

**Minutes of the Medical Association of Jamaica
Annual General Meeting
held on Sunday, September 24, 2006 a 10:00 a.m.
at the Knutsford Court Hotel, 11 Ruthven Road, Kingston 10**

Present were:

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| 1. Dr Alverston Bailey | 24. Dr Dwayne Smith |
| 2. Dr William Brown | 25. Dr Trevor N Golding |
| 3. Dr Rosemarie Wright-Pascoe | 26. Dr Aldyth Buckland |
| 4. Dr Suzanne Minott-Arscott | 27. Dr Lilieth Johnson Whittaker |
| 5. Dr Simone Dundas | 28. Dr Lambert Innis |
| 6. Dr Neville Graham | 29. Dr Althea East-Innis |
| 7. Dr John A S Hall | 30. Dr Winston De La Haye |
| 8. Dr Winston Dawes | 31. Dr P.A Henry |
| 9. Dr Winston Davidson | 32. Dr Yasmin Williams |
| 10. Dr Knox Hagley | 33. Dr Lloyd Goldson |
| 11. Dr Ann Jackson -Gibson | 34. Dr Ray Fraser |
| 12. Dr Frank Knight | 35. Dr Myrton Smith |
| 13. Dr Albert Lockhart | 36. Dr Karen Asher |
| 14. Dr Cindo Nicholson | 37. Dr Betty Isaacs-Welds |
| 15. Dr George Provan | 38. Dr Douglas Welds |
| 16. Dr Sonia Henry-Heywood | 39. Dr Devon Osbourne |
| 17. Dr Paulette Thompson | 40. Dr Lisa Dawes |
| 18. Dr Derrick Aarons | 41. Dr Dorothea Dayley |
| 19. Dr CC Jones | 42. Dr D. Salkey |
| 20. Dr Lynvale Bloomfield | 43. Ms. Heather Armstrong |
| 21. Dr Humphrey Lyn | 44. Mr. Bill Poinsett |
| 22. Dr Maurison Trough | 45. Mr. Bill Fergus |
| 23. Dr Horatio Dunn | |

1. WELCOME AND CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Dr William Brown at 10:40 a.m. He then asked for one minute of silence for colleagues deceased over the past year; these included Dr Garth Taylor, Dr Barry Wint and Dr Lucien Cooper.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received.

3. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes were presented and confirmed by Dr. De La Haye and seconded by Dr. Bloomfield.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES CHARTER of PATIENT RIGHTS

Dr. John Hall stated that this was an important issue that needed ongoing dialogue so that the conclusion can be meaningful.

PROPOSE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Dr. Alverston Bailey brought attention to the fact that the proposal to modify the constitution to accommodate a president elect had not been accepted by Council. The matter was further debated by persons from the floor without conclusion and Dr. Winston De La

Haye was asked to revisit the matter and report to the Annual General Meeting in 2007.

5. CURRENT ISSUES

Mr. Mark James Robinson gave a presentation of Electronic Medical Recording. A robust discussion ensued during which time Dr William Brown pointed out a number of short comings.

A Presentation was made by Dr Winston Davidson on Health Tourism. He gave us an update as to how this will impact on the economy and exhorted Doctors to embrace this new entity.

Dr Myrton Smith gave an update on issues in the Public Health Sector giving us details on remuneration and promotion of doctors. It was noted that the number of posts available in the Public Health Sector has not kept paced with the expansion of the population. He pointed out that there is significant dissatisfaction and demoralization among public health workers.

Dr. Hall complimented Dr. Smith's presentation and drew attention to a July 2001 document outlining the cost / benefit of decentralization. He pointed out several inconsistencies in the document (eg) Hospitals continue to receive increasing levels of funding and increasing employment of nurses and physicians while it acknowledged

that Positions for nurses and physicians have declined . He stated that he found the government document to be affront to doctors working in the public sector. He stated that there was no reference to the structure of the pharmacy sector and to the break down of the laboratory services.

He lamented that the Ministry of Health was being guided by this flawed misleading document and advised that the MAJ should ensure that the ministry discontinue the use of this document.

Dr. Lambert Innis cautioned that we should not be seen as reactionaries.

Dr. Bailey stated that a study to review the system of decentralization was in process.

6. REPORTS **TREASURER S REPORT & PRESENTATION OF UN-AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

Tabled by Dr Neville Graham

The annual financial report 2005-2006 indicated an improved financial position of the MAJ in spite of various financial challenges during the past year.

Various projects were undertaken to improve the facilities and security at the MAJ offices.

The entire roof at the back of the kitchen and caretakers flat was fully repaired and refurbished at 19a Windsor Avenue. This was to the tune of \$850,000.00. We also upgraded the lawns and made the office and lawns more pleasing to its users.

During the financial year we had to continue making adjustments to staffing, and two additional workers Accounting Clerk, Miss Kadesha White and Secretary Mrs. Chang Isaacs were taken on board. This increased our cost for salaries and statutory deductions.

MAJ had to put in place Electronic Security at considerable cost.

Symposium and Banquet this year increased our expenses considerably. The MAJ was able to withstand these by making our other ventures profitable. We still made a profit of just under \$2 Million from the Banquet and Symposium.

Our membership drive continues and this year we expect an increase, to cap the 500 paid up membership mark.

MAJIF will pay the MAJ fee for all their members as of January 2007.

- A surplus of 1.5 million was made from the Travel Club this year.
- True Juice reduced their contribution by 20% due to a fall in sales this year.
- MAJIF contribution continues although there needs to be some improvement in that direction.
- The annual Dinner and Dance earned \$150,000.00

We are presently concluding negotiations with:

1. American Life Assurance re: Income Replacement for Doctors
2. Blue Cross for medical insurance for all doctors
3. Jamaica National re: Mortgage and Housing for doctors
4. Upgrading our website to a commercial one

These will definitely materialize in the coming financial year and we expect continued improvements in our financial position from the administrative fees of these ventures.

The Treasurer would like to express sincere gratitude to Mrs. Victoria Lyn and her husband in their assistance in the improvement of the internal décor of the MAJ s offices. We cannot repay Dr. Lyn & Mrs. Lyn for the financial, consultative and labour contributions they have made to the Headquarters.

The challenges this coming year is to maintain and improve a stable Income Expenditure. Continue to take opportunities for improved revenues. Our relations with Medical Council, Ministry of Health, PAHO/WHO may yield additional revenues to improve the security and perimeter fencing of the premises.

In terms of our Audited Financial Report The MAJ will this year submit Audited Report for the years 2000 and 2001 and by next year we will be up to date with Audited Financial Reports up to the presented year.

