



NEWS LETTER

November 2008



Dear Colleagues,

"One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind."

It is not an exaggeration to say that the election of Barack Obama, a black man, to the Presidency of the United States of America is a giant leap forward in the evolution of man as a civilized being. It is not an exaggeration to say that race relationships has dogged our world and has an impact on medicine as it has evolved (think the Tuskegee experiment) and as it is practiced. November 2, 2008 will go down in the annals of history as a day to remember. Little children in the future will have to memorize this date and we were all there! Congratulations to the citizens of the United States of the America for remembering that in this nation is the repository to do good and to change the world to make it a better place. "Yes, we can"

The administrative year 2007-2008 was a challenging but satisfying one. The support and guidance that the Executive received was immense and I personally would like to thank all our members who helped us in achieving our goals and objectives. We are indeed honoured by the confidence you have displayed in our ability by your voting in the entire executive en bloc. We hope not to disappoint but to continue to work to make the MAJ a relevant organization, one that represents your views and needs fearlessly and honestly.

There were challenges for 2007-2008 but there were also enormous successes.

Symposium 2008

Our Symposium was extremely well attended. Some five hundred & six (506) CME certificates were issued. The topics chosen were very well received. The presenters were excellent and we have scored a new milestone, in that, lectures have been posted to our website and can be viewed by any member at any time.

Banquet 2008

The banquet was the largest banquet we have ever had. The Guest speaker, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honourable O. Bruce Golding, sounded the clarion call

asking us all to get on board and to offer the best that we can (never mind the deficiencies present) in the delivery of health to our patients in the public health sector.

Opening Ceremony 2008

The Guest Speaker at the Opening Ceremony, Her Excellency Brenda La Grange Johnson, Ambassador to the United States of America, invited us to extend our philanthropy to the area of the prevention of cigarette-smoking in our youths. It is certainly something for us to pursue.

PHILANTHROPY

In fulfilling one of our objectives to continue to enhance philanthropy in our members, in association with the MAJ Trust, we donated a sizable sum of money to the National Public Health Laboratory to aid in getting more Jamaicans to donate blood.

OBJECTIVES 2007-2008

In pursuing our goals to practice medicine using the highest ethical and professional standards, several presentations were made by our Ethics and Education Committee to members in Montego Bay, Mandeville and Kingston. Our worst fears were realized with the allegations against one of our medical practitioners at the National Chest Hospital. The Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ) has a mandate to be proactive and not reactive and to influence the decision-making process well before they are made. We were therefore very happy that we were nominated by the Minister of Health and Environment to be a part of a panel to review these allegations. We await the report.

MAJ EXECUTIVE 2008-2009

At the Annual General Meeting, held on September 28, 2008, the Executive of the Medical Association of Jamaica was re-elected unopposed.

OBJECTIVES 2008-2009

This new executive will continue to focus on ethics and professionalism but we will now add to these workshops on running an effective private practice. These will



explore location, financing, staffing, equipping, taxation and financial security.

INVITATION

Come and join us with your family, friends and staff members at our dinner dance which will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2008 at the 6 Melwood Avenue, Cherry Gardens, Kingston 8.

Your contribution will go to good cause which is the development of the headquarters of the Medical Association of Jamaica.

What GP/FP's want in a Consultant's Report
(Adopted from an article in the *Internal Medicine Journal* 2005; 35: 491-6)

- Short turn-around time between patient visit and receipt of specialist's letter
- Professional courtesy, including addressing the letter to the referring physician
- Clearly stated diagnostic formulations.
- Specific answers to specific questions.
- Prognostic statements
- Reasoning behind actions and recommendations.
- Clear comments on the possible effects of the disease or treatment on quality of life and functional capacity
- A detailed management plan
- Medication lists
- Contingency plans for adverse events from (or failure of) first-choice treatment.
- Follow-up arrangements

What Consultants want in a Referral Letter
(Adopted from an article in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2000; 172 (2): 189-194)

- Clinical questions to be answered
- Information about the problem to be addressed
- Details that the patient is unable or unlikely to provide on the question to be answered
- Information on the patient's medical problems and medications

CONDOLENCES

We would like to express our deepest condolences to His Excellency Cedric Harper on the untimely passing of his wife Dr. Barbara Lyle-Harper; Drs. Errol Daley and Naydene Williams on the passing of their mothers; Dr. Winston De La Haye on the passing of his sister; Dr. Garth Alexander on the passing of his daughter and the family of the late Drs Ainsley Dujon, Barbara Johnson and Franklin James. Dr Ainsley Dujon was a past president of our association. His contribution to the development of the MAJ and to the practice of medicine in Jamaica was immense.

CONGRATULATIONS

We wish to extend our heartiest congratulations to our distinguished colleague Professor Peter Figueroa, who received one of Jamaica's highest national award, the Order of Jamaica, for outstanding service in the field of Epidemiology and in the development of HIV/ AIDS.

UPCOMING MAJ EVENTS

MAJ Fundraising Dinner & Dance

Date: Saturday, December 20, 2008

Venue: 6 Melwood Avenue, Cherry Gardens

Time: 7:00pm

Cost: \$ 3,500.00

MAJ "Inter-Island Tour" (Pigeon Island)

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009

MAJIF Risk Management Seminar

Date: Sunday, April 5, 2009

MAJ Medical Doctors' Week

Date: April 5-11, 2009

MAJ Cuban Get-a-Away

Date: April 9-13, 2009

MAJ's Annual Symposium 2009

Venue: The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

Date: June 4-7, 2008

Theme: The impact of Trauma on the Health of our Nation

CHRISTMAS

As physicians, we have an innate desire to help people, especially the ill and the poor; we have a sense of obligation to the unfortunate peoples of the world. We feel the desire to give back and we experience joy in helping others. Christmas is an especially poignant time for the very vulnerable in our society. We urge you to continue to give to the needy in cash and kind.

On behalf of the Executive and Council let me wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas Season and a New Year filled with prosperity. We will look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Dr Rosemarie Wright-Pascoe
President

Dr Takeyce Palmer
Editor
Asst. Honorary Secretary

