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Editorial

Russell B. Pierre MB,BS, DCH, DM Paediatrics, MPH, FRCP Edin
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Director of Medical Education, Health Professions Education Unit, Deans Office
Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica



We are once again excited to present the fifth Issue of MEDULINK, Newsletter of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies (FMS, UWI). I am honored to be Editor for this publication and congratulate all who have contributed to its completion.

In keeping with the One UWI theme and philosophy, the current newsletter has contributions from programmes at the FMS on all campus territories/sites (Cave Hill, Mona, Nassau, St. Augustine). The mandate for the newsletter is to disseminate and share health professions education activities at any of the faculties of Medical Sciences in the UWI. To that end the current issue presents articles on Innovations in teaching, Research and practice, Assessment and Evaluation, Student Forum,

awarding Excellence and concludes with reports of activities and developments in the faculties.

This Issue is dedicated to the Accident/Emergency staff at the Rand Memorial Hospital and the Grand Bahamas Health Services, who responded fearlessly, tirelessly and unfailingly in the face of adversity during the ravages of Hurricane Dorian, September 2019. Undoubtedly, alumni of the FMS, UWI were among the early responders who cared for and addressed the concerns of those affected.

The integration of dental simulation in dental education is unique at the Mona School of Dentistry, the only regional dental school with advanced simulation capacity. Dr. Jones, Head of School articulates the pedagogical principles and outcomes in teaching psychomotor, ergonomic and critical-thinking skills using simulation in his article.



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The FMS congratulates Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden on her elevation to Professor of Pediatric Pulmonology and Clinical Research (current Director, Sickle Cell Unit, Caribbean Institute for Health Research). During the delivery of her Inaugural Professorial Lecture (October 9, 2019) she emphasized the importance of asthma and wheezing as a risk factor for severe outcomes in Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), the impact of genetics and triggers on persons with asthma and the critical role of newborn screening and early childhood care to the decrease of mortality and morbidity in SCD.

Prof. Alok Kumar has spearheaded the initiative to maintain and improve quality and standards in the Final MBBS Examinations. Through his role as University Examiner he collaborates with a cross-campus, multidisciplinary team of faculty to conduct successive workshops during which the relevant issues continue to be addressed.

The UWI 5-year strategic plan (2017 - 2022) identifies Alignment with partners and stakeholders as one of its 3 pillars. FMS, Mona has partnered with the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC) over the past 12 years to administer the CAMC Qualifying Examination. Prof. Russell Pierre describes the principles, process and outcomes of this important medical education collaboration with CAMC.

Excellence should be highlighted and rewarded. And in this Issue Excellence in Teaching, FMS, Mona (Dr. Sonja Williams received the inaugural FMS, Mona Teaching Award), and the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in International Collaboration – The

Globalization Award (Dr Peter Adams and Prof. Rohan Maharaj) are described in respective articles.

Student academic and co-curricular achievement are paramount, and the Issue reports on the 22nd FMS Student Research Day at St Augustine (SAG), Community Outreach Events by FMS Students, Cave Hill, and the recent Oath Taking Ceremony for the Combined Schools in FMS, SAG (1st of its kind).

The Issue is completed with highlights of key workshops/fora – 11th Annual Bioethics Forum 2019 of the Bioethics Society of the English-Speaking Caribbean; World Pharmacist Day 2019 activities at SAG; and the Community Health Nursing Workshop for Universal Access and Evidence Informed Practice Health July 22-25, 2019 at SAG.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions for this Issue of Medulink. Please feel free to [contact us](#). Best wishes and pleasant reading.

Acknowledgements

We are particularly encouraged by the editorial collaboration between the Centre for Medical Sciences Education (CMSE) and the Medical Education Units at each of the main Campus sites. Mr. Michael Khan from the CMSE, St. Augustine has again provided excellent graphic design expertise and advice. Special thanks for the support by the editorial board comprising the leadership in Medical Education at Cave Hill (Dr. Azim Majumder and Dr. Peter Adams), Mona (Prof. Russell Pierre and Prof. JM Branday), and St. Augustine (Dr. Bidyadhar Sa) campuses.

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Dr. Michelle Sweeting

Clinical Director / EM Consultant Specialist, Accident & Emergency,
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The Bahamas is located geographically in Hurricane Alley. Since 1990 The Bahamas has been the thoroughfare to fifteen major hurricanes, with devastating impact in the Northern Bahamas region.



Hurricane preparedness therefore, is a focused priority for the Accident & Emergency (A&E) at the Rand Memorial Hospital and the Grand Bahamas Health Services (GBHS), the region's healthcare system providing

service needs for the population of 80,000 residents. The siege of Hurricane Dorian in September 2019 however, overwhelmed our best preparedness measures.

Hurricane 'Lock-in' commenced at 10am on Sunday, 1st September 2019. Twenty-four hours later, at a distance, the loud and ominous rumbling noise encroached us. Dorian arrived. Winds of 165 mph, traveling at a speed of 1mph. Blinding sheets of rain coupled with King-tide ocean waters caused a massive inland salt-water surge; it flooded the hospital. We had to evacuate all A&E patients immediately from the facility. By protocol, the A&E vital equipment and personal items were secured to high levels as the staff awaited evacuation. Every A&E staff member was secured with an easily identifiable florescent arm-band and ID wrist-band. Cell phones,

passports, prescription medications and other relevant personal items were sealed in plastic bags. Floatation devices were readied as the corridors leading down to the main hospital were flooding, and water from outside leaked in under the A&E door frames and up through the floor drainage vents.

Two and a half hours following the A&E patients evacuation, the area was a sewer-contaminated swamp; we heard a shout from the darkened corridor leading to the main inpatient area. It was a call for A&E assistance to rescue patients from the flooding evacuation site. A few of the A&E staff stumbled through dark corridors in near hip-deep sullied waters to rescue patients back to A&E. The remaining A&E physicians

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shovelled, mopped and baled contaminated water to keep the flood at bay. Eventually, approximately 60 patients and relatives, inclusive of 10 critically ill patients and more than 45 staff members were crammed into the compact A&E department. Subsequently, we lost electricity; the A&E generator failed. We continued to manage patients by flashlight.

For the next 32 hours this was the new normal, as the A&E occupants remained under siege, stranded in sewer-contaminated floodwater. No electricity. No fresh air. No phone service. No water for drinking or sanitary purposes. No working toilets. No food. Yet this team powered through. Amidst the challenges of three resuscitations; a possible C-section looming; tending flood-related injuries of staff; managing presenting walk-in cases; and addressing the conundrum of where to house 2 brought-in-dead bodies. Food items were eventually salvaged from the flooded Kitchen!

The 'All-clear' came 10am on Wednesday, 4th September, 2019. Despite severe losses incurred by the team, A&E department became the Rand Memorial Hospital, a designated



70-inpatient bed facility, housing all in-patients for the next five days.