The treasurer supports the Financial Committee for organizing the MAJ Finances into a modern and professional system. This was started by Dr. Pat Yap and we will continue so that transparency and professionalism will be at the highest level.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking my assistant treasurer Dr. Sandra Knight for her support. The Financial Committee headed by Dr. Goldson, as well as the President and the entire Executive have always supported this crucial area of the MAJ.

MAJ INSURANCE FUND (MAJIF)

Tabled by Dr Albert B Lockhart

Report on Progress of MAJIF

During the insurance year ending June 30, 2006, MAJIF membership grew by 50 representing a growth of 7% over the year 2004 - 2005.

Our premium income for 2005 - 2006 grew by 13%. Our premium income was not higher because of the 20% one-time discount given to doctors who joined during the first year of MAJIF. These discounts amounted to a total of \$1.50M.

Expenses grew by 46% yet we are keeping our expenses at 37% of premium income compared to the insurance industry average of 50% premium income.

The main increase in expenses is due to legal fees and audit fees. We also have \$1.65 M deducted as withholding taxes on our interest income. It is our intention to seek a refund of these taxes when we get the MAJ audit completed. The MAJIF audit is already completed.

Marketing Activities

- Presentations to several specialty groups.
- Discussions with UHWI to get all their doctors insured.
- Discussion with private institutions to get them to insist on all doctors who work there be insured.
- A general open meeting of all MAJIF members in August 2005 and a meeting inviting potential members in August 2006.

Proposed Activities

- Proposal to the Council that all members of MAJ Executive must be members of MAJIF.
- Advertise in West Indian Medical Journal (WIMJ).
- Cocktail Party for medical students after final exams.
- Presentations in prime time at MAJ symposia.

- A MAJIF Diary for 2007 to celebrate our 5th year.
- MAJIF will pay MAJ dues for all its members starting January 2007.
- MAJIF continues to put on Risk Management Seminars. The next seminar will be on Sunday, October 22, 2006.
- All members were sent the summarized *Rules on Expert Witnesses and Provision of Expert Evidence* issued by the Supreme Court of Jamaica.
- All members were sent the procedure to be followed in case of notification of a law suit.

MAJIF continues to grow and offer doctors a viable option for professional indemnity coverage. We need to continue our marketing efforts and we need the full support of the MAJ Executive and the MAJ Council

SECRETARY S REPORT

Tabled by Dr Ann Jackson-Gibson

The year commenced with a new President, who infused the executive and members with enthusiasm and zeal for his vision of a relevant and sustainable organization, uniting all medical fraternities under its umbrella. What resulted was the catapulting of MAJ to the forefront as we acted as negotiator, spokesman and policymaker, while at the same time reaching out to those members who had previously felt alienated

On January 15th the MAJ held its retreat at the Morgan s Harbour hotel where a comprehensive action plan was outlined and tasks assigned. Details of its outcome will be outlined in the President s report.

A tremendous amount of work, effort, commitment and sacrifice has been expended by the Council, Executive, Branches, Committees and Affiliated organizations to make the year a success. The following is an account of our activities:

MAJ Council

The MAJ council met in March, May and September 2006, where reports from the Executive, Branches, Committees and Affiliated organizations were received.

Issues presented and debated included the following:

- Ethics in prescription writing
- Charter of Rights
- Secondment from the MOH to SERHA
- Prescribing rights for Nurse Practitioners
- Medical advertising
- Recertification of doctors
- Crises in the Public Health sector
- Health tourism

The Council also received updates on the issues concerning

- Legalization of Abortion
- Leptospirosis Outbreak
- Asian flu Preparedness
- Violence Prevention Alliance
- Blue Cross of Jamaica PAS
- Eye Care provided by the Cuban doctors
- Activities of the Three Wise Men
- It was a demanding but fruitful year as the

Council aggressively pursued its role as the watchdog of the MAJ.

MAJ Executive

The MAJ executive met monthly to ensure implementation of strategies outlined at the Morgan s Harbour Retreat. Progress reports on the various activities of the branches and committees were received, and implementation details discussed at length.

MAJ Secretariat

This year saw many changes taking place in the Secretariat.

Miss Jacqui Brown, after more than ten years of dedicated service to the MAJ, said goodbye in order to launch out on her own. She will be hard to replace and we wish her well in her endeavours.

Miss Carrol-Lee Bonnick left our staff after 7 months and was replaced by Miss Denise Chang, who resigned in August of this year.

Miss Kadesha White joined our staff in March of this year and, I m happy to say, is still with us. She commenced as an accounting clerk but has deservedly risen to the rank of Administrative Assistant.

Miss Linette Bailey joined our secretariat this month and is presently on 3 months probation as Executive Secretary.

Mr. Michael Gordon remains with us as our capable and affable caretaker and bearer.

The refurbishing work of MAJ premises by Mrs. Victoria Lyn continues unabated and with unequalled enthusiasm. We are forever in your debt Mrs. Lyn.

Symposium 2006

The annual symposium was held June 1-4, 2006 at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel. The theme *Medicine across the Ages* allowed for an in depth study of current concepts and therapies pertaining to pathologies afflicting paediatric through to the geriatric populations.

This year, the Mike D Silva memorial lecture *Potential toxicity of Elements in Soils and Food in Jamaica* was delivered with excellence by Prof. Gerald Lalor.

Due to the overwhelming success of the workshops held the previous year, it was decided to increase the number from six to nine this year. They included:

- Joint injections
 - Sports Medicine
 - Examination of the Eye
 - Soft tissue surgery
 - Reviewing ECG s and X-rays
 - Breast examination
 - Electronic Health Record Systems
 - Pap smears: New techniques using Eurocytobrush
- Most were well attended.

The banquet was once again, an exceptionally elegant affair with our guest speaker Professor Edward Baugh utilizing his tremendous sense of humour to make the evening thoroughly delightful and enjoyable.

MAJ awards were presented to Dr. Owen James, Dr. Pauline Milbourn and Professor Brendon Bain. Dr. Pauline Williams-Green and the Red cross of Jamaica received the President s award for 2006. The MAJ Trust presented a donation to the charity organization *Rescue* .

MAJ Representatives on Organizations Board Reports

Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control

Reported by Dr. Aileen Standard-Goldson

The work of the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) continued this year under the Board Chairmanship of Prof. Frederick Hickling. The Board was dissolved when a new Minister of Health was appointed to allow him to reconstitute it as he sees fit. The work of the agency however continues through the Drug Abuse Secretariat under the leadership of Executive Director, Mr. Michael Tucker.

November 2005 was observed as Drug Awareness Month and in addition to the usual parish activities an Addiction Forum was held in Kingston to highlight the many forms of addiction. There was also a meeting of the regional heads of drug councils in Montego Bay. There were presentations outlining the on-going work across the region as well as discussion on a joint approach to drug abuse prevention. An expert committee was set up to guide this process in between meetings of heads.

The work in the schools and at the community level continues and a programme in the prisons was piloted this year. There was a workshop for Correctional Officers to sensitize them to the issues surrounding drug abuse.

A national school survey was undertaken and the figures are being analyzed. This will allow a comparison with the last survey done in 1997 to assess the level of success of the school programmes and guide future programmes. There are still plans to do a survey on The Level of Substance Abuse Cases seen in Private Medical Practices in Jamaica in which we will ask selected practitioners to complete a short questionnaire. This will help us to assess our existing prevention programmes and address any needs discovered in this sector.

We hope to continue work with individual practitioners and MAJ as an organization to combat the scourge of drug abuse and the linked problems of violence and HIV/AIDS. I again invite suggestions from all members of MAJ as to how we can strengthen the links between MAJ and NCDA.

National Honours & Awards

Prof. Owen Morgan was chosen to receive the Order of Jamaica (OJ) for distinguished contribution to medicine and medical education in Jamaica and internationally.

Drs. Kenrick Barrow, Barry Wint, William Foster, Wendel Guthrie, Hugh Vaughn and Pauline Milbourn were chosen to receive the Order of distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) for outstanding services to Medicine and medical education.

We extend our congratulations.

MAJ BRANCH REPORTS

North East Branch

Submitted by Dr. Cindo Nicholson (President)

We have had a successful year. Member's Meetings are held bimonthly, but we have had almost monthly clinical meetings, with attendance showing some improvement. The presentations at meetings were interesting and of a high standard.

Administration 2005-2006 (Elections - May 2005)

Chairman: Dr. Cindo Nicholson

Vice-Chairman: Dr. Linton Francis

Secretary: Dr. Roger Carrington

Asst. Secretary: Dr. C. Hoo

Treasurer: Dr. David Crawford

Asst. Treasurer: Dr. Earl Marshall

Our next annual General Meeting will be on October 27, 2006, when we shall have election of officers.

Our Objectives for 2005 were:-

1. Increased attendance at Meetings.
2. Having all presentations CME accredited.
3. Increased critical support of the National/Local health issues/initiatives.

We have been relatively successful in increasing our attendance and having CME accreditations of all our presentations, but our support of the National and Local health issues have not as we would have wanted

We thank the Pharmaceutical Companies for their sponsorship of our meetings, the presenters for their erudite offerings, and look forward to the continued partnership.

We thank President, Dr. Al Bailey for his visit, the administration for their leadership and support and wish for them all that is good in the future.

To the next administration, we wish them a successful tenure with God's guidance.

Every Blessing,

Western Medical Association

Submitted by Dr. Jacqueline Chambers-Roberts (President)

We started the year with a Bang by hosting Professor Charles Denbow's Book Launch. This was held at the Wexford Court Hotel in Montego Bay.

On March 17, 2006, Western Medical Association had its Annual General Meeting.

So far, WMA has hosted 13 CME Meetings, 10 in Montego Bay and 3 in Falmouth.

On October 12, 2006, WMA will be having an Appreciation Dinner for the Honourees

- 1) Dr. Doris Chamber Watson
- 2) H. Marco Brown
- 3) Herbert Elder mire
- 4) Trevor March

This Dinner will be held at the Day O Plantation, Montego Bay.

Portland Branch

Submitted by Dr. Satya Parvataneni (Chairman)

CME meetings:-

Mini Symposium Some common Eye diseases in General Practice.

Mini Symposium HIV in General Practice

Out reach projects:-

1. We did 70 sight restoring operations (56 Cataracts + 14 others) in November 05 in association with SEEI, Surgical Eye Expedition International and Rotary club of Port Antonio.
2. Medical coverage and medical for Special Olympics in Portland.
3. Donating seven Panasonic Ceiling fans (JA\$ 45,000.) to Portland Health Department to provide comfort to staff and patients of the institution.

With best regards,

Southern Branch

Submitted by Dr. Humphrey Lyn (Chairman)

The executive of the MAJ had decided to merge the Southern Branch and the Metropolitan Branch. This decision was taken because of the unsafe and volatile environment precipitated by the crime and violence (popular cliché in current usage) in Spanish Town where the Southern Branch have its meetings and found it not to be conducive to continue (who wants to dodge bullets!!!). These meetings were then to be held at a suitable place in Kingston where it is thought to be safer?! However, these plans have not come to any fruition (definition: realization of hopes. Oxford Dictionary of Current English. Is this the right word?), as our colleagues in Kingston and St. Catherine showed a general lack of interest and indeed displayed lassitude (definition: languor, disinclination to exert or interest oneself. Again Oxford Dictionary). We will not be deterred, however, and continue to strive to whip our colleagues into a state of frenzy to come to the branch meetings (benefits: C.M.E. credits, remember the Medical Council of Jamaica watches us, and of course socialization with our friends and colleagues).

Central Branch

Submitted by Dr. Everton McIntosh (Chairman)

Annual Branch Report 2005 2006

Members enjoyed another good year in the Central Branch of MAJ. Some members continued to express concern at the tardiness of Blue Cross of Jamaica in honoring claims submitted, often longer than three months.

Our monthly CME meetings continued to be held on the last Monday of each month. These were very well attended by our members as well as by nurses and other health professionals. The meetings featured excellent presentations covering a wide range of topics by local and visiting presenters, with enthusiastic participation by the audience by their questions and comments. MAJ business was also discussed at these meetings.

The inaugural annual research day of the Mandeville Regional Hospital was held on Monday 26 September 2005. It featured oral presentations and posters by the different clinical departments. The presentations were of a high standard and were well received by the large appreciative audience. Special commendations go to Dr. Steve Mullings for organizing and coordinating the event.

A number of other meetings were held throughout the year, organized by various drug companies in collaboration with various medical groups or specialties. These also featured visiting and local presenters and were very well attended.

One of our distinguished members, Dr. Owen James was an honoree at the annual MAJ Awards Banquet in June. There was a significant presence at the banquet from Central Branch in support of him. Our congratulations to Dr. James: his award was well deserved.

As the administrative year drew to a close the members in the Mandeville area were made to be concerned by actions taken by the new owners of Hargreaves Hospital, the only private hospital in the region. In an unprecedented move, the doctors were being asked to pay exorbitant annual registration fees for practicing privileges as well as a percentage of professional fees collected. At the time of writing of this report the members were in the process of organizing their response. We trust that good sense will

prevail and that the issue will be resolved to the satisfaction of all the involved parties.

Congratulations to President Alverston Bailey and his executive for having lead and represented us so ably over the past year. We acknowledge their hard work and dedication throughout the year and wish them continued success in the coming year.

