

NEWSLETTER

440+ Women Show Up for PapSmear Examinations

18th July 2018



David Bereaux accompanied by guitarist Marva Newton entertain patients and the supportive NCRHA staff as hundreds of women take part in the Great Pap Smear Initiative on June 16 at the Women's Center, Mt Hope.

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It was a call to all women. And in response, 440 plus women showed up at the Women's Centre on Saturday to receive Pap smear examinations. In the midst of a gripping World Cup football season paired with the challenge of a long weekend, they just kept coming.

The power of social media to positively change lives was clear as many of the women who were present on June 16, revealed that they were informed by Whatsapp messages promoting the drive. Some indicated that they were inclined to attend due to the convenience of time. One woman confessed to procrastinating for approximately four years and that the ad encouraged her to prioritize getting the examination done.

Clients were excited with the service, and were happy

they received attention quickly and efficiently in spite of high turnout. Dr. Randall Gooding, Medical Chief of Staff, Mount Hope Women's Hospital indicated that they anticipated the large turnout and were prepared to facilitate all who presented themselves.

Minister of Health Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh reiterated that according to studies, cervical cancer is only second to breast cancer, the leading cause of cancer found in women. However, it is the leading cause of fatalities amongst women who suffer from malignancy diseases. He further stated that women in low income areas were found to be more susceptible to the fatality of the disease, since they usually had less opportunities for early and multiple screenings.

A Pap smear is a diagnostic examination used to test for cervical cancer in women.

60 Nurses Honoured on International Nurses Day

Sixty nurses across to the North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA) were honoured for outstanding service at the Authority's celebration of International Nurses day, May 14, 2017.

Held at the Amphitheatre C, Eric Williams Medical Science Complex (EWMSC), the event was attended by the NCRHA Deputy Chairman Elvin Edwards, who acknowledged the work of nurses, emphasising that "they were the backbone of the institution." He added that the nursing community is instrumental in surgical and clinical services and are the drivers of the Authority's community outreach programs which increases the reach, thereby expanding access to quality healthcare, regardless of their social and economic status.

NCRHA Director and retired nurse Yvonne Bullen-Smith was profiled at the event for her extensive years in nursing and leadership services and was subsequently honoured with a token of appreciation.

Director Yvonne Bullen-Smith beams as she receives her bouquet from Vice Chairman Elvin Edwards. CEO Thomas applauds in the background.



The Paediatric Emergency Department (PED) houses a team of dedicated, hardworking healthcare professionals who serve the department beyond the call of duty. In this issue, we are pleased to acknowledge the contributions of Head Nurse, John Montalbo, one of our most valuable employees.

A Philipino by birth, Nurse Montalbo, fondly referred to as Nurse John, holds a BSc in Nursing (1994). He worked as a nurse in the Philippines for 12 years in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Emergency Medicine. Nurse John, migrated to Trinidad and Tobago and has been at the EWMSC PED since 2006 where he has diligently served for 11 years.

His natural leadership abilities were evident from since high school where he served as the President of the Student Supreme Council and was Core Commander of the Cadets. This "Trinippino" nurse now Acting Head Nurse since 2013, serves with pride and diligence. His passion for ensuring the stock rooms and crash rooms are well equipped and the entire department is in a state of disaster-

preparedness makes him an asset in any emergency setting. His proactive yet calm and reassuring nature provides us with the necessary stability amidst the daily challenges faced in an Emergency Department.

Nurse John's critical thinking skills, organizational skills, sense of humour, efficiency and willingness to help anyone, makes him a lifeline of PED.

Thank you Nurse John for your continuous commitment and dedication!

Staff Personality Feature



John Montalbo
Head Nurse
Paediatrics Emergency Dept.

Exercise Fact.

Regular exercise changes the brain to improve memory and thinking skills

Medical Laboratory Week Celebrations 2018



Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2018, at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) was a special celebration this year. The Laboratory staff were recognised for the establishment of a two-hour turnaround time for stat blood-works, an amazing feat for any health organization with a high laboratory throughput as the NCRHA.

This faster turnaround time improves the chances for timely treatment of diabetic and other chronic diseases which require immediate results to properly diagnose and manage treatment.

The Lab is also aggressively pursuing international

certification, to significantly enhance the capability and recognition of the laboratory services. Significant contributions were recognized by Professor A.V.C. Rao, Prof. Shivananda Nayak and Mrs. Kimberly Rahamut-Chatar, Manager Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

At a breakfast hosted in honour of our medical laboratory professionals, Chief Executive Officer, Davlin Thomas expressed his gratitude to the staff for their exceptional efforts and further encouraged them to keep pressing for more.

To the entire staff of the EWMSC Lab, thanks, and congratulations.

Don't be busy, be productive

Patient Escorts Day

The North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA), hosted its first Patient Escorts Day on May 7, in a bid to recognise the contributions of our valuable support staff. Members of the Executive Team were briefed on the role and responsibilities of our Patient Escorts during a one day training session, and then subsequently dispatched to practice what was learnt in institutions throughout the NCRHA.

According to Chief Executive Officer Mr. Davlin Thomas, the initiative was intended to give Management the opportunity to experience the NCRHA through the eyes of the Patient Escort. Managers were seen embracing the role with enthusiasm and many expressed their satisfaction with being able to serve in such a capacity.

Patient Escorts were encouraged to see management taking a hands-on interest in their duties, and view the attempt as a platform for more refined and encompassing perspectives in addressing gaps.

Apart from their daily task of transporting wheelchair and gurney dependent patients to various locations throughout the hospitals, patient escorts are essential in emergency and disaster situations. Their responsibilities extend to the care and management of patients and the transporting of samples and test results, to ensure timely delivery of care and diagnostic services.



NCRHA Team Highlights



Team at Arouca Health Centre

Contacts:

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