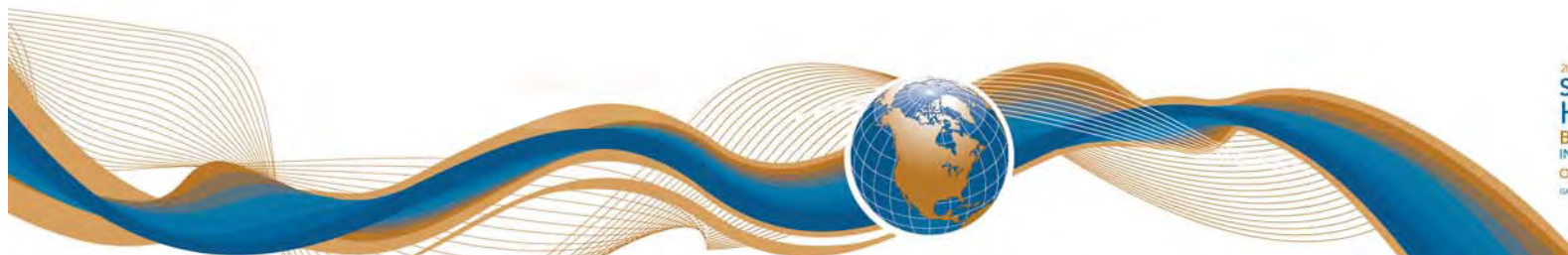
- To enhance the development of US-Caribbean researchers/scientists (epidemiologists, educators, biostatisticians, health professionals) and add-value to research capacities at the SA and the UWI.
- To establish a global health disparities E-Platform that adds content-value to the UWI's broadband platforms and disseminates research materials globally.



# PROGRAM STRATEGY

## OVERALL PLAN

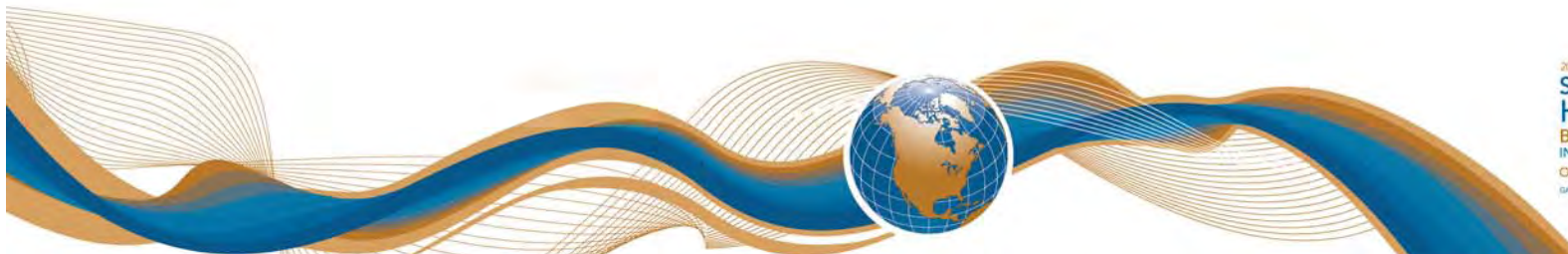
- Four organizing principles undergird USCAHDR's program plan:
  - A phased development approach over the five-year funding span
  - Early partnership building activities to facilitate synergy, collegiality, and commitment to achieving USCAHDR program goal
  - Value-added approaches to develop research capacities including E-Platforms for sustained communication among USCAHDR researchers and global access to Caribbean health disparities research
  - Strong focus on research results and sustainability
  - Dissemination of new USCAHDR research information