Hurricane Dorian was the worst natural disaster in the recent history of The Bahamas. The apocalyptic-like destruction of Dorian extended far beyond expectations and capabilities, and will remain seared into the consciousness of the staff of A&E and all those affected. A&E will continue its efforts in further enhancing our ultimate goal: to advance the necessary resources, functional responses and coping skills to mitigate the impact of the next hurricane in this new era of climate change.



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Dental Simulation Integration and Dental Education at Mona School of Dentistry

Dr. Thaon Jones
Head, Dental School, FMS, Mona

Dentistry involves the acquisition and maintenance of fine psychomotor skills, which are primarily movement-oriented skills that at first require focused concentration, but become automatic as competency is achieved. Studies (Buchanan, 2001) have shown that dental simulation use in education is important in this acquisition. At the Mona School of Dentistry, dental simulation is used, and forms one of the core philosophical tenets.

Simulation is focused in the Dental Practice Course, a basic dental science course, and augments students' transition into their competency-based pre-clinical laboratory and clinical training courses. The course rationale is founded in the



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knowledge that the transition from the basic medical sciences to the clinical dental sciences is challenging. This transition is enhanced when students are introduced to clinical practice indirectly, through practical and simulated clinical settings, before they deliver direct comprehensive care. Nine cohorts of students have completed the course.

Dental simulation was introduced after research in 2011 showed that it would become an integrated part of future global dental education. After a visit to the University of Minnesota, and discussions with a representative of AALaquis Limited from Trinidad, Dr Calvin Solomon, then an undergraduate medical student, two simulation laboratories with A-Dec simulators were opened in 2013.

The laboratories simulate the dental care environment with one containing twenty-six **Basic Simulators** which rely on conventional learning similar to manikin learning modalities, and the other with eight **Advanced Simulators** integrated with the **DentSim** computerized **Virtual Reality-Based Technology (VRBT)** software,

which is directly monitored and maintained by DenX Ltd. in Israel.

The course has evolved from a singular focus on VBRT, to a multi-focused course that introduces and integrates other core areas of dentistry. The DentSim software offers **self-evaluation** which develops students' critical thinking skills through direct and immediate feedback. Using this software, students are able to evaluate their preparations by sectioning the tooth, and by applying critical thinking skills, students learn to "see" inside the tooth. This application of critical thinking skills is the course's most important learning outcome since the more students can self-evaluate, the more they will be able to prepare future preparations with less directed supervision in non-VBRT laboratories, and in clinical practice.

Integrating simulation into the students' education is focused in two phases. Phase 1 uses **Directed Self-Learning (DSL)** sessions to develop basic **Psychomotor, Ergonomic and Critical-Thinking (PECT)** skills, using the VBRT software in the basic dental science course.

Simulation, by doing basic cavity preparations, is used to develop students' ability to prepare from basic shapes – rectangles and crosses, to basic amalgam and composite preparations. Phase 2 integrates specific procedure-based VBRT, and non-VBRT, lessons into the students' competency development in basic and advanced dental science courses, while enhancing the further development of PECT skills. In Phase 2 local anaesthetic, diagnostic imaging, and examination simulators, and restorative models are introduced.

Students prepare between 10-20 teeth per course, thus completing 70-80 teeth preparations before comprehensively treating patients. This is very important as patients do not want to have students "practice on them". The use of virtual and direct simulation allows students to develop confidence in their abilities, though it just makes them initially "Doctors of Dental Manikins".

As the students transition, the non-VBRT simulators further develop their competencies in amalgam, composite, onlays, inlays, crowns, endodontics, periodontics, and oral surgery, in

preparation for clinical training which makes them **"Doctors of Dental Surgery"**.

Globally, information technology and simulation continue to be developed as dental educators seek to match the millennial students' learning styles. At the Mona School of Dentistry we have embraced simulation as critical to student competency development. The goal is now to introduce the next level of dental simulation – Haptic, i.e. virtual reality, simulation.

Reference:

1. Buchanan, J. Use of Simulation Technology in Dental Education. Journal of Dental Education November 2001: 1225-1231

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Sickle Cell Disease and Asthma, the Journey

Improving Lives Through Research, Clinical Care and Teaching

Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden
Inaugural Professorial Lecture (9th October 2019), FMS, Mona



The University of the West Indies has a tradition of Inaugural Professorial Lectures. They permit the Inaugurée to share with their colleagues, and the general public, their body of work for which they were elevated to the position of Professor. On October 9, 2019, Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden gave her lecture.

The occasion, chaired by Dr. Alison Nicholson, Head of the Department of Microbiology, was initiated by prayer, followed by a welcome from Dean Tomlin Paul and Greetings by Dr. Carol Lord of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and Professor Dale Webber, Principal of the Mona Campus. The evening was enhanced by songs by Dr Colette Cunnigham-Myrie and a saxophone piece by Dr. Joel

Wright. The lecture was preceded by greetings from Professors Greenough and Wilks who spoke from a long-standing knowledge of Professor Knight-Madden's career.

The lecture spoke to her beginnings, her family and school life, and how they guided her towards her eventual career. The impact of family, friends, church and colleagues throughout her journey were highlighted. The choices made at each step of her education and the building of clinical and research interests were elucidated, as were the pivotal role played by mentors.

The meat of the matter was her exposition on sickle cell disease (SCD) and asthma. The basics of each was explained to the audience and this served as a platform to explore her research in these areas over the preceding twenty-five years. *Areas of*

emphasis were the importance of asthma and wheezing as a risk factor for severe outcomes in SCD, the impact of genetic load and triggers such as cockroaches and smoke on persons with asthma and the critical role of newborn screening and early childhood care to the decrease of mortality and morbidity in SCD. The facilitatory role of collaboration with Professor Anne Greenough, the SickKids Caribbean Initiative, the Caribbean Network of Researchers in Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia and the Ministry of Health and Wellness was acknowledged. The lecture provided a wealth of information for all listeners; more than 400 persons attended in person or through live streaming (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1_7ywHO7uo). Ms. Deborah and Anna Madden gave the vote of thanks.

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Maintaining and Improving Quality and Standard of High Stake Examinations Such as Final MBBS Exams

Professor Alok Kumar
FMS, Cave Hill

The Medicine & Therapeutics component of the Final MBBS examination is considered a very high stake examination. These are exit examinations and passing these examinations is an essential pre-requisite to obtaining *provisional* license to practice Medicine.

The final MBBS examination of the UWI, although complex and elaborate, is well designed and adheres to high standards. Over the recent years, concerns were raised about the lack of continued quality improvement exercises to keep up the standard of this examination, and that it had become repetitive, very predictable and non-discriminatory. A number of interventions based on the recommendations of the external examiners and our own self-assessment of the process were

planned. A two-day meeting-cum workshop on examination preparation and review was held in the February 2019 and two subsequent follow-up workshops in September 2019 and February 2020.

This commentary provides an overview of the process and outcome of the workshop, as an example of best practice in examination management.

MBBS Final Year Medicine and Therapeutic Examination

The Medicine & Therapeutics Final MBBS exam has two components, a written component which comprises two papers of single best answer MCQs and EMQs, and a clinical component in the OSCE format.

