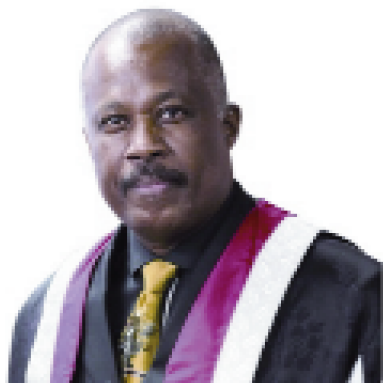


## VICE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

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Yale University, The University of the West Indies (UWI) and Jamaica have enjoyed a rich academic collaboration in Paediatrics for several decades. This began with the genetic screening programme for Sickle Cell Disease in newborns in Jamaica, permitting diagnosis at birth. This significant collaboration was forged by Professor Graham Serjeant at The UWI and Professor Howard Pearson from Yale.

In 1976, the cause of “Jamaican Vomiting Sickness” was linked to a known metabolite of hypoglycin A, which is produced by unripe ackees. This important discovery, which has helped to save hundreds or thousands of lives, was elucidated by Tanaka, Johnson and colleagues at Yale.

In 2002, Professor Richard Olmsted, a distinguished Yale alumnus, joined The UWI faculty at Mona as Professor and Chair of Paediatrics. He and Professor I George Miller Jr collaborated to facilitate postdoctoral fellowship programmes in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at Yale for Celia Christie, who returned to The UWI, Jamaica, in 1999 after some 15 years in the United States of America (USA).

Several students from Yale have since come to The UWI and completed their research projects in Paediatric, Perinatal and/or Adolescent HIV/AIDS, several bilateral visiting professorial guest lectureships were exchanged between both institutions, along with other notable academic initiatives. With Professor Elijah Paintsil’s visit to UWI, Mona, in 2014, a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding was signed between both institutions to build on and to further extend these academic initiatives.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I welcome to UWI, our guests, nine professorial faculty from Yale and a student who did her research here last year. They will collaborate with our local UWI faculty and students to deliver over 10 continuing medical education (CME)-accredited hours of productive academic discourse over the next three days. The theme of the conference is “Updates on Cancer, Infections and Genetics: From Bench to Clinic” and it is most timely. You will be updated on HIV, Hepatitis C viruses; emerging diseases of global significance – Dengue, Chikungunya virus, Zika virus, Influenza A H1N1; rotavirus; neonatal infections; sepsis; antimicrobial therapy; cancer genesis and advances in therapy, genomics, metabolism and the genetic basis of disease.

I welcome our Yale colleagues wholeheartedly to The UWI and also to Jamaica. I applaud the initiatives that have been forged, as we all work together to develop and build capacity in global health. I wish for you all an exciting three days of academic exchange and discourse.

*Sir Hilary Beckles  
Vice Chancellor  
The University of the West Indies*