# EXPECTED OUTCOMES

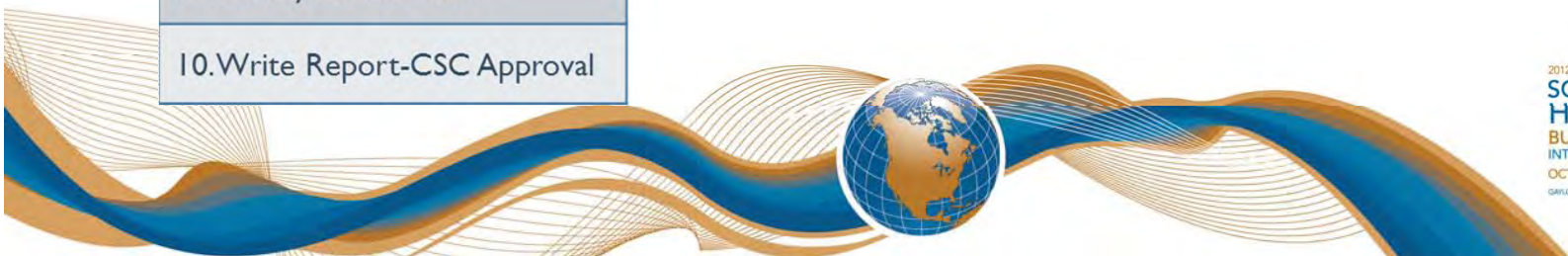
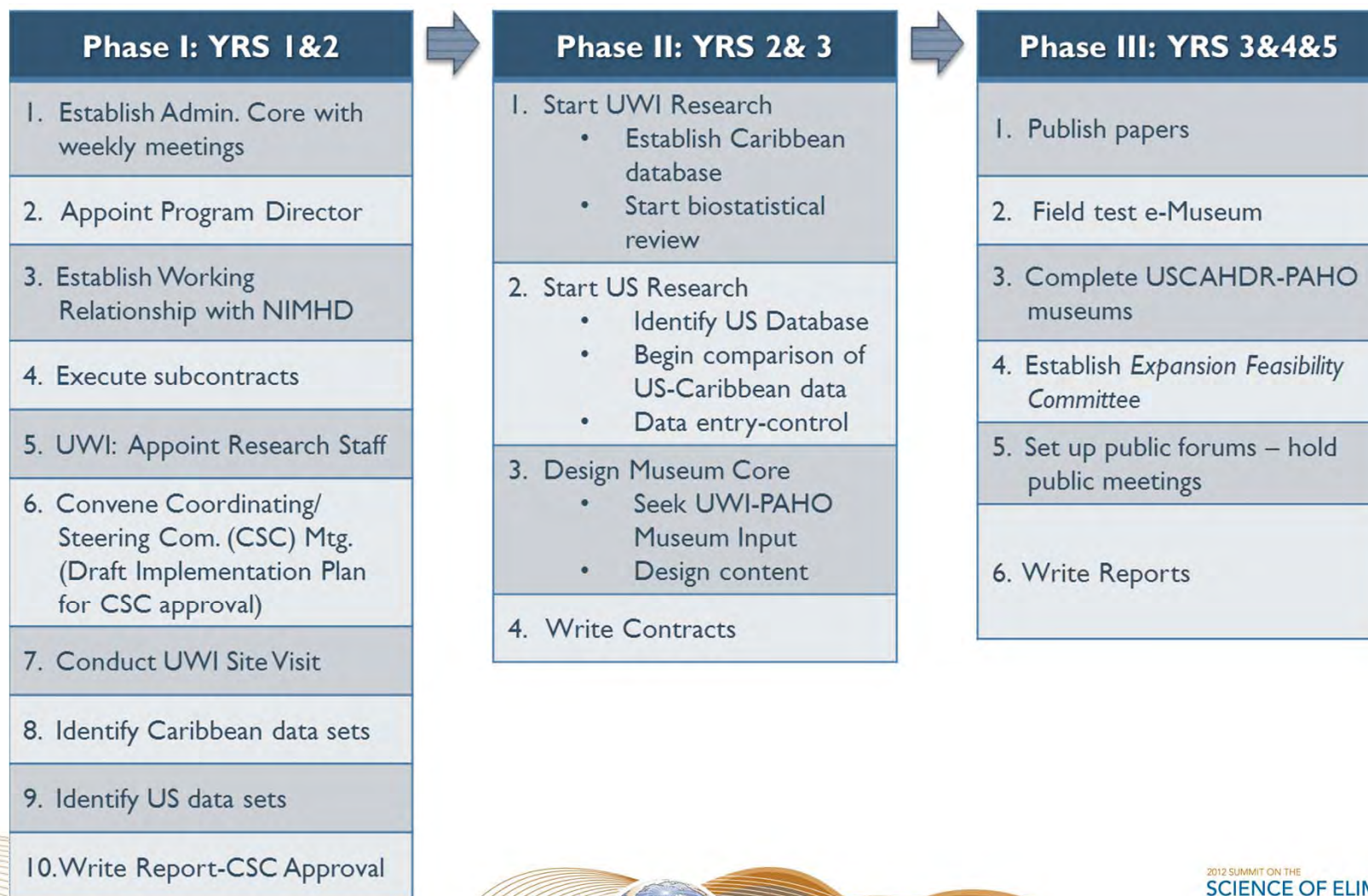
## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. A novel, sustainable US – Caribbean global health research consortium
2. A research program that facilitates ongoing global health disparities reduction research and knowledge transfer to and from the USA and Caribbean regions.
3. Peer-reviewed research publications that:
  - identify “gaps” in the current knowledge base of health status and health outcomes in African American and Caribbean populations
  - clarify emerging demographic increases in non communicable, chronic diseases (NCDs) in the Caribbean
  - inform global health disparities research scientists about shared disparities demographics among Caribbean and US populations.
4. A value-added E-Platform that builds research infrastructure at the UWI and the Sullivan Alliance