Pre-workshop

Detailed proposed changes based on the comments from the External Examiners and feedback from the faculty across all 4

campuses were developed and shared with all of the potential workshop participants. Repeated encouragement and reminders were disseminated to faculty for developing different testing items used in this exam – EMQ's, MCQ's, simulated case scenarios and fresh OSCE stations. A series of item writing workshops were held at different campuses to reinforce good practice in item writing.

Participants

During the February 2019 workshop, 27 faculty members participated (Mona 6, St.

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Augustine 6, Nassau 2 and Cave Hill 11). Additionally, the DME from the FMS Cave Hill also participated and contributed to this meeting. Similar participation was seen during the follow up workshops in September 2019 and February 2020.

Peer-Review and standard setting of questions

One of the major activities during the February 2019 workshop involved peer review and standard setting of the new EMQ's and MCQ's submitted by the faculty. Additionally, questions were extracted from the old existing question bank by screening all of the 1300 questions for relevant and good quality questions. Standard setting was done using the modified Angoff Method. Finalized questions (over 750 question items so far) were added to a newly created question bank in Microsoft Excel. Similar procedures occurred in the follow-up workshops.

Designing and adoption of a detailed blueprint for written exams

In this first attempt at blueprinting our written papers we used a three dimensional approach for each specialty with questions categorized into systems/areas, aspects of clinical practice and

cognitive dimension or the order of learning. *A newly designed fairly comprehensive BLUEPRINT for the written component of the examination* was adopted for use in our examination for the first time from the May/June 2019.

Peer-review of additional OSCE instruments and recalibration of old OSCE instruments

All of the OSCE checklists already in use were standard set afresh to re-establish the Minimum Competence using the Modified

Angoff – binary methods, and the marking scheme recalibrated with minor modifications in light of the results from analysis of OSCE in the previous examinations. A number of new simulated case scenarios (History/MSE/Communication) were peer-reviewed, for the first time, and suitably modified for addition into a bank of simulated testing instruments for future usage. *We now have a more varied list of OSCE testing instruments to choose from for the future exams.* An OSCE Bank for the simulated testing scenarios is being developed. Use of such

a bank would help us avoid repetition of testing scenarios and reduce predictability.

Discussions on the analysis of past examinations

Results from a number of item analysis parameters of the past examinations were presented and discussed in the context of assessing the reliability and validity of the instruments used in our examination.

These are to be shared with faculty involved in item writing and designing OSCE instruments for feedback guidance while we improve the standard of this exam.

Harmonization of examination processes

We developed a more detailed document with consistent instruction/advice/guidance to the examiners participating in the OSCE to be used on all four campuses, with some minor modifications where necessary.

In conclusion, this workshop was very productive. The common feedback from the participants was that exercises like these are essential to maintain high reliability and validity of high stake examinations similar to the Final MBBS Exams.

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The Role of the FMS, Mona in Meeting the Medical License Eligibility Needs for CAMC

Russell Pierre¹, Tana Ricketts-Roomes², Kristen Smith², Sharon Roberts³, Damien Brown⁴, Tomlin Paul⁵

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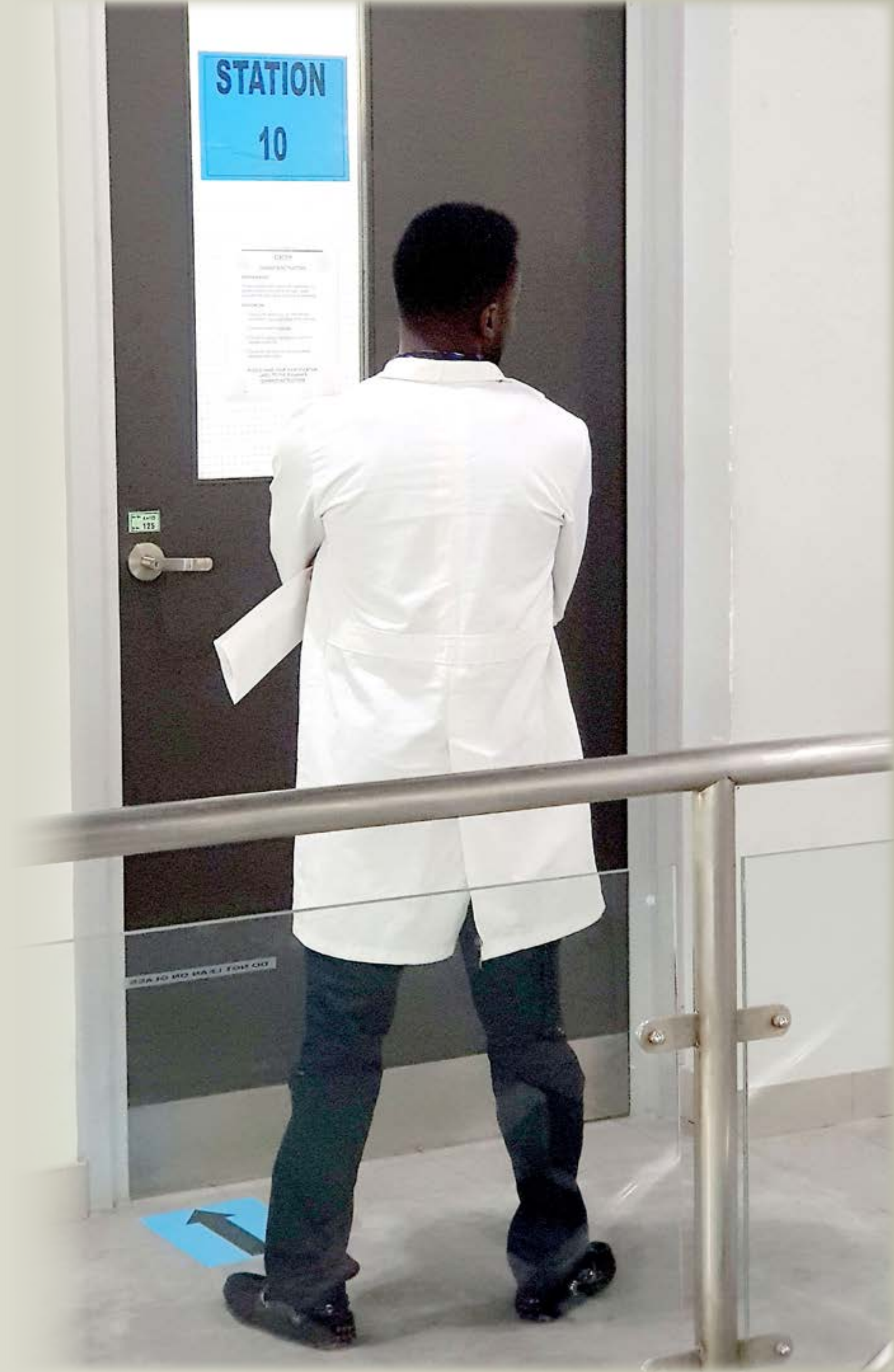
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The *Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC) Qualifying Examination* was established as a mechanism to determine eligibility for full registration by the CAMC, the medical doctor whose undergraduate medical training is not accredited by Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) nor recognized

by the various councils.

