



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Annotto Bay Hospital and Jamaica Awareness Association of California hosts 7th Annual Laparoscopy Surgery Seminar

Robins Bay & Annotto Bay, St. Mary –

The 7th Annual Laparoscopic Surgery Seminar hosted by the Annotto Bay Hospital and Jamaica Awareness Association of California (JAAC) at the Robins Bay Hotel, St. Mary was a huge success. The Annotto Bay Hospital and JAAC were lauded for significant strides made in Laparoscopy at the institution since the introduction of the procedure in 2004.

The week of activities commenced on May 28th at Annotto Bay Hospital with hands-on laparoscopic experience in gynaecology, the main event on Sunday, May 29th at Robins Bay Hotel and closed with laparoscopic general surgery experience on May 30th and 31st at Annotto Bay Hospital. The seminar saw over two hundred health professionals coming from both public and private institutions both from Jamaica and overseas. This conference serves as the chief in-service training tool in Laparoscopy for health professionals.

Mr. Wesley Davis, Board Chairman of NERHA, lauded the JAAC for their support and vision for the conference. Miss Suzette Morris, Regional Director of NERHA, in her opening remarks recommended that “Annotto Bay Hospital be officially named the Centre of Excellence for Laparoscopy in Jamaica”. She said, “The North East Regional Health Authority was committed to ensuring that the physical infrastructure at Annotto Bay Hospital will one day reflect the superior quality of health professionals and procedures that routinely characterize the facility.”

Both Ms. Morris and Mr. Davis congratulated Dr. Ray Fraser, Senior Medical Officer at Annotto Bay Hospital and Dr. Laurence Weeks, Medical Coordinator, JAAC, who had the vision and inspiration for this seminar. They also commended and congratulated the Jamaica Awareness Association of California through its hardworking, dedicated and passionate President, Ms. Yasmin Facey, for the help and support that it continues to give to the Annotto Bay Hospital, this annual conference and in other areas of health.

Miss Facey also expressed her delight in partnering with the Annotto Bay Hospital and noted other facilities in Jamaica that they have visited and will be visiting. She mentioned that the

following hospitals will be visited to enhance their laparoscopic outreach programmes. These include; the Princess Margret Hospital and May Pen Hospital on June 1st , May Pen Hospital on June 2nd and a tour of St. Ann's Bay Hospital on June 3rd .

Speakers at the seminar, distinguished in their respective areas of expertise came from Jamaica, New York, Ohio and California. Presentations at the seminar included; The Role of the Nurse in Laparoscopy, General versus Local Anesthesia in Diagnostic Laparoscopy, Endoscopic Diagnosis and Management of Gastrointestinal Malignancies, Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery, Laparoscopy for Urologic Procedures, Endoscopic Base of Skull Surgery, Minimally Invasive Management of Urinary Incontinence, Laparoscopic Management of Ectopic Pregnancy, Laparoscopic Management of Chronic Pelvic Pain, Issues Associated with Starting a Laparoscopic Programme and Endometrial Ablation.

Nurses from the Annotto Bay Hospital, trained locally and abroad in laparoscopic procedures, over the years have assisted other hospitals in developing their laparoscopic programmes. Hospitals such as Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Spanish Town Hospital, Mandeville Regional Hospital and Savanna-la-mar Hospital are among those that have benefitted and still continue to benefit.

The JAAC, formed in 1987, operates solely for charitable purposes with the primary objective of making a difference in the quality of life of people in underserved areas. The conference, a collaborative initiative of the JAAC, Annotto Bay Hospital and NERHA was jointly sponsored by local institutions and the JAAC.

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