MAJ Special Projects

Submitted by Dr. Sandra Knight (Coordinator)

Over the last year, MAJ has reconnected with one of its mandate by establishing links with well-organised outreach projects. We have also participated in several forums where we felt that our contribution made a difference. Thanks to our members who have taken the time out to go and take care of the less fortunate and who have unwaveringly championed the cause of the needy and the less fortunate. The projects mentioned below need continued support and we plead to our members to volunteer for the worthy cause of your choice.

- ❖ **Special Olympics** In the past eight months our doctors have participated in three Special Olympics health fairs in which they gave free medical care to scores of disabled children across the island. Many of these individuals received needed help towards continued rehabilitation in order to be able to participate in assigned sporting activities.
- ❖ **The Women's Centre** - We are currently in need of two medical doctors who do fortnightly clinics at the women's centre on Trafalgar road. The physician who currently runs the clinic will not be able to do so as of the end of September 2006 as she will be furthering her studies. Members will have an opportunity to hone their counselling skills and of course lend medical assistance to teenagers who are pregnant and other youths who are socially displaced.
- ❖ **Diocese of Jamaica (Hospice for street children)** the first of seven interagency meeting was held July 6th and MAJ fully participated, formulating recommendations for the way forward. The hospice offers food, counselling, and skills training to many street children in the corporate area. The outreach officers of the St. Andrew Care centre visits the core of street kid at midnight on selected days. This gives participants further insight into the lives of children on the street. MAJ would like to continue being a part of this. Thanks to our brave member who has participated so far. The second meeting was held on September 22, 2006, and although MAJ was not represented there, we hope to be at the next one, which is September 28.
- ❖ **RESCUE** - Takes on the challenges of socially unadjusted young people and attempt to get them back into a productive mode. The volunteers go island wide and conduct health fairs, and go into schools to give health education and counselling. We will be requesting participation of more of our physicians in this project.
- ❖ **Missionaries for the poor** This is one of our newer projects and most of the activities will be at the Bethlehem children's home on North Street. MAJ hopes to be able to provide a Dermatologist, Physiotherapist and paediatrician to attend the home

at least once per month. We already have a physiotherapist that is willing and a general practitioner who has expressed interest. We are awaiting word from the Dermatologists whom we have contacted. Brother Camilo is very anxious to have us start these visits on a regular basis.

We lent our voices to forums where we discussed women issues, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking and not to forget the PR opportunity that was offered to us when we spoke at the open day of the Medical school, University of the West Indies.

Our members whole hearted did health checks at the Mamby Bay Baptist Church, Bethel Church of God, and spoke on the good and evil of menopause at the Bethesda Gospel Hall in Mandeville.

We teamed up with Jamaica National to provide gifts and great food for almost two hundred (200) children at The Christmas Extravaganza held at the Community Health Centre, University of the West Indies.

At this time, we are very excited to be working on extra special project in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, Ministry Of Health and the MAYO clinic in Minnesota, U.S.A. You will be hearing much more about this in the upcoming months! For now, *please* contact our secretariat or the assistant treasure to participate in any one of the projects outlined previously. We need more volunteers and we need them now! Looking forward to hearing from you.

MAJ COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Fundraising and Budgeting Report

Submitted by: Dr. Lloyd Goldson (Chairman)

Members: Dr. Neville Graham

- Dr. Sandra Knight
- Dr. William Brown
- Dr. Horatio Dunn
- Dr. Humphrey Lyn
- Dr. Lorenzo Gordon

The Finance, Fundraising and Budgeting Committee (FFB) met four (4) times during the year under review. Arising from these meetings were:

- 1) Dues to be collected at the various conferences
- 2) Aim to get 700 members
- 3) The coordination of the financial aspects of the Annual Symposium and Awards Banquet, and
- 4) The overall monitoring of the MAJ financial status.

The Finance Committee worked closely with the Honorary Treasurer and is please to say there has been improvement in the overall financial position of the Medical Association of Jamaica. Achievements included:

- 1) The modernization of the MAJ headquarters
- 2) Updating of our accounting procedures with consequent avoidance of the financial crises of former years
- 3) Increased MAJ earnings from various projects
- 4) Improved delivery of services to doctors in Jamaica including:
 - a) Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) mortgage plan

- b) Income Replacement with American Home Assurance Company
- c) Blue Cross Plan
- d) Travel Club
- e) Christmas Dinner and Dance
- f) To support the Annual Symposia

Ethics & Constitutional Reform Committee

Submitted by Dr. Winston De La Haye (Chairman)

We have a duty to ensure that all physicians in Jamaica practice the tenets of medical ethics, thereby protecting our patients and ourselves. The Ethics and Constitutional Reform Committee of the Medical Association of Jamaica has completed and submitted a revised version of the Ethics Guidelines for dissemination to our colleagues throughout Jamaica.

We continue to be asked to assist with issues and complaints involving medical practitioners in Jamaica and have found the MAJ system of Three Wise Men for each region to be a very effective method of intervention.

Members of the Ethics Committee have commenced presentations to groups of our colleagues on various aspects of medical ethics. We have also reviewed and submitted recommendations to the MAJ Council for amendments to the Constitution.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS REPORT

Jamaica Psychiatric Association

Submitted by Dr. Winston De La Haye (President)

The elected Executive for 2005-2006 has commenced their second term in office:

President Dr. Winston De La Haye, Vice President Dr. Judith Leiba, Secretary Dr. Roger Gibson and Treasurer - Dr. Gillian Lowe.

The Jamaica Psychiatric Association hosted their first Annual Scientific Conference in association with the Ministry of Health at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel and Spa, Ocho Rios on August 18-19, 2006. Our theme was Mental Health and Wellness: The Bio-Psycho-Social Approach. The conference was a resounding success, with an attendance of over 300 colleagues and friends.

We recognize the important role we play as an Association in ensuring good mental health for Jamaican Citizens and continue to play a key role in reducing stigma towards mental illnesses. We will continue to hold workshops aimed at educating our colleagues about the recognition and management of common psychiatric disorders presenting in a General Medical Practice.

Grabham Society

Submitted by Dr. Milton Hardie (President)

The Grabham Society again had a very good year. It was a year which again saw its membership increasing, with the qualification of new colleagues, and which concluded with the election of a new administration.

The year was punctuated with quarterly publications of our newsletter Grabham News . This periodical, as usual, informed the membership of the happenings among its members, current sociopolitical developments in the profession locally and internationally as well as its usual serving of imparting knowledge on new developments in the

profession, as well as providing some very witty gynaecological humor.

The high point of the year was our Annual Conference and Banquet which were held at the Hilton Kingston Hotel on July 15, 2006. The topic of this year's conference was *The Infertile Couple A Break in the Cycle*. The conference covered the course: *The Investigation and Treatment Modalities of the Infertile Couple*. There were also lectures on the *Psychosocial Impact of Infertility*, the *Male Factor in Infertility*, *Assisted Reproduction Technology and its Future*, as well as the *Ethics Controversy*, and the *Law with New Reproductive Technologies*.