The *Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona* has provided expertise and consultation leading to the development, implementation and transformation of this high-stakes examination since 2007. In collaboration with a multidisciplinary and cross-CARICOM Regional team, the FMS, Mona has administered this examination biannually and examined more than 3000 candidates to date.



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Through these initiatives, the team has transformed the examination in congruence with modern medical education standards, while contributing to CAMC's mandate to register medical graduates in the CARICOM region and allow the free movement of the Professionals as reflected in the CARICOM Single Market and economy (CSME).

The current examination format consists the following:

- i. Part 1: two, three hour multiple choice question papers that assess the principles and practice of medicine in the major disciplines. The examination is administered electronically at approved centres throughout the CARICOM Region.
- ii. Part 2: the clinical examination consists of a multi-station structured assessment of clinical skills. The assessment evaluates clinical competence in terms of medical knowledge, clinical, problem solving, decision-making, and critical-thinking skills, and professional attitudes for the safe and effective clinical practice of medicine in the Caribbean region. All major medicine disciplines are evaluated.

The UWI Faculties of Medical Sciences and the University of Guyana are currently the two traditional medical schools in the CARICOM Region that are accredited by CAAM-HP (<https://www.caam-hp.org/programs>). Graduates from these schools receive registration for practice from CAMC and are *exempted* from the CAMC Qualifying Examination. A number of CARICOM nationals (and international medical graduates) pursue medical education from non-CAAM-HP accredited schools and therefore are dependent on the CAMC Qualifying Examination to determine eligibility for full registration.

The FMS, Mona has continued to fulfill this need since 2007 and this initiative falls squarely within the Alignment pillar for the current UWI five-year strategic plan (2017-2022), which is built upon three pillars — **Access to tertiary education, Alignment with partners and stakeholders, and Agility in effort** [<https://today.caricom.org/2019/10/21/the-uwi-climbs-to-top-4/>].



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Excellence in Teaching, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus

Professor Russell Pierre

Director of Medical Education, Health Professions Education Unit, FMS, Mona

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), Mona Campus launched its inaugural *Annual Faculty Teaching Award* in October 2019.

The inaugural awardee is **Dr. Sonja Williams**, Lecturer, Physical Therapy, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica. She presented a commendable teaching portfolio particularly in the areas of innovation, participation in curriculum design and development and student evaluation. In responding to challenging student outcomes, Dr. Williams created and developed teaching media (virtual tutorials; multimedia-enhanced teaching tools) which enhanced student engagement. Her use of technology-enhanced teaching is praiseworthy, and the resulting improved student outcomes are

the best objective evidence of efficacy.

She joins the ranks of previous trail-blazers for excellence in teaching in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, who have been recipients of the biennial UWI Guardian Life Teaching Award in the past few years (Dean, Dr. Tomlin Paul; Dr. Sharmella Roopchand-Martin; Dr. Helen Trotman-Edwards).

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona aims to promote excellence in teaching in all programmes (Basic Medical Sciences, Dentistry, Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery, Nursing, Diagnostic Imaging, Doctor of Pharmacy, Physical Therapy), through encouragement and inspiration with this award.

The FMS Teaching Award is exclusively for teaching and all related aspects of teaching such as

developing teaching strategies and administrative processes that help create an environment in which teaching excellence is valued and fostered, and linked to effective learning.

Faculty are guided to document teaching through development of a dossier/portfolio which should include key themes or components [Student evaluation, Peer evaluation and Self-evaluation of teaching; Teaching-related awards; Mentorship; Innovations

in teaching and assessment; Scholarly activity; Curriculum design and development; Products of good teaching].

We believe that this initiative will encourage faculty to strategically develop and track key attributes in teaching as they advance their career. We anticipate an enthusiastic response to the **2020 Call for Excellence in Teaching** in the FMS, Mona, Jamaica.

11th Annual Bioethics Forum 2019

"Bioethics and Emerging Technologies in Healthcare"

Dr. Kandamaran Krishnamurthy

Head, PICU Consultant, Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), Barbados

The 11th Annual Bioethics Forum 2019 of the Bioethics Society of the English-Speaking Caribbean (BSEC) was held in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, at the Cave Hill Campus on Sunday, 27th October 2019.

The Forum was organized and chaired by Dr. Kandamaran Krishnamurthy, Head, PICU Consultant, Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), Barbados. The forum focused on the ability to apply ethical principles in clinical practice, apply ethical principles in the conduct of research and to increase the knowledge of developments in Caribbean Bioethics. The topics presented were:

1. Research Integrity: Professor Paul Braunschwelger

(University of Miami/Senior adviser CITI programme)

2. Ethical divide in Legal vs Medical response to opioid epidemic: Dr Gretchen Watson (Clinical Psychologist, ROSS University)
3. Case Studies from Hospital Ethics Round in Barbados by Dr. Maisha Emmanuel (UWI, Cave Hill)
4. Ethical Considerations of End-of-Life care: Professor S Hariharan (UWI, St Augustine)
5. Ethical Issues of Artificial Gamete Facilitating Exploitive Surrogacy and Post-mortem Reproduction: Has Advanced Technology Gone Awry?: Dr Derick Aarons (Past President BSEC, Turks and Caicos)
6. Data Security in Health Research by Professor Ian Hambleton (UWI, Cave Hill)
7. Ethical issues in Animal Care and Use for Research by Dr

Thea Scantlebury-Manning (UWI, Cave Hill)

8. Achievements in Caribbean Research Ethics by Dr Mike Campbell (UWI, Cave Hill).

The conference ended with a Panel discussion on Ethical Issues in Research with Children moderated by Professor Alok Kumar (UWI, Cave Hill), Dr Michelle Lashley (UWI, Cave Hill), and Dr Liz Rochester (Consultant Psychiatrist, Barbados).

The event was open to the public and a total of 94 people were attended. Healthcare professionals from various specialities and students from The University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, American University of Barbados (AUB) and American University of Integrated Sciences (AUIS) attended. During the event, the attendees actively participated by sharing opinions, thoughts, and suggestions.

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Highlights of the 22nd FMS Student Research Day

Ms. Marsha Ivey

Department of Paraclinical Sciences, FMS, St. Augustine



Background

The educational programme at the FMS introduces students to the basic scientific and ethical principles of research including the conduct of such research. For over two decades the Public Health and Primary Care (PHPC) Unit has been exposing second

year medical and dental students to research methods, statistics and the techniques involved in conducting health research. This flagship programme of the FMS is a yearlong activity which culminates in Student Research Day, when students showcase the research they had undertaken from the point of developing research questions and obtaining ethics approval to data collection, analysis and interpretation and dissemination.

The 22nd Annual Faculty Student Research Day was held on October 3, 2019 and highlighted the work of 34 second year student groups (245 students) from the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry.