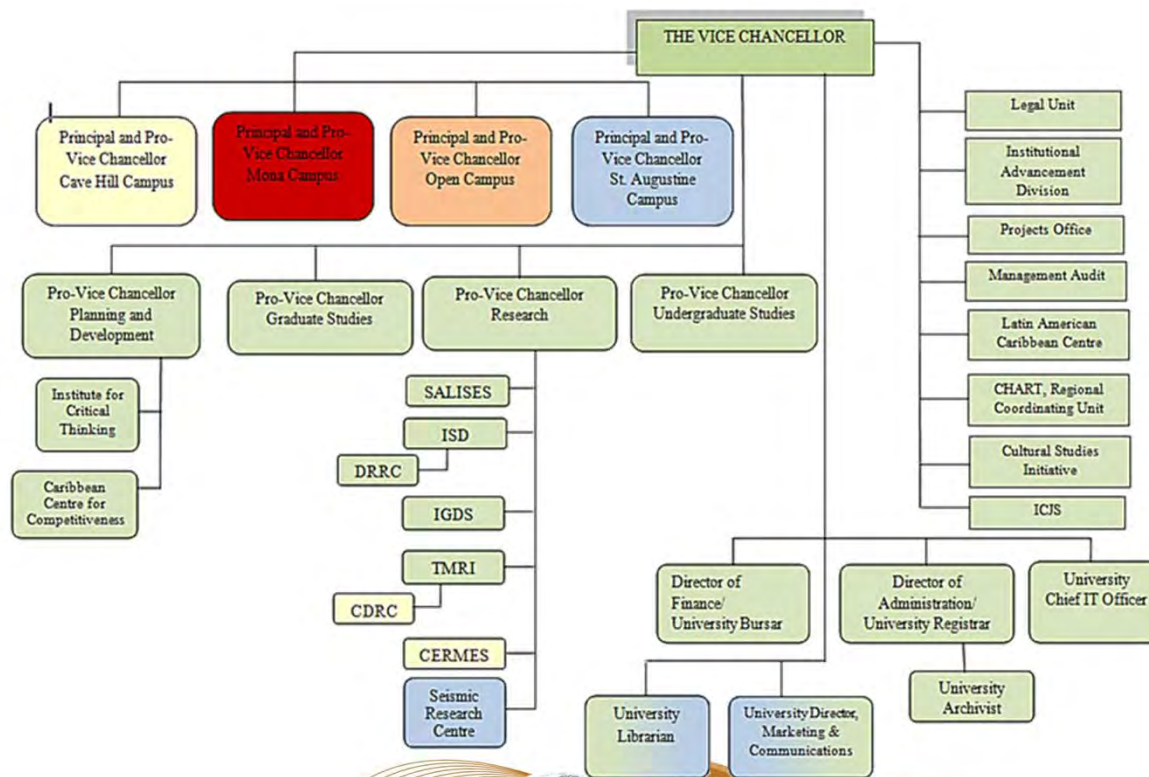
# SHARED VISION: PROJECT ROADMAP



# FRAMING SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL GOVERNMENTAL-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

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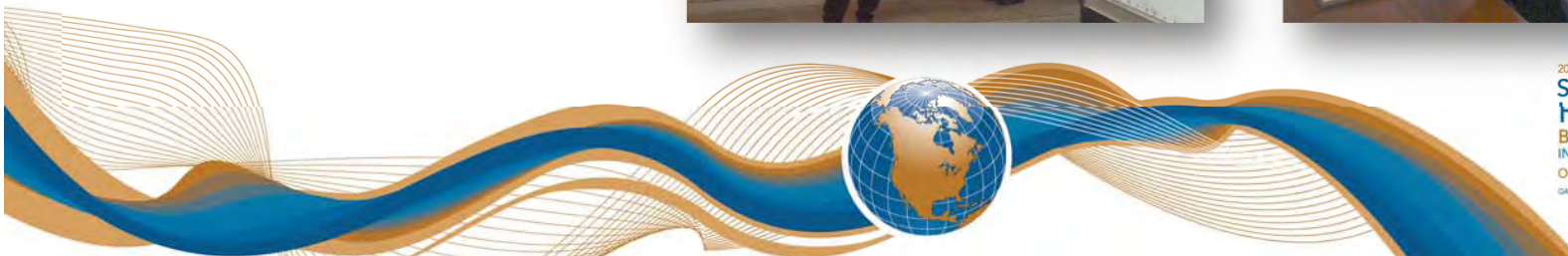
- ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS must include leadership at the highest levels (UWI Vice Chancellor Harris and SA CEO Sullivan)
- Example: UWI Vice Chancellery Organizational Chart





# LINK CULTURE, STRATEGY, EXECUTION

## SITE VISIT – APRIL 2011



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# BUILD WINNING TEAMS

USCAHDR-UWI research teams located on two UWI campuses

- **Jamaica, Mona Campus**

- Rainford Wilks, MBBS, D.M., M.Sc., FRCP, Team Leader
- Trevor Ferguson, MB. BS, Ph.D.
- Novi Younger, Ph.D.
- Damian Francis, M.Sc.
- Brigitte Collins, MS
- Nadia Bennett, Ph.D.

- **Barbados Team**

- Anselm Hennis, MB.BS, M.Sc., Ph.D., FRCP, Team Leader
- Ian Hambleton, Ph.D.
- Christopher Hassell, Ph.D.
- Lynda Williams, Ph.D



