

myT & TMA

The official Newsletter of the Trinidad and
Tobago Medical Association

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Medical Association**

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Message from the Editorial Board

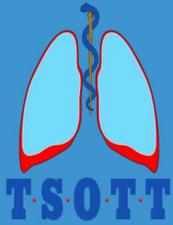
As we enter the last quarter of 2019, the T&TMA is proud to have hosted the 25th installment of the Medical Research Conference which highlights local research and academia. Well attended by all grades of staff, this year's theme focused on Paediatrics and was well received within and outside of the medical fraternity. The editorial committee congratulates the education committee of the association for the unwavering dedication in materializing this successful event and look forward to building on this in 2020.

The association continues to host monthly educational meetings at each branch. AACME certificates are awarded outlining the number of hours each physician obtains throughout the year. This initiative of the association is several years old and bodes well for the soon to be implemented regulations by the medical board for continuing medical education as a requisite for renewal of license.

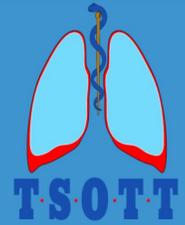
The Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago is also due to hold its Annual General Meeting in September 2019. This is an extremely important event in our fraternity and all physicians are asked to attend, listen to and voice opinions about the state of our profession. We cannot underscore enough how important it is for all physicians to involve themselves in the MBTT's effective functioning.

Lastly, the CMJ and myT&TMA continues to undergo a reformation through its long term strategic plan. We always appreciate feedback from the readership. On this note, we congratulate our Editor Professor Hariharan Seetharaman who has been appointed Director, School for Graduate Studies & Research and Chair, Campus Committee for Graduate Studies & Research University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus. We are assured that his input will improve the standards of academia in our illustrious profession.

By Dr. Darren Dookeeram MB.BS, DM, MBA, MRSB, FRSPH
Specialist Physician, Emergency Medicine
Instructor- ACLS, ATLS, PALS, Mass Casualty Management
Vice-President Membership Chairperson, T&TMA



Thoracic Society of Trinidad and Tobago



RESEARCH DAY 2019

Pulmonary Vascular Disease

SEPTEMBER 29TH 2019

HILTON TRINIDAD CONFERENCE CENTRE ● 8AM

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Paul Boyce MD, MPH

Evolution of Pulmonary Hypertension Management

Medical Director of Respiratory Care Services, Pulmonary Section Chief and Medical Director of the Pulmonary Hypertension Program at Northside Hospital, Atlanta, USA

Programme presentations:

- *E-cigarettes: Friend or Foe? – Dr. Wilson Chin Soo*
- *Thoracic Medical Department Case Study – Dr. Hugh Jacobs*
- *Echo Based Diagnosis of Pulmonary Hypertension – Dr. Ronan Ali*
- *Clinical Management of Group2 Pulmonary Hypertension – Dr. Tariq Dookie*
- *Pulmonary Hypertension in Sickle Cell Disease - Dr. Kenneth Charles*
- *Sleep Apnea Treatment & Management – Mr. Gregory Arneaud,*
- *Right Heart Catheterization in the Diagnosis of Pulmonary Hypertension –
Dr. Ronald Henry*
- *The Management of Acute Pulmonary Embolism – Dr. Sana Mohammed*
- *Surgical Management of CTEPH – Mr. Mark West*
- *Pulmonary Hypertension in the setting of lung disease - Dr. Candis Gomez-Akan*
- *Bronchial Asthma 2019 Update - Dr. Sateesh Sakhamuri*

Registration :

- \$100 Allied Health Professionals/Students
- \$200 TSOTT Member
- \$300 Non-Member
- \$200 AACME Additional

RSVP INFO: tsott.contact@gmail.com ● For more information contact Allyson 750-6891

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Accreditation provided by AACME through TTMA

Special Needs Dental Clinic



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What is Special Care /Special Needs Dentistry?

Special Needs Dentistry (SND) has been defined by the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons as “the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the oral health care of people with an intellectual disability or medical, physical, and/or psychiatric conditions that require special methods or techniques to prevent or treat oral health problems or where such conditions necessitate special dental treatment plans.”¹ It is the second newest dental specialty worldwide, although the term Special Care Dentistry (SCD) is used in some parts of the world including the United States and United Kingdom. Both terms (SND and SCD) embrace similar scopes of dental practice dedicated to care for patients with special health care needs (SHCN).² For the purpose of clarity the term Special Needs Dentistry (SND) will be used throughout this discussion.

Who are patients with Special Needs?

The British Society of Disability and Oral Health (BSDH)/Royal College of Surgeons of England listed the following core categories of patients under this target group and evolved guidelines for the management of such patients.³ They include:

- people with physical disability
- dependent, dysphagic, critically and terminally ill patients
- long-stay patients and residents
- oncology patients requiring radiotherapy, chemotherapy and bone marrow transplantation
- people with mental health problems
- people with learning disabilities
- people unable to comply with routine dental care

- domiciliary dental care services
- severely dentally phobic patients requiring conscious sedation

Additionally, medically compromised geriatric patients such as those with Hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular problems and other diseases who cannot be routinely treated in other Clinics due to special physical or intellectual conditions that necessitate unique dental treatment plans.

What do Special Needs Dentists do?

Special Needs Dentists provide oral care for adults and children with a range of impairments and disabilities. Special Needs Dentists focus on preventive dental treatment, which improves both the patients' and the caregivers' quality of life. They work within specialised dental teams to provide expertise and services to facilitate the improvement in oral health for individuals and groups who fall within these categories and have difficulty accessing routine oral care services. Some patients require altered treatment plans based on their complex medical history as well as their physical or intellectual disability and therefore require a close working relationship with the patients' medical practitioner.