Research Day Programme

The day comprised a seven-hour programme outlining six thematic sessions covering the broad areas of: Cancers; Mental Health; Health Systems/Services Research & Dentistry I; Substance

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Abuse; Diabetes & Road Traffic Accidents; Medical Education; Diet & Dentistry II; and Women's Health; and Blood Donation & Climate Change.

Oral presentations were conducted over a period of 4hrs with each session moderated by an intra-Faculty personnel and presentations evaluated by judges comprising inter-faculty academics and external public health professionals. These presentations followed the typical conference formats with each student group having 10 mins to present their research and 5 mins to field questions from two judges and the audience. Posters judging took place during the breaks with students manning their posters and fielding questions from judges.

The presentations were rich and diverse with students going all out to best each other and receive prizes. The awards ceremony saw nine outstanding groups of students receiving prizes for best Oral and Poster presentations, one group winning an overall prize across all areas (project report, poster and oral

presentation) and one group obtaining the special prize for haematology research.

The research abstracts were published in a booklet and shared with the Supervisors, the Dean, Deputy Deans, School Directors and Heads of Departments, the Ethics Committees of the Regional Health Authorities and The UWI, and the Medical Sciences Library (MSL). The MSL also displayed the winning posters. Students and their supervisors further disseminated their research through reports to the Regional Health Authorities, and presentations at local and regional conferences'.

The experience of students are varied with some being motivated to conduct further research with their supervisors, others expressing a desire to do research on completion of their degree and others would rather provide a supporting role as they now valued the importance of research. Overall, they have found the experience, though challenging, very rewarding.

Research Day Prize Winners

Oral Presentation

1	Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices Of Drivers Towards Road Traffic Regulations In Trinidad, West Indies	S Dookie, M Dorset, D Dwarica, H Ellis, M Felix, M Ferguson, J Fernandes, K Foncette, B Sa
2	The Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of the Use of Medical Marijuana in the Management of Cancer	A Ming Hon, A Mitcham, A Mohammed, A Mohammed, I Mohammed, R Mohammed, S Mohammed, S Mohammed, Y Clement
	Parental Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Barriers Towards HPV Vaccination in Trinidad	S Mohammed, V Mohan, N Mohepath, R Mohess, J Moncur, D Moore, K Mosca, T Mulchan, S Motilal
	An Investigation into the Dietary Habits of Medical Students of The University of the West Indies, Faculty of Medical Sciences, St. Augustine	K Ramkissoon, S Ramkissoon, A Ramnarine, V Ramnarine, Y Ramnath, S Ramoutar, A Rampersad, EM Davis

Poster Presentation

1	Parental Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Barriers Towards HPV Vaccination in Trinidad	S Mohammed, V Mohan, N Mohepath, R Mohess, J Moncur, D Moore, K Mosca, T Mulchan, S Motilal
2	Screening For Depression in Cardiovascular Patients at a Tertiary Centre in Trinidad and Tobago	B Davis, S Davis, B Dawkins, A Dayaram, M De Freitas, T Deonarinesingh, J Dhanai, C Didier, C Jagdeo, N Seecheran
3	The Impact of Climate Change on Health Outcomes in the English-Speaking Caribbean – A Systematic Review	C Rampersad, S Rampersad, V Rampersad, V Rampersad, J Ramsaran, A Rattan, N Rattan, C Richards, S Maharaj

Overall (Project, Poster and Oral)

	The Utilization of and Satisfaction with the Public Healthcare Services: Experience of the Elderly in Trinidad and Tobago	J Lutchman, R Lutchmedial, A Mahabir, C Mahabir, S Mahabir, A Maharaj, C Maharaj, K Maharaj, C Alexander, MA Ivey
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Special Prize – Heamatology Trophy

	Follow-Up Study On the Knowledge, Attitudes and Risk Perception of Blood Transfusion in Trinidad and a De Novo Study On the Knowledge, Attitudes and Risk Perception of Blood Transfusion in The Bahamas	T Bain, H Baksh, T Beharry, A Bernard, C Bernard, S Bhagoutie, K Charles
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Community Presentations and Outreach Event by FMS Students

Anna Springer & Abigail Johnson

Year 1 MBBS Students, FMS, Cave Hill

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From the initial buzzing excitement when we first met at the church, to the end of the day, when we all conversed as a group, Saturday 23rd November 2019, was truly a fruitful and a well-planned day.

Our day began at 9:30 am, when most of us met at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus to make the short journey to St. John The Baptist Church. We all bundled together in our cars, anxious and excited for what was to come.

Our community presentations and outreach event commenced at 10 am, as persons trickled in to listen to the presentations being made by the first-year medical students. The topics included: adult and childhood obesity, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, mental health and domestic violence. The booth for domestic violence was assisted by the representatives from the National Organization for Women (NOW). Persons also came to get free blood pressure and blood glucose measurements done by the students who volunteered to work in shifts. These activities were performed under the guidance of

our lecturer Dr. Keerti Singh, who collaborated with Optimists Club of Barbados (North), being an avid member and Vice President of the club, she also planned and managed this event.

Persons listened attentively to the health information provided on pertinent topics affecting both the Barbadian society and Caribbean as a whole and offered their feedback and opinions on these issues. They also enjoyed their interaction with the medical students as the students performed the screening tests and often commended them on their diligence.

The day ended with the presentation of prizes, the best presentation went to the pair presenting on Non-Communicable Diseases, Risée Beckles and Abigail Johnson. Elan Harewood-Forde and Keith Gooding were awarded for taking the responsibility of safe commuting of their colleagues. The students truly enjoyed this opportunity to work together as a team as well as in enlightening the public on various factors affecting their health and well-being.

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Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in International Collaboration

The Globalisation Award

On October 16, 2019 Dr Peter Adams, Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus and Professor Rohan Maharaj, Faculty of Medical Sciences, St. Augustine Campus received the Vice Chancellor's Award for International Collaboration on behalf of the Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network (ECHORN) and the Yale Transdisciplinary Collaborative Centre for Health Disparities Research focused on Precision Medicine (Yale-TCC). Drs. Adams and Maharaj are both Family Physicians and have been Principal Investigators with ECHORN since inception in 2011.

The ECHORN/ Yale-TCC is a first-of-its kind collaborative research and implementation network in the English-speaking Caribbean. The network focuses on collaboration for health science research which is translated into real world applications including clinical practice and health policy. The group has received three US National

Institutes of Health grants, with grants under the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities, and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to the sum of US\$17.7million. The 2 participating campuses of the UWI will receive US\$ 3.1 million over the life of the 3 current projects. It represents two distinct levels of international collaboration for research.

Part one of the collaboration, ECHORN, was formally initiated in 2011 with a cohort study to generate research, training, and dissemination of information on non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The research network focused its study on heart disease, cancer and diabetes by recruiting and following community-dwelling adults to estimate the prevalence of risk factors associated with the named NCDs. ECHORN is a collaboration between Yale University, the University of Puerto Rico, The University of the West Indies' Cave Hill and St Augustine campuses and the University of the Virgin Islands. Barbados has contributed approximately 1000, and Trinidad 800 participants, to the baseline cohort of about 3000 people.

