

Formal Opening Royal Bank of Canada Lecture

Translational and Clinical Research in Gynaecologic Oncology: Opportunities for Collaboration

B Slomovitz

In conjunction with The University of the West Indies-Nassau, The Bahamas campus, (UWI-Bahamas) the Division of Gynaecologic Oncology (GYO) at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Centre (SCCC) of the University of Miami recently launched a twinning fellowship programme in order to best train obstetrician/gynaecologist (OB/GYN) physicians to treat women with gynaecologic malignancies. The ultimate goal of the programme is to fulfill an unmet need; to have more qualified, trained physicians to best serve and treat women in the Caribbean who suffer from women's cancers. Part of this relationship is and will be to foster and grow, a research programme that will ultimately allow women treated at The UWI-Nassau the opportunity to enroll onto the same clinical trials that are available at the SCCC.

The objective is to review the current research portfolio and highlight areas of opportunity for collaboration and to expand the access to these clinical trials.

In general, the GYO Division structures its research into translational, prevention, non-therapeutic and therapeutic trials. Many of these trials can easily be opened at The UWI-Bahamas: first as a screening site and eventually as a treating satellite. The current areas of research, translational trials in breast ovarian and uterine cancers, prevention trials in early detection of ovarian, anal and cervical cancers, non-therapeutic including registry studies and nature of the vaginal microbiome, therapeutic trials with immunotherapy and targeted therapies. In addition, there are many upcoming trials that will serve as additional opportunities for collaboration. As is our goal at the Sylvester main campus, our ultimate goal in our twinning relationship must be to have a clinical trial available for most of our patients who suffer from gynaecologic cancers.

Royal Bank of Canada Lecture

From Rubble to Conjoined Twins Separation: Evolution of a Healthcare Infrastructure to Support Paediatric Surgery in Post-earthquake Haiti

H Ford

In this presentation, we will review the impact that a major earthquake had on the health infrastructure in Haiti. The objectives of this presentation were to understand the factors that contributed to the massive destruction and high death-rate as a result of the earthquake; understand interventions that could have reduced morbidity and mortality following the earthquake, including the cholera epidemic; define the rationale for a National Trauma and Critical Care Hospital and Trauma Network and the steps for successful implementation and to review the importance of a solid healthcare infrastructure in resource poor settings when contemplating complex surgical interventions such as separation of conjoined twins.