

DEAN'S MESSAGE

The Faculty of Medical Sciences takes great pleasure in hosting the 25th Annual Research Conference and welcomes all our partners to share in the wealth of information that will be provided. This year's theme is "One Health, One Caribbean" and we aim to review health through a broader scope; evaluating the intersection of our environment, climate, occupation and the resulting effects on health. The extremities of weather have always impacted on human health and so too one's chosen career. Professor Anthony McMichael's paper "Environmental Change Climate and Health" in the Library of Congress describes environment as the physical, chemical and microbiological agents that impinge on us from the surroundings and cautions that accruing environmental damage and the ongoing deterioration of many ecological systems, requires us to rethink the way we interact with this environment.

The changes to the environment and in climate, means changes for the human body as well, at a microbial level. In the three days that the Faculty of Medical Sciences Annual Research Conference will span, we will delve into all of these thoughts; exploring the wider implication for us as a Caribbean. The younger generation of scientist, researchers and academics which we aim to motivate and involve through this yearly conference will have a chance to display their work as well as learn from our demonstrators. We live in a modern global society of interconnectedness that to a large extent provides greater strength. However, there is some level of separation in

being Caribbean, thus relevant research in this area is required from those actually in the Caribbean who are and will further become affected by these changes.

As we continue to focus on topical issues, the Faculty requests the continued support from academicians, as well as the private and public sector and the civil society. The purpose of these activities is to aid the wider public and to arm the region with knowledge that will safeguard the lives of the region and the wider world. As always, we are grateful for the attendance, and input we receive, from our alumni both locally and internationally. I do hope that this conference proffers information useful to you in your continued learning.

I must commend the Chairman, Dr Paul Brown, for his continued dedication to the committee mandated to organize this event and congratulate his team who exert much effort in coordinating and planning for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Annual Research Conference yearly. I must also thank our sponsors.

The activities which will occur during these research days are for the benefit of all and I hope that you will be engaged participants. I wish you all a productive conference.

*Professor Horace Fletcher
Dean
Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona*