

Whilst the lab at St. James Medical Complex is specific to the following capabilities

- Phlebotomy
- Biochemistry
- Haematology
- Immuno-hematology
- Specimen Testing

The NWRHA Medical Laboratory Professionals are heroes in lab coats, honouring their ability and dedication to saving lives. Their proficiency in getting results makes them an integral part of the region's empowered team of healthcare professionals.



Haematology Lab Tech Staff

Intern Orientation at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Twenty three medical interns were welcomed and initiated into the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Maternity Hospital, Port of Spain General Hospital on Monday 11th April, 2016. This is the second group of interns to pass through the department for the year, as it is customary for interns to be rotated every three months.

The initiation of the interns came in the form of an orientation which is piloted by Dr Chauharjasingh, the head of the department. The interns were presented with a handout to guide them with daily operations and familiarize them with the rigours of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department. The booklet addressed some of the following topics: working hours, the department wards, responsibilities, documentation, referrals & hand overs and sick leave.

According to Dr Chauharjasingh, the orientation is meant to impress upon the interns the need to constantly follow the established protocols for management in such a critical area. They are reminded that they are provisionally registered officers that must be supervised at all times. Additionally, all decisions and documentation they make must first be consulted and subsequently approved by a senior doctor. Furthermore, under no circumstance are they allowed to discharge patients.

This orientation empowers the officers to hit the ground running by being able to begin contributing substantially almost instantaneously in the high intensity area where the best maternal outcome is priority. Before concluding the orientation, Dr Chauharjasingh also emphasized on the necessity of team work as a key factor within the department. He expressed his desire for the fairly large group of interns to leave the department at the end of their short period with a sense of cohesion.

The presence of interns in Obstetrics and Gynaecology continue to contribute to the efficiency of the department and is significant to its success. Presently, the Maternity department boasts the lowest maternal mortality in the country, contributing to sustainable national figure of 85 per 100,000.

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INSIDE NWRHA

April 2016



Establishment of a Resuscitation and Medical Treatment Room at the St Ann's Hospital

The Assessment and Admissions Department of the St Ann's Psychiatric Hospital is required to conduct mental and physical assessments of persons presenting to hospital, to determine the need for mental health care treatment and/or admission.

During a visit to the department by The Health Care Delivery Review Committee, chaired by Dr. Winston Welch, on 28th January, 2016 a recommendation was made to create a resuscitation and medical treatment room within the department. This would improve the Emergency Response Capability of the staff at the unit to manage and stabilize patients with minor medical emergencies.

A NWRHA multidisciplinary team comprising of The Medical Director of Health - Dr Dylan Narinesingh, Ms Keisha Lewis - GM, Mental Health, Ms Reshma Harrinauth - GM Operations, Mrs Cecelia Hutson - GM Nursing, Dr Indar Ramtahal - Acting Medical Director SAH, Mr Emmet Daisy - Acting Hospital Administrator, Mrs Norma Harewood-Clarke - Nursing Administrator and Dr F. Mohammed - Consultant Anaesthetist (SJMC) was formed to oversee this project. Some tasks of the committee were to review: space allocation, medication required and staff training needs.

A policy specific to SAH was also created - "SAH Use and Care of Resuscitation Carts & Equipment" and "SAH Adult Resuscitation checklist". Staff at the Assessment and Admissions Department was also able to participate in Basic Life Support training.

The NWRHA is proud to announce that the fully equipped **Resuscitation and Medical Treatment Room** was officially opened by the Director of Health, on April 5th, 2016. Congratulations and thank you to the entire in-house team for ensuring this task was accomplished within such a short timeframe.



Hospital Administrator Emmet Daisy and RMN Terry Precila at the launch of the Resuscitation Room

Immunization week

According to the World Health Organization (2016) vaccinations prevents an estimated 2.5 million deaths each year. Protection from vaccine preventable diseases has afforded children to thrive and realize their full potential. Improved access to clean water, better hygiene and education has seen a reduction in morbidity and mortality from vaccine preventable diseases.

Immunization week commenced on the 21st April 2016. It is an annual event which provides healthcare workers with an ideal opportunity to promote vaccination and its benefits to their respective communities. This year's theme is "Close the immunization Gap: Immunization for all throughout life"

Ministry of National Security, Camp Ogden

Trinidad Hilton Hotel

Immigration Department

The office of the Attorney General

The NWRHA in light of immunization week has developed a list of activities which targeted employees from various organizations. The County of St. George West was charged with the responsibility of reaching out to the following organizations:

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2016

Get Results

The medical laboratory technician fraternity attached to the North West Regional Health Authority collaborated with their peers from the other four regional health authorities and the MLT Board of Trinidad and Tobago to celebrate Medical Laboratory Technician Week. This celebration which takes place the last full week in April each year was celebrated during 24th - 30th April 2016.

The collaborators hosted a week of various activities, starting with an opening ceremony on Sunday 24th April, 2016 and closing with a family day on Saturday 30th April, 2016. Both activities along with most of the other activities were accommodated at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. This included continuation education workshops, an inter-regional jeopardy competition and quizzes.

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (MLPW) provides the profession with a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for clinical laboratory personnel.

These professionals play a pivotal role in the prevention and diagnosis of diseases by analysing blood and tissue samples, making cultures and matching and preparing blood donations for transfusions.

Beyond meeting this public need, the celebration of MLPW aides in increasing recognition for the profession as it improves the individual practitioner's sense of self-worth. Further, coming together to celebrate fosters a sense of unity and purpose amongst the specialists which is necessary for them to achieve the goals of the profession.

The North West Regional Health Authority has two fully functionally laboratories at the Port of Spain General Hospital and at the St. James Medical Complex. The lab at Port of Spain General Hospital is specific to the following capacities

Hematology
Hospital Transfusion Unit/Immuno-hematology
Immunology
Histology/Cytology
Microbiology