

# Southern PRIDE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SWRHA



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## CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

As we approach the New Year, let us all take a few moments to reflect on the things we have accomplished for ourselves and our organization in 2012. I know that we have all strived to make the world a better place over the past year, and I sincerely thank you all for your continued hard work and support.

However, much remains to be done and 2013 will be a challenging year as we complete the commissioning of the San Fernando Teaching Hospital and embark on other infrastructural projects. I look forward to your support as we continue to do the things in the SWRHA that will improve the lives of our fellow human beings.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. Indeed, may 2013 be your best year ever!



The Chairman of the  
South-West Regional Health Authority  
**Dr. Lackram Bodoë**

## SWRHA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Directors of the South-West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) celebrates a second term in office. However, there have been three new Directors replacing members of the former Board. These new Directors, as with the previous, bring with them a high level of decorum, professionalism, knowledge and commitment to their roles as Directors and the overall improvement of the South-West Regional Health Authority.

### SWRHA's Board of Directors:

- Chairman, Dr. Lackram Bodoë, a Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
- Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ulrich Birbal, Engineering/ Oil and Gas Pipeline Consultant
- Mr. Sinanan Dass, a Chartered Accountant in practice
- Ms. Erica Phillip, an expert in Nursing
- Dr. Colin Furlonge, Specialist Physician
- Ms. Pamala Maraj, an Attorney-at-Law specializing in Civil Law
- Mr. Terrence John, a Management and Finance Advisor
- Mr. Dane Pierre, a Public Servant and Broadcaster
- Mr. Ralph Ramnath, a Management and IT expert



### Standing from left:

Mr. Ralph Ramnath; Mr. Terrence John; Ms. Pamala Maraj;  
Dr. Colin Furlonge; Mr. Sinanan Dass;  
Mr. Dane Pierre

### Sitting from left:

Ms. Erica Phillip; Deputy Chairman - Mr. Ulrich Birbal;  
Chairman - Dr. Lackram Bodoë; C.E.O. - Mr. Anil Gosine;  
Corporate Secretary - Dianne Tikah



## PRIME MINISTER COMMISSIONS SAN FERNANDO TEACHING HOSPITAL

The Honourable Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar formally began the commissioning of the Chancery Lane Teaching Hospital on Friday 28 December, 2012, located next door to the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH).

The building, which was overseen by Urban Development Corporation (Udecott), will be outfitted with 216 in-patient beds, which will assist with the overcrowding at SFGH. Lecture halls, seminar rooms, laboratories, conference rooms and assimilated ward workshop areas will also be included.

The first services to be re-located would be the Out-Patients Clinic on level 4 along with support services. The SWRHA has now introduced a dedicated Paediatric Clinic which represents a first for the RHA since this service was always incorporated into the adult clinics.

Dr. The Honourable Fuad Khan, Minister of Health and the Honourable Roodal Moonilal Minister of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs, Dr Lackram Bodoie, Chairman of the South-West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) along with other specially invited guests and senior management of the SWRHA were all present for this auspicious occasion.



## Inside the CHANCERY LANE COMPLEX

The San Fernando Teaching Facility is by far one of the most modern state-of-the-art infrastructures to be erected in San Fernando. With the addition of 216 in-patient beds, the new hospital would provide the SFGH with a bit more breathing room hence assisting with the overcrowding at San Fernando General Hospital.

This modern hospital facility is in line with strict international health codes including Seismic Resistance, deep piling for earthquake resistance, Healthcare Facilities Codes as well as US OSHA standards.

The following is a layout of the Teaching Hospital:

### Level 3

Dedicated for use by the University of the West Indies and public cafeteria.

### Level 4

Out-Patient Pharmacy and Registration; Clinics; Maternal and Child Health (MCHC) and

Paediatric Clinic. The MCHC clinic includes a theatre for routine deliveries as needed.

SWRHA patients shall be dropped off on Chancery Lane and enter either by the staircase/ ramps nearest to Chancery Lane or the elevator on level 3 and gain access to level 4.

### Level 5

Dedicated to diagnostics, Point of Care testing, a Staff Facility on-call room.

### Level 6

Medical and Surgical clinics. Floor 8 will be dedicated for SWRHA administrative offices. Floors 9,10, 11 and 12 will be dedicated to Paediatric Medical Wards. Floors 13-17 will be Adult Medical Wards

A bridge linking the new and old hospital shall be tied into the third floor of the main hospital building.



1st Row L to R: Dr. Gordon Naryansingh-Sessional SMO, Dr. Lackram Bodoie – Chairman, SWRHA; Dr. The Honourable Fuad Khan, Minister of Health; Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Member of Parliament San Fernando West; Mr. Anil Gosine – Chief Executive Officer, SWRHA; Dr. Dylan Narinesingh, Head of Oncology (Ag.)  
2nd Row- Dr. Keshav Gyan and Mr. Alim Abdul' Hakim, Former Director SWRHA.



