

## Challenging the Immune System: diagnosis and understanding the disease

### Case 4: Martine- a college student's life is going in one direction, but the road takes a turn

#### **Part 1: Getting the call**

*For a few months now, Martine knew something was wrong with her. She had a fever, was tired, and had a constant headache. She thought, "How could I have not used a condom with him? I always am careful, but he pushed and got his way. What if I'm pregnant? I'm in college. I have plans. I want to go to nursing school. Well, this is it...the moment of truth. I could be having a baby."*

*After three rings, she heard a woman's voice on the other line. It was the nurse from her doctor's office. She walked Martine through the tests that they took when she was in for her check-up. She told Martine her pregnancy test came back negative, but she failed the initial HIV screening test. The nurse told her that this was a preliminary result, and that she would need to come back to get more testing done in order to make a conclusive diagnosis.*

*Martine dropped the phone and began to sob. She didn't know what to do. She didn't want anyone to know, but she struggled to keep it in until her appointment the next day.*

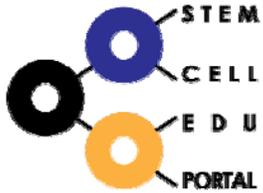
*After a second round of blood tests, the nurse informed her that she was HIV positive.*

**Questions:** before reading part 2, answer the following questions in groups. Jot down some notes while your group discusses.

1. What do you know about HIV? Where have you heard about it? Do you know anyone who is living with HIV/AIDS?







4. What questions do you think Martine will have when she returns to the counselor to talk about her treatment options? Make a list of some important questions you would ask if you were her.