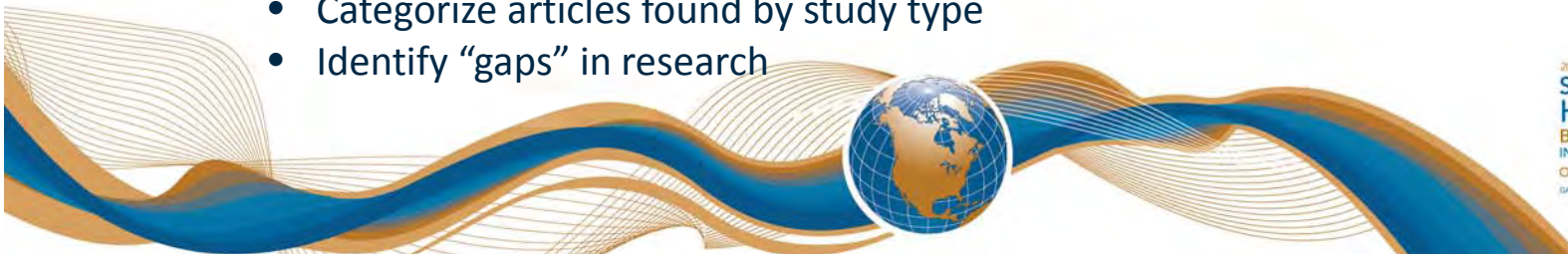


# SUCCESSSES

## Three Major Programs: Evidence, Analysis, E-Platform

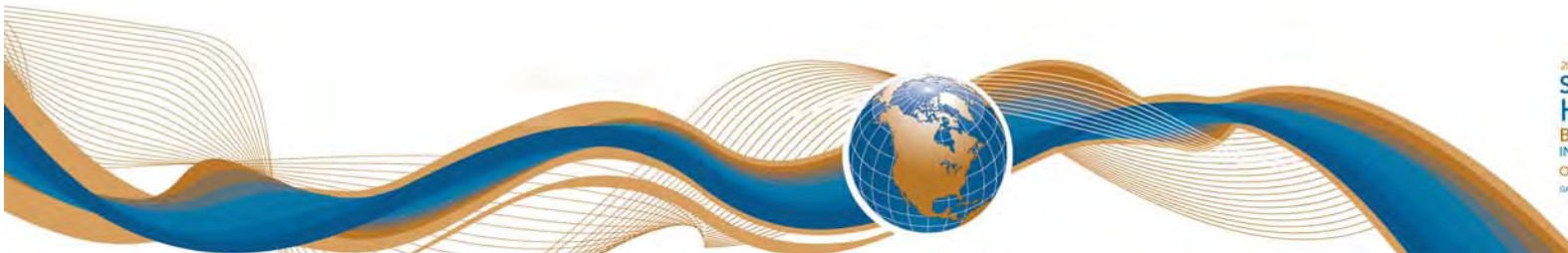
- **Evidence Program**

- Goal is to do a systematic review of literature on health disparities in the Caribbean
- Research Protocols will focus on 6 disease domains:
  - CVD (incl. heart disease, stroke)
  - Hypertension
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Chronic lung disease
  - Cancer
  - Depression
- Reviews will identify research gaps to guide further work
- Systematic Review will produce three peer-reviewed papers (Year 2)
- Systematic Review to date:
  - 3,000 hits from literature search algorithms
  - 300 articles – titles-abstracts - 170 journals
- Findings will
  - Show a summary of review findings
  - Categorize articles found by study type
  - Identify “gaps” in research



# SUCCESSSES

- **Analysis Program**
  - Analysis of seven Caribbean datasets (Other dataset are under consideration )
  - Include epidemiological investigations of health issues and national health surveys
    - Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey I (2000 – 2001)
    - Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey II (2007 – 2008)
    - Spanish Town Survey and Cohort Study of Chronic Diseases (1999 et seq)
    - Jamaica 1986 Birth Cohort (1986 – present)
    - Jamaica Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey in 15 – 19 year olds (2006);
    - Barbados Register of Strokes 2001-2003
    - Barbados Component : Survey on Health, Well-Being and Aging in Latin America & the Caribbean
      - (SABE) 2000 conducted 1999-2000
- **Analysis Protocol (s)**
  - First Protocol will focus on “Within-Caribbean” analyses
  - Second Protocol will reflect US-Caribbean comparisons and will be developed in year 3