In 2016, its success led to additional funding for an interdisciplinary research consortium and ECHORN expanded to include the multi-

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core Yale-TCC collaboration. The consortium core of the Yale-TCC brings together health policy and community leader stakeholders to address NCDs. The implementation core prioritises enhancing the evidence base for population and community level strategies and programmes to address NCDs. The biomedical informatics core experts innovate on data sharing, to ensure that research findings are accessible to stakeholders to whom they are most relevant.

The ECHORN/Yale-TCC network is helping to address disease disparities for the millions of adults across the Eastern Caribbean, New York, and New Jersey with non-communicable diseases. The coalition, which includes the four primary academic institutions, draws on the expertise of more than 90 health researchers – site Principal Investigators Dr Adams and Professor Maharaj, research staff, community leaders and stakeholders representing 35 organisations in the US and Eastern Caribbean. It is an exemplary model for authentic collaboration in health science research.

The ECHORN/Yale-TCC network is supporting a number of subprojects. In the Hypertension sub-project, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, sleep actigraphy, and ecological momentary assessments are being combined to create phenotypes of hypertension risk. In the Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus sub-project, mass spectrometry is being used to identify novel biomarkers that could indicate disease development prior to changes in the Haemoglobin A1c or fasting blood glucose readings. There are also 2 pilot projects and a demonstration project seeking to reduce the incidence of Diabetes in people with prediabetes by using lifestyle intervention and if needed metformin therapy.

In 2019, as a direct result of stakeholder participation, childhood obesity was prioritised and a new study, Paediatric-ECHORN, launched.

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World Pharmacist Day 2019

Dr. Shamjeet Singh
School of Pharmacy, FMS, St. Augustine

Since 2009, The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has designated September 25th as World Pharmacist Day. The FIP advocates pharmacists to use this day to engage in activities that educates the public on the role of the pharmacist in improving health. The theme for 2019 was "Safe and Effective Medicines for All". This aimed to highlight the crucial role of the pharmacist in improving medication use and reducing medication errors.

The School of Pharmacy (SoP) commemorated World Pharmacist Day 2019 with staff and student participation in outreach activities. On September 25th 2019, The SOP was invited to Radio 102.7fm/TV Jaagrati for a live 30-minute interview on their program "Conversations". The SOP was represented by Dr. Rajiv Dahiya (Director) and 3rd year

BSc student, Mr Caleb Boodjarat. Dr. Dahiya addressed diabetes, its complications and control measures and Mr Boodjarat spoke on the active and evolving role of Pharmacist in self-care and medication safety. He also spoke of his experiences as a Pharmacy student and then explored the avenues of specialization within the field as it currently occurs in North America

Pharmacy Outreach

A patient education seminar was conducted at St. Joseph Enhanced Health Centre, Champ Fleurs (North Central Regional Health Authority) on September 27th 2019, where Dr. Dahiya addressed the public on diabetes and its management and third year students presented to the public on the role of the pharmacist in medication safety. They were informed of the services available to them via the pharmacy department and how the pharmacist can impact positively in disease management. This was followed by a Symposium arranged by the SoP - 'Safe & Effective Medicines for All' where the key speakers

were Dr Arlene Villarroel Stuart, Pharmacist (Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex) and Dr. Sameer Dhingra (Lecturer-SOP). Dr. Stuart addressed the gathering on significance of pharmacists in the public healthcare system whereas Dr. Dhingra spoke on the significance of pharmacovigilance in promoting medication safety in a healthcare system.

Cricket Lovely Cricket!

The School of Pharmacy hosted their first T10 Cricket tournament which was arranged by SoP along with the Trinidad and Tobago Organization of Pharmacy Students (TTOPS). The tournament was held on Sunday September 29th, 2019 at the French Village Grounds and featured four teams from Super Pharm, Eye See You Ophthalmic, a Pharmacy School student and staff team.

Fms Most Productive Researcher Award

Dr. Rajiv Dahiya, Director, School of Pharmacy conferred with FMS MOST PRODUCTIVE RESEARCHER AWARD 2019 by Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The UWI, Trinidad & Tobago during FMS Research Day, themed 'Equity and Equality in Health', at Hyatt Regency Hotel, POS (Trinidad) on Mar 21, 2019 for quality impact publications during 2016-2018.



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Community Health Nursing Workshop for Universal Access and Evidence Informed Practice

Greetings by Dr Bidyadhar Sa, Deputy Dean Quality Assurance and Head, CMSE on behalf of Dean Professor Terence Seemungal

Recall workshop on Community Health Nursing Workshop for Universal Access and Evidence Informed Practice" in collaboration with The University of West Indies—St. Augustine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The UWI School of Nursing (UWISoN) and University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre held in July 22nd to July 25th, 2019

On behalf our Dean, Prof Terence Seemungal, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this recall workshop themed "Promoting client self- management of chronic diseases through an evidence-based practice project."

Let me first state it clearly: that The UWI in general and FMS in particular believes in international collaboration and sharing of best practices in health care and education. Our collaboration with The University of Illinois at Chicago and PAHO/WHO is perfect evidence of our efforts in that direction.

Talking about Nurses, Nurses work at the front lines in all healthcare settings, providing hands-on care for patients and thus providing a data base on which doctors make informed decisions for their patients' care. Nurses represent the single, most dominant group among the health professions and are strategically placed to support the attainment of quality patient care. Further, Community health nurses, as primary health care providers, are ideally positioned to provide evidence informed practice that enhances the delivery of quality patient care and improves patient health outcomes. Working as a community nurse is unlike any other nursing position and a challenging job. By helping whole communities, community nurses act as educators, disease and injury prevention specialists, research scientists, community advocates, emergency preparedness experts, public health liaisons, and healthcare professionals.

The theme "Promoting client self-management of chronic diseases through an evidence-based practice project." is both eye-catching and thought provoking. Chronic conditions are the leading cause of growing healthcare spending, disability, and death worldwide.

The situation is no different for Trinidad & Tobago. Current statistics on chronic diseases in Trinidad are really alarming.

Chronic NCDs are the leading causes of death in Trinidad and Tobago; as such, they are a national priority. On average, approximately 53% of hospital admissions between 2010 and 2015 had an NCD as a discharge diagnosis. Trinidad and Tobago has an aging population and according to the 2011 census, approximately 13% of the population was over age 60; that age cohort was estimated to be 14.2% in 2015 and projected to be 28.2% by 2050. Hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, and heart disease are reported as some of the leading causes of hospitalization among the elderly. As Trinidad and Tobago advances toward a developed-country status, health problems seen in industrialized countries also increase - the most worrisome one being obesity: the

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country is considered to have one of the highest levels of obesity in the Caribbean, at 30.0%.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Trinidad and Tobago, accounting for 32 percent of all deaths in 2014.

The prevalence of hypertension in Trinidad and Tobago is high; approximately 29.8% of males and 23.1% females are affected.

According to a report released by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 2013, Trinidad and Tobago has the highest cancer mortality rate in the Americas.

