



COUNTRY REPORT 2011 **JAMAICA**

It is a great pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of the executive and members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica.
Congratulations to Mr. Bassil Scantlebury and the team for organizing this year's conference here in Antigua.

PSJ Activities

The executive for the period 2010-2012 based on the elections which were held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2010 are as follows:

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Mrs Valerie Germain | President | |
| Mr Khimanie Blackwood | 1 st Vice President | |
| Mr Ainsley Jones | 2 nd Vice President | |
| Mr Mark Law | Treasurer | |
| Mr Kevin Fearon | Assistant Treasurer | |
| Ms Sherray Banks | Secretary | |
| Ms Jammelia Buddoo | Asst Secretary | |
| Mr Tyrone Smith | Executive | |
| Dr Ernestine Watson | Executive | |
| Ms Dawn Lindsay | Executive | |
| Dr Janet Stewart | Executive | |
| MS Michelle Reid | Executive | |
| Mr Donahue Harrilal | Executive | |
| Mr Clive Harris | Executive | co-opted |
| Ms Ketesha Salmon | Executive | co-opted |

Revitalization of the branches

The Central Branch and the Western Branch of the PSJ continue their activities (including continuing education seminars, health fairs etc) under the guidance of Ms Ketesha Salmon and Mr Clive Harris respectively

Focus on active participation

There is an increased focus on active participation by pharmacists to improve collaboration and networking. Several pharmacists actively participate on Committees in the organization.

Communication and Social Networking

Communication within the organization and outside of the organization continues to improve with the use of measures such as the email, website, facebook etc.

We also produce a Monthly bulletin and Quarterly newsletter.

Social events such as Pharmalyme have been initiated and are well supported by pharmacists and partners of the organization.

Establishment of Committees

Twelve (12) Committees have been established. These are as follows:

- Continuing Education and Training Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Standards and Ethics Committee
- Editorial Committee
- Professional Practice Support and Affairs Committee (PPSAC)
- Public Sector SubCommittee
- Private Sector SubCommittee
- Wellness Committee
- Retreat Committee
- Membership Committee
- Public Education Committee
- Building Committee

Focus on Training and Professional Development

PSJ has embraced the concept of Medication Therapy Management (MTM) which enables pharmacists to provide a range of services and be reimbursed for them. We are actively working on integrating this concept in pharmacy practice in Jamaica. In furtherance of our MTM plans, a 3 credit MTM workshop was held at our recent retreat on June 17, 2011.

MTM includes the analytical, consultative, educational and monitoring services provided by pharmacists to help consumers get the best results from medications through enhancing consumer understanding of medication therapy, increasing consumer adherence to medications, controlling costs, preventing drug complications and interactions.

The Pharmaceutical Society continues to offer Continuing Education seminars of high quality. Pharmacists require 12 credits each year to re-register with the Pharmacy Council of Jamaica. For 2011, we have had 2 continuing education seminars and a third will be held on September 18, 2011.

At the Seminar in September, we will focus on the rights of temporary and permanent employees, the pharmacist as an entrepreneur and we will discuss the PSJ proposed salary scale for community pharmacy and the PSJ proposed employment contract.

In addition to the Continuing Education Seminars, the Management Committee initiated a training component which seeks to identify areas for ongoing training of pharmacists. Training has since been promoted in diabetes, CPR and leadership skills. The last training seminar was held in May 2011 where PSJ and Astra Zeneca collaborated to provide

training in CPR for 14 pharmacists. We are currently in discussions to initiate training for pharmacists in HIV screening and pre and post HIV test counseling. We also continue to support the development of specializations in pharmacy practice-clinical, public health, entrepreneurship etc

Collaboration with other health professional groups – Joint Health Sector Group (JHSG)

The Pharmaceutical Society remains an active member of this group. Other professional groups which form part of the JHSG are the Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ), Jamaica Association of Government Medical Consultants, Jamaica Association of Professionals in Nutrition Nutritionists and Dietetics, Jamaica Physiotherapy Association, Association of Public Dental Surgeons, and the Jamaica Medical Doctors Association. The MAJ led group is chaired by Dr Winston De La Haye, President MAJ and Dr Shane Alexis, President of the Jamaica Medical Doctors Association serves as the Vice Chair. The PSJ is represented by its President as the Secretary of the JHSG.

The group continues to reject the results of the reclassification exercise which was undertaken by the Ministry of Finance in Jamaica to evaluate job functions in the health sector.

The restructuring of the public sector by the Jamaican Ministry of Health is another issue being discussed at this time.

Advocacy for the Public Sector and Private Sector Groups

On behalf of the public sector pharmacists, the PSJ continues to have dialogue with the Ministry of Health and Pharmacy Council of Jamaica regarding pharmacy practice in the public sector.

Issues being discussed include the drastic shortage of pharmacists, the need to improve remuneration and working conditions, the need for restructuring of pharmacy services.

The PSJ also awaits a response to our counterproposal which was made to the NHF regarding the public-private partnership originally proposed.

A response to our proposal for a review of the JADEP fees is also anticipated.

Abolition of user fees

The Government of Jamaica abolished user fees in all public hospitals and health centers in April 2008. Jamaicans can now access all services including pharmaceutical services at these facilities at no cost. The introduction of the no user fee policy significantly increased the number of patients accessing pharmacy services. This has highlighted the chronic shortage of pharmacists in the public sector.

Retreat Committee

The 26th staging of the Annual Pharmacy Retreat was hosted at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort and Spa from June 17-19, 2010 under the theme “*Pharmacists in 3D*”. Professor Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies was the guest speaker at the Opening Ceremony and gave a well received presentation on “*Training Health Professionals now and for the future*”

This year 429 pharmacists attended the three (3) day Retreat and we also had 51 booth holders.

Establishment of Pharmajob

The Pharmaceutical Society launched its employment mechanism called Pharmajob. Through this mechanism, potential employers and pharmacists who seek employment can be connected.

Available jobs are advertised on Facebook and via the PSJ email communication system. The service is offered free to members of the PSJ.

Establishment of a Complaints Mechanism

We have established a complaints mechanism to address the concerns of pharmacists. A Complaints officer has been assigned.

The new Board of the Pharmacy Council of Jamaica

The following persons have been appointed by the Minister of Health to serve as members of the new Board of the Pharmacy Council for a period of 3 years with effect from May 24, 2011 to May 23, 2014.

Mr Lester Woolery (Chair)
Mrs Lanna Bennett
Mrs Princess Osbourne
Ms LilyClaire Bellamy
Mrs Valerie Germain *
Dr Thelma Nelson*
Mr Mark Law *
Dr Ellen Grizzle *
Mr Tyrone Smith *
Dr Tonoya Toyloy Williams *

*PSJ Representatives

Valerie M Germain (Mrs.)
President
Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica