

FEATURES

Making Alzheimer's a top priority

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THE fourth Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) Non-Latin Caribbean conference on Alzheimer's and Other Dementias was described as "a resounding success" by Ann Smith, president of the Alzheimer's Association of TT (AzATT).

This conclusion is based on feedback from three executives of ADI, representatives of the 11 Caribbean islands and territories, and many other participants and members who attended.

The conference took place at the Radisson Trinidad Hotel, Wrightson Road in Port-of-Spain from June 8 to 10 and focused on Dementia in the Caribbean: No time to Lose.

Marc Wortmann, outgoing ADI execu-



Presenter Natacha Jones is at left, while seated are Dale Goldhawk, ADI vice chairman (left); Norma In- niss, founder AzATT; President Anthony Carmona; Ann Smith, president AzATT; Dr Raymond Jessurun, ADI regional representative for international organisations; and Terrence Deyalsingh, Minister of Health.

utive director, commented on "the high level support from the TT Government and good progress on collaboration in the region."

Raymond Jessurun, ADI regional representative to international organisations stated: "I can compare as I have been involved in organising four of these events. Each one was unique. Yours, the fourth regional was unique and great."

Says Smith: "We can say without a doubt that the main objectives of the conference

those from across the region and many contributors from TT were heard.

Minister of Health Terrence Deyalsingh gave his commitment that Alzheimer's disease/dementia would be addressed as a national priority with no time to lose and committed to working with AzATT to develop the first national dementia plan in the Caribbean.

Having declared himself AzATT's "new best friend", and that his "door is open", Smith said she will be holding the minister to this promise and in the coming weeks will

write him outlining the areas to be addressed. She will then meet with him to present the recommended actions for a national dementia strategy in the Caribbean, as identified by the conference working groups.

"While each day of the conference was productive, says Smith, "Friday which was specifically aimed at caregivers, was very well received by attendees. It was very lively and interactive.

"So we are very pleased with the outcome though, as a result, our work has only just begun."