

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mr Asif Ali

Independent Senator Dr Victor Wheeler

President of the Gynecological and Obstetrical Society of Trinidad and Tobago and Dean of Faculty of Medical Sciences, Prof Samuel Ramsewak

Coordinator of Diabetes Education Research and Prevention Institute and UWI team leader of the Regional NCD Surveillance System Project, Prof Surujpal Teelucksingh

Diabetes Education Research and Prevention Institute Board members, Dr Brian Cockburn, Prof Rajendra Ramlogan, Dr Akenath Misir

Investigators, Caribbean ICT Research Programme, Dr Kim Mallalieu, Kevin Andrews, Darryl Samlal, Patrick Hosein, Sean Roche

President MBTT, Dr Dev Ramoutar

Chairman of the South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA), Dr Lackram Bodo

CMOH County Victoria

Other Specially Invited guests

Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

Welcome to the Gestational Diabetes in Trinidad and Tobago Conference!

It was the world icon Nelson Mandela who said “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” and the T&TMA takes pride in being one of the leading providers of high quality continuing medical education in our country. When the T&TMA was given the opportunity to collaborate with GOSTT, UWI and the Helen Bhagwansingh Diabetes Education Research and Prevention Institute, to raise awareness of, educate doctors and get a consensus opinion on GDM, we naturally accepted.

With the assistance of some of the reknown Specialists in Trinidad and Tobago coordinated by Profs Teelucksingh and Ramsewak, as well as sponsorship from DERPI, NGC, MSD and Sanofi Adventis, we were able to come up with a comprehensive program for this conference, which was approved for 3 Category 1 CME credits by the American Academy of CME.

This Conference and workshop is necessary against the background of a 12-13% prevalence rate of Diabetes in our country, according to the Ministry of Health 2011 National Risk Factor survey- STEPS. This increasing prevalence of Diabetes, is associated with an increased prevalence of diabetes associated pregnancies.

A study done by Clapperton et al , found that the “proportion of women with GDM who gave birth at the MHWH during the period January 2005 to December 2007 was 4.3% and was projected to reach 9.31% in 2008, that is, a 5.6-fold increase from 2005.

Our local data is comparable to International studies which show the rising burden of this disease. For example, in 2011, the US National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse reported rates of gestational diabetes ranging from 2 to 10 percent of pregnancies. In addition, there were two other interesting findings:

- Immediately after pregnancy, 5 to 10 percent of women with gestational diabetes are found to have diabetes, usually type 2.
- Women who have had gestational diabetes have a 35 to 60 percent chance of developing diabetes in the next 10–20 years

A 2012 publication in the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, by our own Dr Bassaw et al, found that approx 25% of patients with GDM have no risk factors and therefore, adopting selective screening based on risk factors, will miss cases of GDM.

Dear Colleagues, I invite you to take advantage of this Conference. Thank you for attending. It's is time to act!! It's time to accept the challenge!!

DR LIANE CONYETTE

PRESIDENT T&TMA 2014