# SUCCESSSES

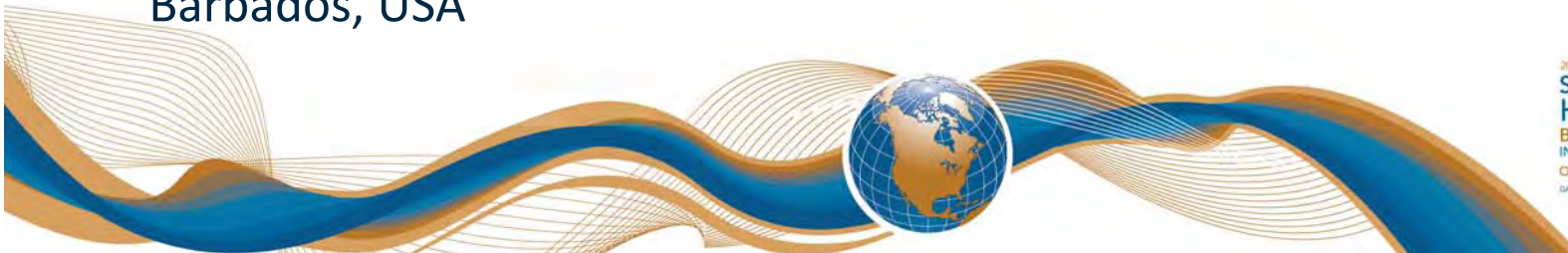
- **Data Repository E-Platform**
- Goal: to build research capacity at SA and the UWI
- Strategy:
  - A working group has been established (UWI –SA)
  - Will link with NIMHD-funded program, Eastern Caribbean *Health Outcomes and Research Network*
  - Online Document Management (AlFresco) system in place for internal document sharing
  - E-Platform research content will include:
    - Human Subjects Protection
    - Training: Ethical and Legal Issues in Global Health Research
    - Researchers Responsibility to Communities
    - Institutional Review Board (IRB) Requirements for Reviewing International Projects
    - Informed Consent for International Health Disparities research
    - Challenges in Conducting Multi-center Global Health Research
    - Conflict of Interest
    - Study Monitoring and Regulatory Compliance for Global Health Research
    - Protection of Vulnerable Populations
  - UWI *DataBank* (SALISES) will serve as online data repository for UWI



# CHALLENGES

## Year One – Organizational Structure and Behavior

- Listening, respecting and understanding nuances of respective indigenous culture (s)
- Coordinating highly differentiated units within the project
- Managing contractual complexity with distinct nations (Jamaica – Barbados)
- Maintaining clearly articulated common vision, careful team composition,
- Establishing guidelines for deploying scarce resources (e.g. journals, UWI logo)
- Managing international copyright issues
- Capitalizing on new “open source software”- collective intelligence to build E-Platform
- Facilitating constant communication among USCAHDR principals in Jamaica, Barbados, USA





# INNOVATIONS

- New knowledge to advance current understanding of the relationships among determinants of health: history-ancestry, health practices, and life styles and health disparities in the US and the Caribbean.
- An innovative “roadmap – new approaches” for building global health disparities reduction consortia.
- “New science” (data and approaches) for reconfiguring global health global health disparities reduction research targets



# USCAHDR TEAMS

## UWI Research Teams

### **Jamaica, Mona Campus**

- Rainford Wilks, MBBS, D.M., M.Sc., FRCP, Team Leader
- Trevor Ferguson, MB. BS, Ph.D.
- Novi Younger, Ph.D.
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- Ian Hambleton, Ph.D.
- Christopher Hassell, Ph.D.
- Lynda Williams, Ph.D.

## SA-Administrative Team

- Marlene MacLeish, Ed. D., Project Director
- Robin Carle, BA, SA, Chief Operations Officer
- Kathleen Cleary, SA,
- Patrick Mills, M.S.,
- Walter Sullivan, Ph.D.,
- Ilana Mittan, Ph.D.

## **USCAHDR Steering Committee**

- Louis W. Sullivan, MD, Principal Investigator
- E. Nigel Harris, MD, Vice Chancellor, (UWI)
- Nigel Unwin, BM, BCh., M.Sc., DM, FRCP, FFPH, (UWI)
- Claudia R. Baquet, MD, MPH, Univ. Maryland Baltimore (UMB) School of Medicine

