



NEWSLETTER

March 2006

Dear Colleagues,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Council of the Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ), and I wish you and your family peace and prosperity, as we approach the Easter holidays.

The MAJ continues to work assiduously on your behalf as we liaise with government agencies, the University of the West Indies, NGO's and other business entities to address your needs.

Breaking News

1. Blue Cross

We continue to have dialogue with Blue Cross and representatives from Advance Integrated Systems (AIS) re the implementation of an electronic claim submission system. AIS has made the following offer for our consideration:

- a) To provide the swipe device free of charge.
- b) To waive any software license fees and, implementation and training charges.
- c) Reduce transaction fees from 1.75% to 1.5%.

We have expressed strong objection to this transaction fee and reminded Blue Cross of the solemn pledge made by their past CEO, Mr. Richard Powell in a letter to providers dated November 18, 2002 wrote that Blue Cross would not charge a transaction fee.

Blue cross has been advised to put appropriate systems in place to absorb this fee.

We anxiously await their response.

2. MAJIF

- MAJIF is having dialogue with the Jamaican Bar Association to establish a mediation sub-committee and you will be informed of the outcome of these deliberations.
- Guidelines for responses to law suits have been sent to all doctors. If you have not received them please call the Secretariat.

3. Outreach Programme

- We will be expanding our outreach programs and plan to initiate a Street Children program shortly.

4. Benefits

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

- a) Personal, Accident and Disability insurance with American Home Assurance Company
- b) Housing solutions and motor vehicle insurance with Jamaica National Building Society and NEM.
- c) A National Commercial Bank Signature Line for unsecured loans up to a maximum of \$2Million.
- d) A NCB Home Equity loan up to a maximum of \$10Million.
- e) Health insurance coverage for doctors and their dependents with Blue Cross of Jamaica.
- f) Discount packages with Jamaica Automobile Association for purchase of new cars.
- g) A medical practice software by MEDECUS
- h) Specialized Medical texts and office supplies for Medical Waste Management will soon be available at the Secretariat.

5. Ethics

The MAJ new Ethics Guidelines Manual has been posted on the website and can be downloaded.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is now being refurbished and will be soon be available as:

- a) A venue for small conferences and board meetings for all affiliated organizations at a reasonable rate.
- b) A resource centre for
 - Ø CME's on CD's and cassettes
 - Ø Clinical updates
 - Ø Ministry of Health and government health policies
 - Ø Video Conferencing



Secretariat cont'd...

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- Ø Photocopying and internet services
- Ø Venue for after hour's relaxation and entertainment.
- Ø A journal club

Membership

We have initiated an aggressive membership drive and sub committees have been established in all the regions to facilitate its success.

Professional Development

We will soon be posting on line monthly CME's and by June 2006 three Disease Management Guidelines on Diabetes, Hypertension and Asthma will be distributed to all doctors.

Physician Assistance Programmes

- We will soon be establishing a physician assistance programme for colleagues with special challenges in all the regions. This is being coordinated by Dr Blossom Anglin-Brown
- A Council of Wisemen has been established in all the regions to deal with ethical and medico-legal issues.
- The Hon Dr Albert Lockhart is presently pursuing the establishment of a retirement village for physicians. Please call MAJ for further information.

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 and a Charter of Rights for patients can be found on our web site.

MAJ Travel Club

The Travel Club is pleased to announce two tours this year:

- Easter weekend in Cuba (13 – 17 April 2006)
- Cruise/Tour to Alaska (26 Aug – 8 Sept.2006)

Please contact the Secretariat for further information.

Congratulations

Professor Owen Morgan on his seminal honour of Master of the American College of Physicians. No other Jamaican has every received this award and only 2% of the membership of the College has been accorded the honour.

Dr. Knox Hagley – the Sir Phillip Sherlock Award
Dr. Rosemarie Wright-Pascoe – Fellow of the American College of Endocrinology
Dr Errol A Daley – the ACOG (West Indies Section) Award.

Condolences

Dr Conrad Douglas on the passing of his Mother-in-Law.
Dr W F B (Freddie) Clarke on the passing of his Father-in-Law

Volunteers Needed for Cricket World Cup 2007

From February 20 to March 8, 2007 volunteers (Doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, EMT's, and ambulance crews) will be needed to work during the Cricket World Cup 2007. Work locations include Jarrett Park in Montego Bay, St Ann's Bauxite Sports Club, Greenfield Stadium in Trelawny, Cornwall Regional Hospital and Falmouth Hospital. Contact Dr Jeffrey East at CRH for further information.

Up Coming Events

Symposium 2006 – Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

- June 1: Opening Ceremony
- June 2: Scientific Session & Interactive Workshops
- June 3: Scientific Session & Interactive Workshops & Awards Banquet
- June 4: Scientific Session & Interactive Workshops

As your umbrella organization, we are proud to serve you. But for a viable Secretariat we need your support through volunteerism, wise council and timely payments of your membership dues.

Have an enjoyable Easter

Dr. Alverston Bailey
President

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