These lectures were delivered by a faculty of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as well as Urologist and Psychiatrist, as well as colleague who is also a lawyer.

Despite the island-wide blackout, and the absence of central air-conditioning as a result of this, the Annual Awards Banquet was its usual warm (no pun intended), pleasant stellar event. It was also well attended.

As it has done from the last six years, the Grabham Society honoured two members of the nursing profession who have distinguished themselves in terms of their nursing skills, to the advancement of women's health in the country.

The nursing honourees for 2006 are Sister Ena Scott, RN (UHWD) and Sister Hilda Pennant, RN (JH). Not only did our nursing colleagues receive their Grabham Plaque but they also received awards from Red Stripe in the form of cheques for \$20,000.00 each. This is the third year running that these corporate giants have extended this award to the Grabham Society's nursing awardees.

The Grabham society is greatly appreciative of Red Stripe's participation in our annual awards, and believes that these philanthropic gestures should not be allowed to go unrecognized or unannounced to the profession or the general public.

This year the Grabham Society honoured Professor Joseph Fredrick, Director of the Advance training and Research in Fertility Management Unit of the University of the West Indies. Professor Fredrick was cited for his excellence and pioneering work in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Reproductive Health, especially in the field of Assisted Reproductive Technology. Professor Fredrick did Jamaica's first case of In-Vitro Fertilization and has been a participant in all other cases (of which there are many) since. This member has done the Grabham Society proud.

The life cycle of the Executive of the Grabham Society is three years. This year was election year and a new administration came to power at the end of this year's awards banquet. The Grabham Society thanks the outgoing members; Dr. Derrick Walcott (President), and Executive members Dr. Wilmot Hedrington and Dr. Sharmaine Mitchell for the timeless and unselfish service they gave to the organization. We wish them well in all of their future endeavours and it is our wish that these stalwarts will still be available to serve our Society. Dr. Milton Hardie, Vice President in the former administration is now the President of the Grabham Society. Dr. Lloyd Goldson has been elected Vice President, Dr. Monique Rainford and Dr. Loxley Christie are the other members of the new executive.

Jamaica Menopause Society

Submitted by Dr. Fay Whitbourne (President)

WORLD MENOPAUSE DAY

We were very fortunate to have had a fully sponsored supplement on Menopause published in the daily Gleaner in recognition of World Menopause Day. Tuesday, Oct. 25th was chosen as it was believed that we would engage a wider readership than October 18th, World Menopause Day, which was a public holiday.

SYMPOSIUM 2005

The highlight of the year was our Symposium 2005. It was exceedingly well received and we considered it our most successful conference to date. Our Theme was *Female Sexuality at Midlife* and our guest speaker, Dr. Sandra Leiblum, Prof. of Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, proved to be a most excellent presenter on the occasions of the Public Lecture and the Scientific Meeting. Her facility with, and knowledge of the subject matter, together with her warm personality created an immediate rapport with her audience.

January being the commencement of our year we started with a planning meeting. In February the AGM was held and Dr. Fay Whitbourne was re-elected President, Dr. Monique Rainford, Vice president, Dr. Wyante Patterson was re-elected Secretary and Mrs. Arlene Smith, treasurer.

Worldwide, May is celebrated as Osteoporosis awareness month. In keeping with the theme, our Journal Club took the form of a discussion on the use of Protos (strontium ranelate) in the treatment of Osteoporosis.

Also in May, the society in association with Sanofi - Aventis, held two outreach meetings on Osteoporosis. These were held at St Mary's Anglican Church on May 21st and at Stella Maris Catholic Church on May 24th. Bone Mineral Density testing was offered at a highly discounted rate to thirty three persons.

Caribbean College of Family Physicians

Submitted by Dr William Brown (Chairman)

The CCFP continued its main mandate of providing CME's sessions, (workshops & seminars) on a monthly basis to its members and to the medical fraternity at large. This year also saw CME session being held outside of Kingston to enable out-of-town physicians to update their knowledge base while obtaining the required CME credits necessary for re-certification by the Medical Council of Jamaica.

The CCFP (Jamaica Chapter) usually participates actively in the preparation of foreign trained doctors through the objective structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). This year the regional chapter tented to deliver its usual support programme.

2008 will mark the end of another 3 years curriculum, after which a minimum of 150 CME credits must be submitted to CCFP Academic Committee. Successful candidates will be entitled to the honor of being deemed MCCFP.

Ours continuous liaison with our parent organization, CCFP (Regional) enables us to have intimate relationship with WONCA and PAHO and this allowing the Caribbean to take its place on equal footing with the rest of the hemisphere. Dr. Tomlin Paul was honored by WONCA for outstanding physicians of the year.

We are presently in discussion with the Medical Council regarding the re-certification of doctors via CME courses on line. A database of doctors with the acquired CME credits will be added soon.

Our outreach projects are still early and palpable results and outcomes have not been fully realized yet. Our finances have been, stabilized by new recruits and the support from the Pharmaceutical Companies.

JMMB in collaboration with UTECH will be offering modules in Financial Management to members of the CCFP at minimal cost during September 2006. Our AGM will be held on November 26, 2006. A Workshop on Infections Diseases will be dovetailed into the AGM programmed.

The CCFP fully endorses the MAJ's acceptance of the new proposal from Blue Cross regarding electronic claims and is urging its membership to take advantage of the offer. We continue to collaborate and share office with the MAJ as this linkage has greatly enhanced our logical and financial arrangements.

Association of General Practitioners of Jamaica (AGPJ)

Submitted by Dr Lynvale Bloomfield (President)

The administrative year started with much promise as we challenged ourselves with the theme **members make it happen**.

Immediately after installation the new board had a breakfast meeting with Blue Cross of Jamaica with respect to the payment of transaction fees.

Our position remained fixed and unchanged as the BCJ and Fair Trading Commission's agreement stated no transaction fees. Blue Cross has since complied.

We met with Mr. Norman Williams of Medicus and were heartened by their no transaction fee.

We successfully staged a major Health Fair on November 26, 2005 at the Portmore Heart Academy. This was well received by the community as our members turned out and put into practice our mission statement.

The board responded to environmental concerns such as the proposed siting of a cemetery in Ramble, Hanover.

Our letter to the editor of the Gleaner was published under letter of the day on December 5, 2005 and triggered a series of events both in the electronic and print media which resulted in the proposal being struck down.

CVM TV was contracted with the request to attach a disclaimer on the **let's talk health** program by Ted Emmanuel and this was done.

- We encouraged members to register, become financial and obtain professional I.Ds.
- The board initiated a fund to purchase gifts for the National Children's Home.
- The board engaged the paramedical groups (Pharmacies, Laboratories, Physiotherapist, Technicians, etc) in discussing Bioethical issues. We hosted a Sunday Brunch with these groups.
- The board held its annual retreat out of which came proposal to put flesh to our constitution document by advancing relationships with medical students, interns and doctors, and engaging in activism, research, retraining and community involvement.

