

Outcomes conference comes off this month

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THE Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados (HSFB) is pleased to be one of the sponsors of the Surgical Outcomes conference, being held at the Accra Beach Hotel on May 21 to 24, as part of its remit to help promote training and awareness of heart disease and stroke.

The conference is intended for professionals involved in cardiac surgery and its effect on the brain, although a public lecture has been incorporated into the programme for May 21 at **Sherbourne Centre**.

The Outcomes conference, now in its twelfth year, has its origins in Key West Florida where it was hosted between 1997 and 2006.

Since 2007, however, the meeting found a new home in Barbados under the leadership of University of the West Indies (UWI) senior lecturer Dr Clive Landis from the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC).

List of events associated with Surgical Outcomes 2008:

Date & Time	Location	Event	Comments
Wednesday, May 21 to Saturday, May 24	Accra Hotel	Outcomes conference	Open to conference registrants only. Online registration: www.outcomeskeywest.com
Wednesday, May 21, 5:30p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Sherbourne Centre	BDS/CDRC Public Lecture: Dr. Wojtek Dobkowski HEART MATTERS... How An Unhealthy lifestyle can end up in heart surgery	Open to the public. Jointly organised by the Barbados Drug Service and CDRC. Free cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure testing from 5:30 p.m. Free transportation from Fairchild Street.
Thursday, May 22, 7:30 a.m.	QEH	UWI Public Lecture: Dr. Robert Baker Cardiac Surgery: Effect On Mood And Memory	Suitable for surgeons, cardiologists, neurologists, psychologists and family medicine practitioners caring for the elderly.

The Outcomes conference is now jointly hosted by the UWI and the Schulich Medical Center, Ontario, Canada. Barbadian healthcare professionals are invited to take part in this

internationally accredited meeting, which is part of UWI's Continuous Medical Education (CME) programme.

The HSFB is excited to be associated with this prestigious event and hopes that healthcare professionals from the region will benefit from the advanced training opportunities afforded by having the Outcomes conference taking place on our shores.

This year, more than 65 experts in heart surgery, neurology, anaesthesiology, and brain perfusion from the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, France, Sweden, Italy, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean will be attending the conference.

At Accra they will gather to discuss ways to improve patient management during and after heart surgery, especially with reference to complications of the brain.

Tobacco initiative

Bloomberg to fund regional package warnings

THE Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados (HSFB), the Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) for The Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control, the Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society and the Guyana Chest Society have recently been awarded a grant from the Bloomberg Global Initiative.

The two-year funding programme will ensure the implementation of rotating picture-based package warnings on all tobacco products sold in CARICOM (Caribbean Community) countries.

The **Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados** was established in 1986 as a non-profit organisation and is a member of the InterAmerican Heart Foundation and the World Heart Federation. The Foundation is involved in prevention and rehabilitation programmes for cardiovascular disease and emergency cardiac care programmes. The Foundation's chief executive officer is a member of the Policy Committee of the international Framework Convention Alliance on tobacco control.

The Bloomberg project's primary objective is to achieve a strong CARICOM cigarette labelling standard – which is currently being updated and circulated for comment – and to ensure implementation of the standard or equally strong requirements in four target countries: Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Project strategies will include lobbying of national politicians, raising awareness among key decision makers and community leaders, and mobilising and informing strategic sectors of the public, including the media, in support of the warnings.

The project office is situated in the HFJ (Heart Foundation of Jamaica) which will have responsibility for implementation in four Caribbean countries. It will be staffed by a project manager and a communications officer with additional administrative support from HFJ.

The executive director of HFJ will oversee the entire project and there will be a project officer in each of the other three countries assigned to the specified non-governmental organisation partners.

The designated organisations are:

- Barbados – **Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados**
- Guyana – The Guyana Chest Society
- Trinidad and Tobago – The Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society

The use of health warnings

In other parts of the world it has been proven that picture-based health warnings on tobacco packaging motivate smokers to try to quit smoking.

Additionally, these warnings inform potential adolescent smokers of the dangers of tobacco use and inform smokers of the harm caused to loved ones by second-hand tobacco smoke exposure.

The Labelling Technical Committee of the Bureau of Standards (BOS) of Jamaica is the body designated by CARICOM to develop recommendations for tobacco package warnings.

In 2005, the BOS Jamaica was asked by the regional standards body, the Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) – made up of the national Bureaus of Standards of CARICOM member states – to revise the current cigarette labelling standards.

Political support

A key issue to the development of a strong recommendation by the BOS of Jamaica is the fact that tobacco industry representatives are very active.

Effective political support across all Caribbean countries is required to counteract the pressure and lobbying that the tobacco companies are able to apply within the industry and the region.

This project will engage in advocacy to ensure that the CROSQ receives additional comments in favour of best practices in support of a strong CARICOM labelling standard.

The effort will be focused on implementation of rotating picture-based package warnings by early 2009 in the four target countries participating in this project.

A major objective will be to sensitise policy-makers and key opinion leaders on the importance of communicating accurate, clear, strong, direct, specific and easy-to-understand information about the health hazards of tobacco use and second-hand tobacco smoke.

Resources available

This project will benefit from

committed collaboration between non-governmental organisations and ministries of health in the Caribbean, supported by technical expertise by international organisations including the InterAmerican Heart Foundation and regional and country offices of the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation.

Specifically this project has the political commitment of the Ministries of Health of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. This group of countries together represents more than 78 per cent (4 986 000) of the population of the English-speaking Caribbean.

Project Officer – Tobacco Control

The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados is presently looking to recruit a suitably qualified person for the position of **Project Officer – Tobacco Control**.

Applicants should hold a university degree in business management or have direct relevant experience.

A copy of the full job description is posted on the Foundation's website www.hsfbbarbados.org in the Tobacco Control section.

A formal letter of application along with curriculum vitae may be sent to:

The Administration Manager
Heart & Stroke Foundation
#3 Railway View
Ladymeade Gardens
Jemmotts Lane
St Michael
BB 11156

Or by email to enquiries@hsfbbarbados.org

Heart attack warning signs:

- Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the centre of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back.
- Pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms.
- Chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea, or shortness of breath.

Stroke warning signs:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Not all of these signs occur in every attack. If you notice one or more of these signs, don't wait. Get medical help.