

GENOMICS IN HEALTH: MEDICAL, ETHICAL AND SOCIETAL MATTERS

About the conference

The Faculty of Medical Sciences of The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, has held 27 consecutive conferences to date. Regardless of the diversity of conference themes, over the years, the conference has consistently found relevance in the medical and scientific communities in Jamaica, across the wider Caribbean and the world as well as with governmental and non-governmental agencies and the general populace. Through its accumulative hundreds of presentations have emanated important policy-directed discussions and submissions.

The conference is usually presented in three parts: the *Scientific Sessions*, which highlight the wide-ranging, often times cutting-edge research within the Faculty and beyond and are not necessarily related to the conference theme; *the Main Research Workshops*, which discuss updates specifically related to the conference theme; and the *Ethics Seminar*, which deals with topical issues that affect patient care. At our last conference in November 2018, for instance, the Ethics Seminar focussed on **'Caring for the Vulnerable Patient'** with speakers addressing both employer and employee perspectives of legal, mental health, special needs and other considerations. The workshop also offered exciting and topical medico-legal, social and economic discussions on **'Violence, Trauma and Development'**, drawing the interest of many.

Each year, attendees look forward to the 'Sir Kenneth Standard Distinguished Lecture', named after a Giant of Public Health in the Caribbean and the Pan American Health Organization. Hence, there is a strong bearing on public health in this distinguished lecture delivered during the Opening Ceremony. The plenary lecture included as part of the Research Workshop on the Friday is also delivered by the distinguished lecturer but is usually more scientific. There is also ample opportunity to interact with participants.

Audience

- Faculty members as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students
- Medical practitioners and specialists
- Nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, medical technologists, dieticians and other members of the health team
- Policy developers of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Academics and students from other faculties and universities locally and abroad
- The general public