The membership participated in all the academic presentations of our colleagues in the MAJ, CCFP and other organizations.

The AGPJ has successfully presented 3 quarterly clinical meetings so far this year. The final meeting will be on Sunday October 8, 2006 on Collagen Vascular Disease. On that day we have our AGM.

The AGPJ still has much to do but looks to the future with hope, optimism and determination as we seek to fulfill our mandate.

Jamaica Association of Clinical Pathologist (JACP)

Submitted by Dr Garfield Blake (President)

The Jamaica Association of Clinical Pathologists (JACP) has been in existence for 14 years.

The JACP held its annual general meeting on May 6, 2006 at the University of the West Indies. The two-member executive of Garfield Blake President and Rochelle Roman Secretary/Treasurer were re-elected unopposed and will complete their second year in office. With the JACP's constitution limiting to two executive terms, a new executive will be elected in 2007.

The Association's annual symposium will be held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Sunday, November 5, 2006 commencing at 9am. The theme of this year's conference is

Gynecologic Pathology. The main address will be delivered by Prof. Daron Ferris, Medical College of Georgia who will be speaking on HPV vaccine and its role in the prevention of cervical cancer, at present the second leading cause of death in Jamaican women. On November 4, 2006 the JACP will be hosting a workshop on Rape - Homicide at the main Lecture Theatre, University of the West Indies commencing at 9 am. The main address will be given by Dr. David Chiasson of the University of Toronto. Other speakers will include Dr. Judith Mowatt of the Government Forensic Laboratory and members of the legal profession.

The executive of the JACP met with officials of the Ministry of Health on February 28, 2006 to remind the Ministry about the heavy workload as well as the inexcusably long turnaround time for pathology specimens that now obtain at the National Public Health Laboratory. Measures to address these problems were advanced, however no concrete plans were established to alleviate the problems. The JACP also proposed the implementation of a partnership between the private sector and the state aimed at establishing a fund to bring the latest in technological advances to the country's public laboratories. Ministry officials were warm to the idea and follow up meetings are to be arranged.

The Medical Association of Jamaica facilitated a meeting between the JACP president and members of Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ). This was to address the JFJ's seeming annoyance at the reluctance of JACP members volunteering as observers at autopsies involving deaths that result from actions of agents of the state. The membership of the JACP is decidedly against being mandated to act as observers. The JACP is in no way against individual members on their own volition acting as observers but will not as a policy require its members to be observed. A letter to this effect was forwarded to JFJ.

The association welcomed Drs. S. Kadiyala, S. Ere. P. Sangam, and S. Myndedi all Government Forensic Pathologist as new members and Dr. Paul Brown, Lecturer in Microbiology at the University of the West Indies as associate member.

Jamaica Association of Surgeons (JAS)

Submitted by Dr Geoffrey Williams (President)

The current year began with a highly successful Annual Clinical Conference held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston over the weekend of May 14 and 15, 2005.

We had the honour of having the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Professor E. Nigel Harris, declare the conference open, and the Sir Harry Annamunthodo Lecture was delivered by Dr. Ronnie DuQuesney over a most entertaining and informative hour or so.

The usual high standard of the academic sessions was maintained, and credit must be given to all presenters for the well-researched and delivered papers. Attendance at these sessions over both days was good and the vibrant audience participation contributed to the success of the conference.

For the second consecutive year, a record number of persons attended the Annual Awards Banquet on the evening of Saturday, May 14, 2005. The honouree on this occasion was Dr. Badih Shoucair and our guest speaker was the Hon. Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister of St. Lucia.

None of the above would have been possible without the generous support of our many sponsors, the major contributor last year being First Global Financial Services. We thank each and every one of them and look forward to their continued support over the years to come.

Our Weekend Retreat, held on the last weekend of November was last year spent at the Sunset Jamaica Grande in Ocho Rios. Attendance was adversely affected by severe island-wide flooding, which made major thoroughfares temporarily impassable. This, however, did not dampen the spirit of the weekend.

The scientific sessions were enlivened by the innovation of panel discussions and case presentations, both of which had the desired effect of eliciting wide audience participation. It was the clear consensus that both of these features be retained for future retreats.

One positive side effect of the inclement weather was that it was extremely conducive to the post-meeting libations, and for some of the attendees it was difficult to determine whether more water was flowing indoors or outdoors.

The Annual Luncheon Meeting was this year held in Black River on Sunday, February 19, 2006. Our host, Dr. John McCrae, chose the ideal setting at the Riverside Dock Restaurant situated on the bank of the river.

We were entertained with a truly excellent after-lunch speech by Dr. Barbara Carby, Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management.

Plans are well advanced for the upcoming Annual Conference and Awards Banquet, both of which promise to be interesting and exciting affairs. We look forward to the wide support of members and guests for these events.

As I come to the end of my tenure as President, let me say what a privilege and honour it has been for me to serve in this capacity. I would like to thank the Council, the Secretariat, and the members at large for their support over the period of my presidency. I would like to say a special word of welcome to my successor and friend Prof. Archibald McDonald, to whom I will be handing over the chains of office. I cannot think of a more capable pair of hands in which to place the reins of the Association. Good luck Archie, and

you can be assured that you will have my full and unwavering support during your tenure.

Jamaica Medical Doctors Association (JMDA)

Submitted by Dr Myrton Smith (President)

The New Executive of the Jamaica Medical Doctors Association took office on December 12, 2005. We knew it would be a challenging year and we were not disappointed. The first and major challenge for us was to conduct negotiations for better wages and working conditions for the >800 junior doctors in the context of a proposed 2nd Memorandum of Understanding. It was clear that we could not sign the MOU as we were not consulted during the drafting of the document and were not part of the deliberations involved in allocating the funds. We knew that contesting the proposed increase on basic salary (22% over 2 years) was to be a Sisyphean task so we concentrated on the allowances and working conditions.

When the agreement is finally signed, we would have shaken off the final vestiges of colonialism as we will now legitimately be able to utilize our free time in private practice. For us this is a major victory. The opportunity finally exists for doctors to be paid for our overtime work at a rate which is better than 95% of time before. Doctors who do not perform emergency duties such as Casualty Officers and Primary Care Physicians in the Health Centers will finally get an Incentive allowance which is reflective of the doctors level of competence, qualifications and responsibilities. Finally a relationship has been established between the basic salary and the incentive allowance. It was just a nominal figure paid at the same quantum to all levels of doctors. The above indicate our major victories which we have been seeking for several years.