What is the role of the medical practitioner?

Given that patients with special needs may have comorbidities, letters of clearance are necessary for the patients' medical practitioner to assess the fitness of the patient for the dental procedure. Often, the patients would require local dental anaesthesia using 1:100 000 epinephrine, the dentist would require written assurance that the patient is fit to undergo such treatment without additional risks to the patient, as well as a full list of medications prescribed by the medical practitioner.

When referring a patient with special needs to a dentist it would be helpful to send this letter of clearance and any necessary precautions, which will save the patients and their caregivers time.

Where can Special Needs patients access care?

The University of the West Indies has a Special Needs Dental Clinic, located in the Mt. Hope Hospital. It is the only such clinic in the Caribbean and functions as a polyclinic in which patients with multi-system medical disorders and dental problems, which are likely to be complex encompassing different dental disorders/specialties. The treatment provided involves restoration of dental caries, minor dento-alveolar/oral surgery/oral medicine, diagnoses and treatment of oral pathologies, periodontal, and orthodontic dentistry problems, within the realm of practice by a general dentist, under the guidance of specialist consultation where necessary. At present conscious sedation, is not offered, however it is hoped that in the near future patients who require comprehensive treatment under both conscious and general anaesthesia would be offered this service. At the moment those who require urgent dental surgery or exodontia are referred to the oral surgery department for treatment.

There are also a few private dental practitioners who offer these services as well as some form of conscious sedation.

References

- Australian Dental Association. Policy statement 2.4, November 2008: specialization in dentistry. New South Wales: Australian Dental Association, 2013.
- Ettinger RL, Chalmers J, Frenkel H. Dentistry for persons with special needs: how should it be recognized? J Dent Educ 2004;68(8):803–6
- Fiske J and Lewis D. The development of standards for domiciliary dental services: guidelines and recommendations. Report of the BSDH working group. British Society for Disability and Oral Health. 2000

25th Annual Medical Research Conference – “Leave No Child Behind”



The Medical Research Conference of the Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association (T&TMA), presented the 25th installment of this well anticipated event. It was held at the Hilton Hotel, Trinidad on Sunday 28th July, 2019. The program ran smoothly and grasped the attention of a “packed-out” audience. This event was brilliantly delivered.

Opening remarks by Dr. Virendra Singh, The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Ray and The Honourable Terrance Deyalsingh started off procedures with a streak of brilliance.

Presentations followed executed to precision by Dr. J. Rmacharan, Dr. David Toby, Dr. A. Pemberton, Dr. M Rooplal Dr. N.Cooper-Gomez, Ms S. Allum, Mr. D. Taylor, Dr. S. Virachia, Dr. J. Baran, Dr. N. Dick, Dr. A Jagoo and Dr. Virendra Singh who presented on behalf of Dr. V. Shukla. Dr. David Toby was awarded for research excellence in Paediatric Orthopedics.

The put the icing on the cake the final session encompassed interactive workshops which covered the areas:

“Psychosocial issues in Paediatrics”

“Internet Safety in Children and adolescents”

“Falling through the cracks– differently abled children in our nation’s education system”

“Communication skills for HCPs”

Overall a fruitful event that certainly rose to expectations. Special appraisal must be given to Dr. Analisa Cumberbatch, President of T&TMA and her team which worked tediously to produce nothing less than excellence. The following page illustrates some pictures from the event.

It’s just a matter of time before the Medical Research Conference of T&TMA release the 26th edition of this eagerly awaited event. Be on the lookout not to miss what the year 2020 has in store!

For more info visit: <http://tntmedical.com/>

25th Annual Medical Research Conference – “Leave No Child Behind”



T&TMA– EAST BRANCH OUTREACH 2019

Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association East Branch had its annual Outreach in the Kernaham Village 5th August 2019. The Outreach catered for this remote village which depend on watermelon produce and fishing for a livelihood. This is a small village along the east coast bordering the “Manzanilla stretch”.

The planning committee consisted of Dr. Candace Ash, Dr. Michelyn Gerrick, Dr. Sean Sobers and Dr. Damion Basdeo. This event was overseen by Dr. Darren Dookeeram and Dr. Rajiv Bhagaloo. The outreach was held at the Kernaham Forestry Field Station which was voluntarily offered.

Volunteers came from far and wide including south and central Trinidad. A wide range of specialties/departments were present . Services offered free of charge. This included lifestyle disease, dietician, social worker, public health, medical social worker, dentistry, oncology, paediatrics, gynecology, urology and ophthalmology. Patients came not only from the Kernaham village but also neighbouring villages such as Cascadoux and Ortoire Village. Well over 25% of the targeted village attended. The event was blessed with bright sunshine and smiling faces.

This successful endeavor could not have been accomplished without the volunteers which included nurses, doctors, dentists, dieticians, villagers and many more. Last but not least the many sponsors who willingly offered assistance in various ways This event uplifted the community not only health-wise but holistically. The following page illustrates some pictures from the event.

T&TMA- EAST BRANCH OUTREACH 2019



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Please note:

- Members must take note that wherever it says "Employee", we mean T&TMA Member.
- Emp.+1 means a T&TMA Member and one family member (a spouse OR one child).
- EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION and BASIC GROUP LIFE AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT info are NOT required at this time.
- On completion, PRINT & SIGN the completed form and RETURN to T&TMA Office for compilation and collection.
- Members need to be reminded that, any Member with a pre-existing condition, SHOULD join the T&TMA Group Health Plan at this time as there are NO medical requirements at Initial Enrolment period.