

CAAM-HP 10th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Venue: Rose Hall Resort

Dates: July 28/30, 2014

Speaker: Dr Franklin Johnston

Theme: "Lessons from the past, strategies for the future"

Chairman,

The Most Honourable Percival James Patterson, former Prime Minister

Sir George Alleyne, Director Emeritus of PAHO and Vice Chancellor U W I

Sir Peter Rubin, Chair, General Medical Council, UK

Excellences, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

And to visitors: Welcome to Jamaica!

Today is special for CAAM-HP, for Jamaica and for the Caribbean..... Mark it well!

APOLOGY: From Rev Ronald Thwaites, Hon Min of Education who wanted and intended to be here ...it was not to be.

This Conference is important to education and to Jamaica as it concerns the integrity of our national and regional health care institutions and the quality of the education of the men and women who make it a great space in which to work. The care our people expect and receive on a daily basis is intertwined in all this and our disadvantaged deserve the best.

In addition, as offshore medical education is now a burgeoning part of our regional education enterprise the world expects integrity of CARICOM and this nation and so we applaud this conference.

YOUR THEME allows me scope for brief reflections on the health care past of our small nation (*Read Theme*)

I note for example that this year we celebrate 350 years of the parish church at St Andrews at Half Way Tree in Kingston and we also have medical facilities of like vintage.... saving soul and body is an old avocation hereabouts.

Jamaica is a global brand and Port Royal its most infamous subscript, what with pirates who wantonly sacked French and Spanish treasure ships and ports on the Spanish Main. For centuries we were desired, disputed, never denatured. We wish our medical education to be equally so and proper accreditation is a precondition.

We are in an enviable position as far as developing nations go for we have more than 90 per cent of the relevant school age cohorts enrolled in Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary education; And we now have the population growth of a developed country. Hence our education priority at this level of education is not more schools but more student achievement-quality.

The birth and work of CAAM-HP is most relevant in closing the quality circle in medical education and we are proud of it. That is what we are attempting at the lower levels of education from which our doctors come.

War is a terrible thing but in the past we had the mixed blessing of being the nub of colonial wars and this afforded us some venerable hospitals- the Naval Hospital at Port Royal circa 1720, the Kingston Public Hospital later and what is referred to as the 'Old Hospital' on Gloucester Avenue here in Montego Bay for patients with infectious diseases as Cholera.

Port Royal Naval Hospital was once the epicentre of medical expertise in trauma care in the Anglicised hemisphere and so as we develop mass in medical education today as evidenced by all the national and offshore institutions gathered here we should strive to become the Silicon Valley of medical education and a node of innovation.

The irony of history is that if an injured sailor, soldier, marine, dignitary could not make it to Port Royal the next best was to Nieuw Amsterdam on Manhattan Island which is today called New York. In the annals of medical facilities these hospitals are icons in the New World which I trust will be properly documented, preserved and celebrated. I invite those who are able to visit the Naval Hospital at Port Royal once "the wickedest city on earth" to enjoy its treasures..... a treat for the curator of medical memorabilia.

Half of Port Royal fell to the sea floor in the earthquake and tsunami in 1692 and it is believed that the barbershop cum General Surgery next to the butcher shop in Lime Street had an amputation in progress. The Duppies notwithstanding, your profession has come a long way.

The UWI was a watershed; an iconic medical education enterprise serving CARICOM and by default supplying our developed partners with medical people power of benefit to the individuals and the nation by their remittances.

I dilate on these antecedents to demonstrate that CAAM-HP stands on a solid medical foundation and great pioneers in quality health care.

YOUR THEME also looks to the future and I now convey to you the unqualified appreciation of Minister Thwaites, the Ministry of Education, the Government and people of Jamaica on your achievements and service to medical education. You are the first accreditation agency to be approved by the USA. A feat you achieved in 2013 and this is major when we consider that Turkey was second followed by Canada and the USA in 2014. You have done us proud, as there are only 4 approved to date. I hope we can find time hereafter to mark this as a nation and in CARICOM.

CAAM-HP is a strategic institution and may reverse a divisive regional history rooted in dated colonial rivalry. The dream is that the entire Caribbean from the most northerly cay of the Bahamas to the confluence of the Orinocco will one day fly your colours.

That the islands of the Greater Antilles only minutes from our shores may become equal partners in the Authority.

That your next decadal convocation be enhanced in numbers, be multilingual and inclusive of these neighbours. Go seek them out and give colonial history a bloody nose!

Minister Thwaites thanks CAAM-HP for 10 years of quality surveillance on medical education. The options for medical training in CARICOM are now many and varied. You have gazed over their transoms to assure integrity. ...we thank your Governing Council, and your officers for this due diligence. Keep up the good work.

We appreciate, applaud and value the regional and global partners for the nurture and care they have given you. We specially thank the GMC of the UK and USA partners. Some are here today!

LET us thank them!

We recognise the seminal work of Professor Sir Errol Walrond in bringing CAAM-HP from concept to reality, founding executive Mrs Lorna Parkins and the continuity which Prof Emerita Marlene Hamilton affords as Chairman as she reprises a role in the days of its founding.

LET US THANK THEM!

Eminent presenters, distinguished participants I enjoin you to build up CAAM-HP in all your undertakings. As CAAM-HP thrives so will your education enterprises....Together we are stronger!

In the name of the Hon Minister of Education

I Declare this Conference duly open.

God bless CAAM-HP

God bless Jamaica!

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