Dr. Lackram Bodoie – Chairman, SWRHA; Dr. the Honourable Fuad Khan, Minister of Health; Member of Parliament San Fernando West, Honourable Carolyn Seepersad – Bachan; Mr. Anil Gosine – Chief Executive Officer SWRHA – Unveiled commemorative Plaque

## IT IS OFFICIAL SWRHA ONCOLOGY UNIT IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The South-West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) officially opened its Oncology Unit on November 6, 2012. Dr. The Honourable Fuad Khan, Minister of Health formally opened this facility with the cutting of the ribbon and the unveiling of the commemorative plaque.

This Oncology Unit is open from Monday to Friday and as Dr. Lackram Bodoie, Chairman of the SWRHA, noted at the opening patients who once had to travel to St. James Medical Complex for treatment can now access chemotherapy and other support services such as counselling and symptom management in the comfort of their home facility, in San Fernando.

Also in attendance were the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Member of Parliament for San Fernando West, Mrs. Antonia Popplewell, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health along with members from various NGO's such as South Cancer Support Services and the Just Because Foundation.

# TTRNA

## NURSE OF THE YEAR 2012



Mrs. Marion Barzey-Tuitt  
RN, LM, CCM, CNEC, HM,  
Nurse Educator, Adult Literacy Tutor

Mrs. Marion Barzey-Tuitt a Registered Nurse and member of Trinidad and Tobago Nurses Association (TTRNA) for the past forty years continues to contribute in no small measure to the advancement of Nursing; being an involved, supportive member, who has served at various levels of the association and currently serves as a member of the Social Welfare Committee of the Southern Branch of TTRNA.

Mrs. Barzey-Tuitt was a Nurse and Midwife for over forty one years, during this time she has worked in many departments within the San Fernando General Hospital, including Nephrology, ICU, and the Medical Unit. She was a Clinical Instructor prior to being a Head Nurse in the Medical Unit.

Mrs. Barzey-Tuitt has throughout her professional career sought to enhance quality client care and was one of the nurses involved in the first historic live donor kidney transplant to be done in San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago. In February 2006 she initiated the Diabetic Counselling Centre, Patient Education and Counselling Centre, and was a Founding Member of the Community Liaison Unit in August 2006 under the guidance of the late Mrs. Onelia Granger. She was nominated for and received the SWRHA Award for Long and Dedicated Service to the clients of the San Fernando General Hospital, in 2004 and 2007.

Mrs. Barzey-Tuitt credited her success in Nursing to her mentors, Mrs. Valarie Alleyne-Rawlings President of TTRNA, Mrs. Farida Deen Past Nursing Supervisor and Mrs. Elizabeth Toolsie former Head Nurse of ICU.

We all wish Mrs. Marion Barzey-Tuitt all the best in her future endeavors.



Slogan winner  
Jinnel Neptune-Burke  
receives prize from Manager  
Corporate Communications,  
Crystal Marciano

## THE CUSTOMER WITH A GOOD IDEA SLOGAN COMPETITION WINNER

South-West Regional Health Authority held a slogan competition in November to help employees revolutionize the health sector into a more customer centric one. Jinnel Burke, Secretary to the Regional Manager of Nutrition and Dietetics, won with her slogan "Real People, Quality Service, Better Health."

The Slogan competition was part of the Ministry of Health's "Wow the Customer" Campaign that focuses on quality service and customer satisfaction. Each department within the Public Health Sector was invited to conceptualize and implement a good idea project to improve the level of service in their area.

# Diabetes Awareness 2012

## PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE

The South-West Regional Health Authority join the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to commemorate World Diabetes Day on November 14 of each year.

The theme this year was "Protecting your Future", and the Community Liaison Unit and the Patient Education and Diabetic Counselling Centre of the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) hosted a series of events from November 14th to November 30th, aimed at boosting diabetes awareness and coping with the diabetic lifestyle.

The activities commenced with a Health Fair at the Out-Patients' Clinic, where various departments were present and continued with activities including screenings for blood glucose levels and blood pressure, and a self-management workshop.

One of the activities held was a poster competition held on Friday 30th November, 2012. The event was not designed just to compete, but to educate all about diabetes. With the combination of art and information, nine departments creatively displayed their concept about diabetes. Ward 14 emerged the champions followed by Ward 9 and Ward 6 Surgical settled for second and third place respectively.