Diabetes is another one of the most common diseases in Trinidad and Tobago and is responsible for about 14% of all deaths. As of 2016, 10.9 percent of men and 14.1 percent of women in the country are living with diabetes. Since 1980, there has been a

350% increase in the number of people in Trinidad and Tobago living with diabetes.

The Ministry of Health has adopted an integrated, multi-sector, public/private, “whole of society” approach to cope with the prevention and management of NCDs. Among the many strategies to be employed, one strategy, Supportive patient self-management is considered to be the key component of effective chronic illness care and improved patient outcomes. Self-management support goes

beyond traditional knowledge-based patient education to include evidence-based processes that develop patient problem-solving skills, improve self-efficacy, and support application of knowledge in real-life situations that matter to patients. The key word here is “evidence based” approach. And one immediate example of how the Ministry of Health, partnering with UWI, plans to roll this out, is the pharmacovigilance studies being wrapped around the Pharmacy Service at the new Couva Hospital. In this regard The Faculty would like to recognise the contributions of our own Dr. Ran Extavour, Dr. Sandeep Maharaj and Dr. Verrol Simmons who are contributing to this realization handsomely.

Chronic illness and disability can have damaging, even catastrophic, socioeconomic effects on individuals and their households. Through promoting client self-management of chronic diseases, we can avoid all these problems to a considerable extent.

As far I understand it, the current workshop is the follow up of the Five Day Workshop conducted in May 2018. The purpose and objectives of the workshop are clearly articulated. I strongly feel that at the end of 4 days of diligent involvement, all participants will have achieved all the objectives.

Last but not the least we would like to see research publication coming out of these projects in high impact journals.

On behalf of The Dean I wish you a very successful workshop!!!

Photos by Dexter Superville

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"I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE..."

Combined Schools Oath Taking: A First for STA-FMS!

Ms. Marsha Ivey

Department of Paraclinical Sciences, FMS, St. Augustine

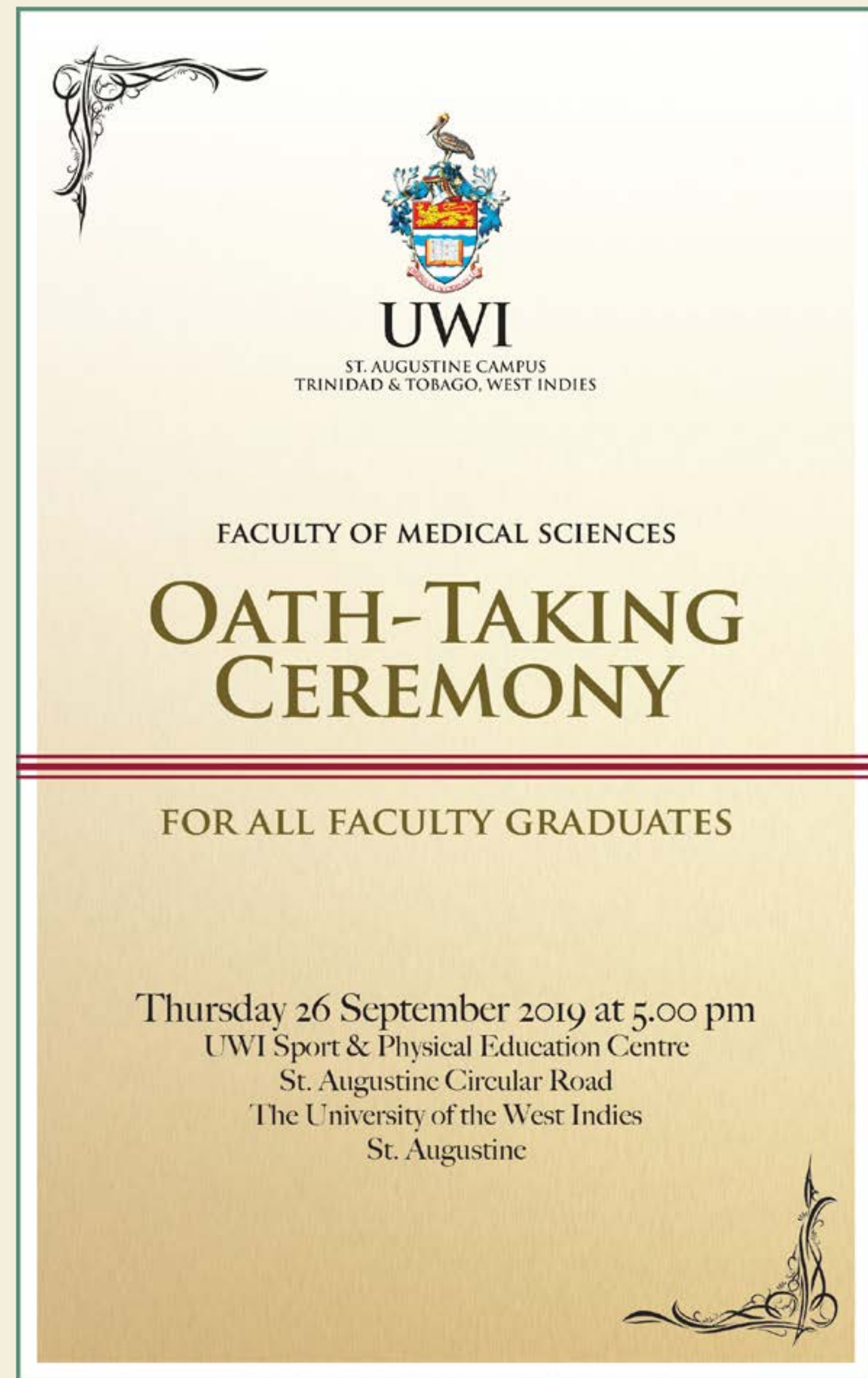
"I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE" ... September 26, 2019 marked a historic day for the Faculty of Medical Sciences on the St Augustine Campus; 331 cohorts of the Graduating Classes of 2019 participated in the first Combined Schools Oath-Taking Ceremony.

The ceremony saw 190 students from the School of Medicine, 27 from Nursing, 28 Dentistry, 62 Pharmacy and 24 from Veterinary Medicine achieve another milestone in their lives and celebrate a momentous occasion after years of hard work and dedicated commitment. The 2019 Graduating class produced 450 young professionals; the largest batch of health professionals ever produced by the STA-FMS.

In his remarks, delivered by Dr Heather Cateau, Deputy Principal Professor Indar Ramnarine emphasized that "being a

professional, especially one in the healthcare system, is not only about professional competence, but of equal importance is maintaining high morals and integrity in practice".

The Hippocratic Oath dates to circa 450BC and with the evolving challenges of Western medicine has undergone several revisions. The latest, adopted in 2017 by the World Medical Association, seeks to better serve the needs of the modern medical profession and maintain the highest ethical practice. The Oath provides in concise terms the "professional duties of physicians and affirms the ethical principles of the global medical profession". However, another revision will soon be likely as within the last decade and more recently in 2019, the impact of climate change on the human health and ecosystems and the occurrence of more public health emergencies of international concern have highlighted the need to move greater focus of care



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from individual to community and ecosystems; a focus on planetary health.