Amidst all this we managed to organize successful events such as our Sports Day, Interns Lyme, Labour Day Project and our annual Symposium which was well received. We also managed to restart our quarterly Newsletter which had been dormant for several years. We continue to make strong representation for improvement in the public health sector including the policy and infrastructural improvements. Our voice has been heard in the public more strongly than it has been for a while and without the negative publicity of industrial action.

Our annual general meeting and election of officers will be held on October 1, 2006, at the Mona Visitors Lodge

UWI with Guest speaker His Worship Mayor Desmond McKenzie. As we come to the end of our team in office (and I know some of us will return for a second term) we wish to thank Dr. Bailey and the executive of MAJ for their support in our endeavors. Long live the unity.

Jamaica Urological Society (JUS)

Submitted by Dr William Aiken (President)

The Jamaica Urological Society's activities currently revolve around the organization and staging of its Annual Conference. This year the JUS staged a very successful annual conference which was held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. Our main Guest lecturer was Dr. Arthur Burnett, professor of Urology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, who addressed us on the important topics of new developments in Priapism as well as the treatment of post prostatectomy erectile dysfunction. A

number of papers and topics were presented by both local and regional urologists. The conference was well attended by regional urologists from Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Curacao and the Bahamas. It was well supported by our local doctors, nursing personnel and paramedical staff.

The JUS continues to grow in numbers as more urologists are trained and in the future it is hoped that the remit of the JUS will expand to include outreach programmes to rural hospitals as well as the development of a JUS website from which reliable information regarding urological problems seen locally may be obtained.

Paediatric Association of Jamaica (PAJ)

Submitted by Dr Carolyn Thomas-Boyd (President)

Although this not a conference year for us, the PAJ has been busy arranging several symposiums for its members and participating in various other projects. Over the last year the executive has worked very hard at putting together a new safety booklet which is now completed. We hope to launch the booklet soon however, we are waiting on Jamaica National Building Society to do the final printing of the material.

Our first Symposium of the year was held in March at the Terra Nova Hotel and was entitled **Colds That Are Colds and Colds That Are Not**. The presenter was Dr. Kay Bailey and it was very informative. The second Symposium was scheduled for June; however, this had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond our control. This meeting is re-scheduled for the second week of October and members will be informed as soon as the dates are finalized. The third Symposium is planned for Sunday 17th of September. This will be a **Vaccine Forum** which is designed to discuss the latest vaccines now available and to see how cost effective it will be for us to introduce these to the regular vaccine schedule in Jamaica given our limited resources!! The final Symposium usually takes the form of an outreach project and this year the plan is to go to May Pen Hospital.

In Child Month, the PAJ published a supplement in the Daily Gleaner under the theme **Restoring the Family; Saving Our Children**. There were several articles on disciplining your child, feeding issues and parenting. There has been a growing concern regarding the increasing incidence of violence our children are exposed to. To this end, we have been in frequent dialogue with May Clarke (Child Advocate) to see how we can address this ever growing problem.

Our next major conference is scheduled for March 3rd - 4th, 2007 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The theme is **PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE** ..hope to see you all there!

Dermatology Association of Jamaica (DAJ)

Submitted by Dr Andrea Clare Lyn Shue (President)

The Dermatology Association of Jamaica had a full and active year in 2005 which continued into 2006.

Our CME accredited quarterly meetings were held in March, June and September with good attendance from the membership. These quarterly meetings incorporated an hour of dermato-pathology at the University Hospital Pathology Department, followed by four hours of clinical cases, specially prepared talks and journal club at the conference room of the Bustamante Children s Hospital.

In March 2006, the Dermatology Association of Jamaica held its biennial conference at the Mona Visitor s

Lodge which was well attended by over 100 persons from the various medical fields, topics presented included therapeutics, viticigo, lasers, leg ulcers, diseases of the nails and misdiagnosed skin diseases.

It proved to be a very successful meeting, one that truly achieved its intended goal.

As 2006 draws to a close we hope to culminate with our outreach programme. We plan to visit the children s homes and treat all the residents with skin diseases.

In November, our members leave for Barbados to attend the Annual Caribbean Dermatology Associations Conference.

In December, we will have our final Quarterly meeting and luncheon for the year.

It has been a fulfilling year with much conceived and achieved. One must always keep in mind that all the members of these boards give voluntary service at great sacrifice to their income and families. I thank you all for your unwavering support to your boards, the MAJ, our colleagues and the nation as a whole. It has been an honour to serve you as Honorary Secretary. Thank you.

MAJ PRESIDENT S REPORT

Tabled by Dr Alverston Bailey

My colleagues, it has been for me a most challenging but rewarding experience to have served the MAJ as your President for the past year. We continue to play a critical role in advancing the welfare of all our colleagues and ensuring that the health and wellbeing of our patients is assured and zealously guarded through a cadre of well trained and highly motivated doctors. My vision for this Administration could not have being achieved without the commitment, support and hard work of my officers, and members of Council and I extent my deep appreciation to this group of truly selfless colleagues.

We regret the passing of a number of our distinguished colleagues whose legacy of excellence in practicing the fine art of medicine will long be remembered. We should also pause to congratulate those colleagues who have earn national and international honours through the dint of hard work and exemplary skills in upholding our proud hippocratic tradition.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We embarked on an ambitious plan of action this year which are outlined below:

1. Up grade MAJIF
2. Expand our Community Outreach Programmes
3. Improve our Fund Raising efforts
4. Comprehensive review and update of our Code of Ethics for dissemination to all doctors
5. Modernize our Secretariat
6. Expand our membership drive to reconnect with our younger colleagues
7. Promote and encourage professional development via seminars symposia, conferences, workshops, tele-conferencing etc.
8. Implement a comprehensive physicians assistance programme for impaired physicians

- with the establishment of the Council of Wise Men in all regions
9. Expand our benefits package.
 10. Become actively involve in advocacy for our patients and our colleagues.
 11. Improve our networking with regional and international Medical Associations.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA INSURANCE FUND (MAJIF)

MAJIF continues to grow and we note that the collaboration between the regional branches and MAJIF has resulted in significant increase in membership. The establishment of a mediation sub-committee must be lauded and this should significantly facilitate the resolution of medico legal challenges.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

We continue to struggle with budgetary challenges and must implore you all to assist us in fund raising efforts to enhance the viability of our Secretariat and our Community Outreach Programmes.

We must congratulate the MAJ Travel Club for planning and executing two memorable trips to Cuba and Alaska and we look forward to even more exciting adventures next year.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

We have expanded our Outreach programmes and MAJ is now an important stakeholder in Rescue, St. Andrew Care Center, Missionaries for the Poor, Special Olympics, Mamby Baptist Church and the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation.

SECRETARIAT

Our secretariat has been transformed; our board room is now a thing of beauty, thanks to Mrs. Lyn and we implore you to use the Secretariat as a resource centre for CME and research.

