

Cannabis and Cannabinoids: Research, Opportunities and Challenges

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Faculty of Medical Sciences of The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, has held 25 consecutive conferences. Over the years, the conferences have been extremely successful. Last year, we had close to 900 registered persons attending the various meetings. The conference is not only for the medical and scientific communities in Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and the world, but is also applicable to government and the wider population as important policy-directed discussions and submissions have emanated from these meetings.

The conference has three parts: the Ethics Seminar, which deals with topical issues that affect patient care; the scientific sessions, which showcase the breadth of the research work of the faculty (not necessarily related to the conference theme); and the Workshop, which discusses updates specifically related to the conference theme. For example, last year's theme was 'One Health: One Caribbean', and the workshop examined the broad overlapping areas of zoonotic infections (microbial diseases, anti-microbial resistance, food safety, bio-threats, global health, and appropriate interventions), as well as clinical trials and exposure to environmental hazards.

The main guest speaker at this conference is dubbed the 'Sir Kenneth Standard Distinguished Lecturer'. It is well established that Sir Kenneth Standard was a giant of Public Health in the Caribbean/PAHO and so there is a strong bearing on Public Health in the main plenary lecture which is delivered during the Opening Ceremony on the Wednesday evening, usually lasting about 35–45 minutes. There is a second plenary lecture, which is more scientific and about the same length as the first and is included as part of the Workshop on the Friday. There is also ample opportunity to interact with participants and the media as the topic is an overarching area which affects so many aspects of our lives in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

AUDIENCE

- Faculty members and postgraduate and undergraduate students
- Medical practitioners and medical specialists
- Nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, medical technologists, dieticians and other members of the health team
- Policy developers of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- The public