Professor Ramnarine charged students to “let the words of the oath be the compass for the professional decisions that you make on a daily basis”. As graduates transition into the workforce, there will be a moment of solemn reflection on commitment to the values and professional expectations of being a medical professional.

In his feature remarks, Professor Clive Landis, Pro Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, highlighted the value of The UWI medical education and the degrees earned from the institution. Over the decades, The UWI has strived to “assure the quality and the integrity of the UWI degree” by opening the institution to “external scrutiny by independent arbiters of quality”. This has placed The UWI on the world stage. In 2018, on our 70th anniversary, Times Higher Education ranked The UWI among the top 5% universities globally, among the top 3% in Latin America and the Caribbean and the #1 university in Caribbean. Prof Landis assured graduates that with such a sound quality management system, they should be confident “of the value and integrity of the UWI degree, that has met the highest



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international standards and is recognized internationally". He acknowledged the work of previous Vice Chancellor Professor Rex Nettleford and gave him credit for The UWI being "this great Caribbean Institution" and quoted him saying, "The University of the West Indies is the greatest gift of the Caribbean people to themselves".

This year The UWI produces another gift, a new cadre of local, regional and international medical professionals, equipped to deliver patient-centred and culturally responsive care to the people of the Caribbean region and beyond. They have been charged to continue the high standards and tradition of the Faculty of Medicine, to generate new knowledge, engage in research and strengthen the healthcare systems in their respective countries.

Congratulations to the 2019 Graduating Class and to the organisers of the 2019 Oath Taking Ceremony! This is YOUR University!



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Introductory Remarks

It is my pleasure to be present this evening to witness the cohorts of the Faculty of Medical Science's Graduating Classes of 2019 participate in the first combined schools Oath-Taking ceremony. I bring greetings on behalf of Deputy Principal, Professor Indar Ramnarine, who is currently out of the country on University business.

It is indeed a solemn yet joyous occasion as today's milestone event signifies the culmination of years of intense study, sacrifices, commitment, and determination. Of course, the unwavering support of your families, and the meticulous guidance of your lecturers were also key elements that contributed to your successful journey. The Deputy Principal has asked that I convey his congratulations to each and every one of you for making it to this point.

The Meaning of an Oath-Expected Standards

Graduates, the oath you take today should not be viewed as

merely a ritual on the path to practicing your profession. An oath represents the strongest possible commitment a speaker can make. By swearing an oath in public today, you are making the same serious promises as those who have graduated before you, in this country, region, and around the world. This includes some of your lecturers and the other healthcare professionals present here this evening. This oath sets high standards of performance and behavior to which each of you should always aspire to maintain.

As you publicly affirm your commitment to the values of your profession today, I want to emphasize that being a professional, especially one in the healthcare system, is not only about professional competence, but of equal importance is maintaining high morals and integrity in practice.

As young professionals, I urge you to always seek to uphold the highest standards of your profession. It is my sincere hope that you will demonstrate the qualities reflected in the oath that you will utter in front



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of all of your witnesses: your lecturers, peers, family, and supporters, regardless of your area of practice, or place of employment. Let the words of the oath be the compass for the professional decisions that you make on a daily basis. I know that you will make The UWI proud!

The Faculty of Medical Sciences as the leader of National Health Policies and Health Program Development

The core mission of The UWI is to advance and serve the Caribbean. Therefore, all Faculties, including the Faculty of Medical Sciences, has a crucial purpose- to serve the Caribbean region. Serving, in your field, entails addressing the health issues that plague the region. It is expected that all of the schools represented here- School of Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Optometry –will be committed to delivering knowledge, discoveries and innovations to guarantee the future health of our societies. As a Faculty you should see it as your responsibility to generate research that contributes not only to academic advancement but that which serves a catalytic role in formulating national health policies and programmes.

It is also important that researchers build collaborations

with persons who are most affected by policies as well as with personnel who formulate policies and manage programmes. Of course, in order to make a significant impact, the research areas investigated must be relevant to this region's societies.

This is already being done in the Faculty. One glaring issue that needs to be addressed is the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Regional health reports have listed the Caribbean as having the highest Non-Communicable Disease related mortality in all of the Americas with NCDs accounting for 62%-80% of all premature deaths (30-70 years) across CARICOM. At the Faculty of Medical Sciences, there are exceptional role models already conducting impactful research which tackles this regional epidemic.

For examples, Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh has contributed to the regional NCD issue by conducting research and innovating means for the early detection and treatment of diabetes in pregnant women and children. Also, Professor Terence Seemungal has spearheaded research into Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and other chronic lung diseases in relation to chronic non-communicable diseases. Indeed, it is commendable that in many



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other areas, academics in the Faculty who would have lectured and influenced you throughout your years of study are actively researching and publishing research that are positively impacting the territories in the Caribbean region, and the wider world.

Expectations of the Graduates of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

Graduates, even if you do not plan to engage in research, you have a part to play in advancing health care systems in your country. As medical practitioners, there is a great level of trust that is placed on you. It is expected that you would at all times deliver patient-centered and culturally-responsive care. Use the skills that you developed during your time at The UWI to function in the capacity as direct change agents, where, as practitioners, you assume key roles in initiating, mobilizing and organizing responses to issues of concern. You can even persuade and mobilize others to work with you in advocacy efforts that address health care concerns. Remember the quality of and respect given to your degree and this institution is inextricably bound up in your performance as practitioners and as national, regional and global citizens.

Concluding Remarks

Now ladies and gentlemen of the Graduating Class of 2019, today as you take your oath, I ask that you also promise to continue the tradition and high standards of your Faculty by working to enhance health care in your country and in the region, through practice, research and innovation. This requires a perspective of seeing yourself as integral to Caribbean development and transformation. I hope that as you aspire to be great medical professionals you will embrace this challenge as part of your profession pursuit.

On behalf of Senior Management, Faculty and staff of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, I once again say congratulations to the Faculty of Medical Sciences graduating classes of 2019.

Thank you.

Photos by Dexter Superville

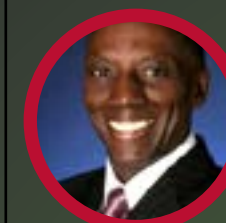


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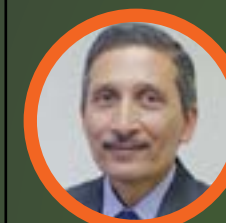
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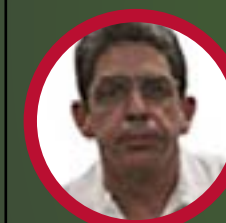
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Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados



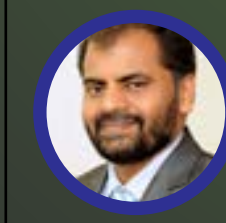
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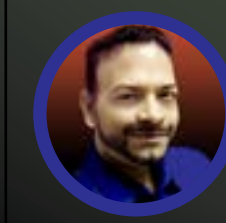
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