



FOREWORD



*Professor the
Hon. Kenneth O. Hall
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
and Principal
The University of the West
Indies, Mona*

Throughout the history of mankind, the thirst for knowledge and the need for a better understanding of our environment have been the driving forces behind our impressive array of achievements. Today, the need to encourage and sustain this thirst for new knowledge takes on an added significance given the many political, social, economic and technological challenges attending our very existence globally. These challenges are even more pronounced when examined within the context of the Caribbean as a region, given its history, size, limited resources and vulnerabilities.

The UWI, Mona Campus recognizes the centrality of its role in the creation of new knowledge particularly for the benefit of the people of the region, and has been increasingly adopting an aggressive research posture over the last decade. The Campus recognizes that it is only through research, whether basic or applied, that the University can truly hope to develop innovative and effective solutions for addressing the challenges we face as a region. Given this realization, the Campus established the Mona Research Fellowship Programme on January 16, 1989. The Programme seeks to provide financial support, whether through direct or indirect means, to facilitate the research initiatives of members of faculty, the limited resources of the Campus notwithstanding.

Over the years, an expanding range of research topics, straddling all disciplines, has been investigated by members of faculty. Many of these topics reflect the efforts of faculty members to respond to issues that are current and also highly significant to each and every one of us.

As we confront the unfolding realities of the 21st Century, the Campus has positioned itself to make research the rule rather than the exception. ■