ETHICS

Our colleagues continue to struggle with complex ethical dilemmas and our Code of Ethics which is posted on our website should be a useful source of information for all of us. We anticipate that early next year we will commence our Quarterly Ethics Seminars.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership base must be expanded. Please remember the admonition of Benjamin Franklyn who stated We will either hang together or hang separately. Let us therefore endorse inclusivity.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

1. We will soon be establishing a physicians assistance programme for colleagues with special challenges in all the regions. This is being coordinated by Dr. Blossom Anglin-Brown.
2. A Council of Wisemen has been established in all the regions to deal with ethical and medico legal issues.

3. The Hon. Dr. Albert Lockhart is presently pursuing the establishment of a Retirement Village for physician.

BENEFITS

The Membership Committee has negotiated some important benefits for us to date, these are:

1. Housing Solutions
2. Car Loans
3. Credit Cards
4. Practice Software
5. Motor Vehicle Insurance, etc.

Being a member of MAJ, does indeed make a difference!

ADVOCACY

We continue to play an active role in advocacy and MAJ's position statements on Ganja, HIV, Abortion, Alternative and Complimentary Medicine, Euthanasia, Forensic Pathology, a Charter of Rights for Patients, The Child Care and Protection Act, Victims Charter and Cuban Eye Care Programme.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue to promote professionalism and are quite pleased with the successful hosting of our annual symposium. The theme Medicine Across the Ages Challenges, Advances and Updates was an ideal representation of the challenges that all physicians face in addressing the needs of our patients along life's continuum.

The scientific papers were elegantly presented and well received by all the delegates and the overall consensus was that this was truly an intellectual feast, which left us academically sated. We anticipate that the Symposium planned for next year will realize this level of excellence.

The MAJ in association with Sanofi Aventis has developed a comprehensive state-of-the-art Diabetes Management Guidelines, which will be provided free of cost to all doctors by the end of November 2006.

THE WAY FORWARD

The mission of the Ministry of Health (MOH) is to ensure access to a sustainable, responsive and effective health system that is stakeholder focused and facilitates the health, productivity and wellbeing of Jamaica.

The MAJ is quite concerned that many of these objectives have not been met because of the following challenges:

1. Inadequate budgetary support for the Ministry of Health which was a un realistic 3.4% in 2003; 4% in 2004; 4% in 2005 and 4.4% in 2006 (10% in the recommended value).
2. A dysfunctional health reform process (regionalization) which has demonstrated the following:
 - lack of cohesion and cohesiveness;
 - lack of dialogue and participation in the decision processes across the sector;
 - crises oriented communication;
 - weak links amongst all professional and non-professional groups;
 - chronic shortage of technical staff

- severe under-financing;
 - disproportionate expenditure on administration to the detriment of clinical services;
 - inadequate service delivery spaces especially in inaccessible rural areas;
 - ageing and poorly maintained medical equipment and physical plants;
 - poor functional and structural organization with obscuring of clinical and administrative functions leading to questionable decision making processes, resulting in increased morbidity and mortality.
2. Inadequate numbers of specialist trained doctors due to the lack of appropriate numbers of posts in the public sector.
 3. Inadequate forensic and other pathology services which could impact negatively on the quality of medico-legal investigations.
 4. The high prevalence of preventative injuries being treated at our hospital due to violence and avoidable accidents.
 5. The negative impact of globalization which undermines our capacity to deliver basic public health services.
 6. Poor working conditions, inadequate remuneration and absence of opportunity for promotion resulting in disillusionment and apathy among all health care providers.

We therefore recommend to the new Minister and his team the following:

1. That the MAJ would support a lobby by the Minister of Health to the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister to provide greater budgetary support for health;
2. That they initiate an urgent review of the health reform process to address the ineffectiveness of regionalization of health planning, service delivery, accountability, transparency, communication and community involvement and that we recommend that a broad commission be established to achieve these objectives.
3. That they prioritize the implementation of a national health information system as an essential and necessary strategy to improve the efficacy and the effectiveness of the National Health Service System.
4. That they, in keeping with the strategic objectives of the redesigned national health service system, urgently expand the number of posts available in the public health sector for:
 - i) Specialist trained and other Doctors
 - ii) Junior Doctors
 - iii) Nurses
 - iv) Medical Technologists
 - v) Pharmacists
 - vi) Physical Therapists
 - vii) Radiographers
 - viii) Dieticians
 - ix) Etc.
5. That they initiate an urgent investigation of the status of forensic pathology services and implement corrective measures. The MAJ has investigated and

made recommendations in the past on the needs for adequate forensic pathology services. We are willing to make another presentation on the details of the services that are needed.

6. That they expand the Violence Prevention Programme
7. That they improve working conditions and remuneration of health care providers in the public sector;
8. That the National Health Fund (NHF) explore the possibility of including other chronic diseases which significantly impact on the health of the Jamaican people, and that they be guided by epidemiological research data.
9. That they discontinue user fees in the health centres; because it is uneconomical to do so.
10. That they explore creative ways and means of enabling a greater participation of the Jamaican people in health insurance especially the non-formal sector.
11. That community based health committees be revived and enabled to participate fully in wellness and preventative programmes especially for chronic diseases and HIV infection at the community level.
12. That the application of information and communication technology be used in the development of centres of excellence within the public sector, in collaboration with the private sector, to enable the export of services and the development of health tourism. The proceeds from these services may be used to support financing of the public health sector.

EPILOGUE

Let us move from the confines of our practice to see unmet needs and to meet them. Let us point our compass toward what Abraham Lincoln called the better angels of our nature .

God bless you all.

7. ELECTION OFFICER S REPORT

Submitted by Dr Winston De La Haye

Only one nomination was received for each of the following posts:

President	Dr. Alverston
Bailey	
1 st Vice President	Dr. William Brown
2 nd Vice President	Dr Rosemarie
Wright-Pascoe	
Honorary Secretary	Dr. Ann Jackson-
Gibson	
Assistant Secretary	Dr. Simone
Dundas	
Honorary Treasurer	Dr. Neville
Graham	
Assistant Treasurer	Dr. Sandra
Knight	

All nominations were accepted, except for the post of Honorary Secretary.

The nominees accepting will be declared duly elected at our next Annual General Meeting on September 24, 2006.

Nominations will be taken from the floor for the post of Honorary Secretary at our next Annual General Meeting on September 24, 2006.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Neville Graham invited members to attend the next tour which would be island hopping cruising in the Caribbean and a World cup trip in the following summer.

Dr Innis asked that the MAJ offer leadership in the Victoria Jubilee incident concerning Dr. Goldson.

9. ELECTION

Dr. Suzanne Minott-Arscott was elected unopposed from the floor to the post of Honorary Secretary.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00p.m.