Another major part of this event was the Annual Schools Diabetes Quiz held at the School of Midwifery where standard three students from twelve schools took part. The overall winner were Zachary Ramsumir in 1st place, Emma Brooker in 2nd place, both hailing from, TML School. Azzeza Khan and Nishtha Smanarine from Grant Memorial Presbyterian School tied for 3rd place.



Seated Middle - Betty-Ann Pilgrim - Nurse Manager with staff of the Community Liaison Unit, Diabetic counselling Centre and Out Patients' Clinic at Diabetes Health Fair at the SFGH Out-Patients' Clinic



Former GM-Nursing (Ag) Geraldine Lewis second from left and Ns Joy Providence Williams of Community Liaison Unit with winners of the Diabetes Poster Competition

## THE ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT Cancer Walk

The Oncology Department of San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) hosted a Cancer Walk on Friday, 5th October, 2012 to commemorate the National Cancer Prevention month.

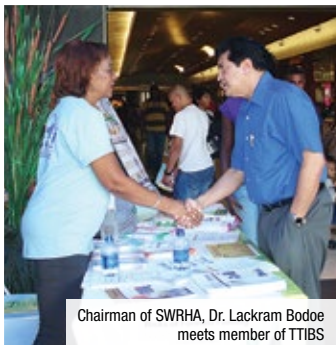
Starting from the SFGH's foyer, over 100 staff members, patients and supporters from the community walked around the hub of San Fernando to the sensational rhythms of the Petrotrin Cadet Corp to bring awareness of the various types of cancer existing today as well as services provided at SFGH.

In the midst were Head of the newly added Oncology Unit, Dr. Dylan Narinesingh and his staff, students from surrounding schools and of the Red Cross Society, as well as patients and their family members.

The Oncology Unit was officially opened by Dr. The Honourable Fuad Khan, Minister of Health, in November 2012.

From left: Merlyn Thomas - Patient Care Coordinator Oncology; Nurse Betty-Ann Pilgrim - Nurse Manager; Nurse Joan Knutt - Head Nurse Oncology; Dr. Dylan Narinesingh - HOD Oncology (Ag); Kern Webb - Clinical Commissioning Coordinator at the Cancer Walk

## W CARIBBEAN ELLNESS MONTH AT GULF CITY MALL, LA ROMAINE



Chairman of SWRHA, Dr. Lackram Bodoe meets member of TTBS



Members of the public being screen by SWRHA staff

Caribbean Wellness Month was celebrated in September and the Nutrition and Dietetics department of the South-West Regional Health Authority was on hand to service the multitude of shoppers in Gulf City Mall La Romaine on Saturday 15th September, 2012.

The health fair kicked off at noon and over 200 screenings were conducted by staff members from the various counties. Participants were given healthy meal demonstrations and sample recipes for easy preparations.

In addition The Informative Breastfeeding Services (TIBS) promoted the health benefits of breastfeeding and indulged the crowd with their real-size baby doll.

The kids were not left out as they too measured their height and were treated to glittered face painting while their parents were screened.

## TOP OF THE LINE TRAINING FOR EYE SURGEONS



### Sitting from Left:

Chairman of the John A. Moran Eye Clinic, Dr. Randall J Olson; Minister of Health, Dr. The Honourable Fuad Khan; Chairman of SWRHA, Dr. Lackram Bodoe;

### Rear from Left:

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Akenath Misir; Major General Lie Ping Chang; Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health, Ms. Antonia Popplewell; US Ambassador Her Excellency Beatrice Welters and Ophthalmologist Consultant, Dr. Ronnie Bhola

The South-West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) held its signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in July, 2012, at Ministry of Health. This event signified an ongoing training fellowship in the area of Cataract Surgeries between SWRHA and the University of Utah's John A. Moran Eye Centre, International Division.

Major General Lie-Ping Chang of the United States Army Medical Corp initiated this project as a result of his observations on the extent of cataract surgery backlog. Currently the Ministry of Health performs approximately 2,500 cataract extractions per year at the public hospitals nationwide, with approximately 3,000 new cases being presented annually at these hospitals for cataract surgeries. Dr Lackram Bodoe, Chairman of the SWRHA sees this initiative as leaps in providing better healthcare for the population they serve. "Such training will help to reduce the waiting list for cataract extractions," Bodoe said.

Since 2008, Drs. Rhonnie Bhola and Anil Armoogum travelled to Nepal, where they were trained by Professor Geoff Tabin, Ophthalmologist from University of Utah, on advanced techniques of Small-Incision Extra-capsular Cataract Surgery and Corneal Transplant.



# NEW AND IMPROVED SERVICES AT SFGH

## 1. Theatre Services

- In April 2012 the Orthopaedic Department began its very own Trauma list in Main Operating Theatre. Compliments to Dr Trevor Seepaul and his team of doctors, Nurses and Medical Orderlies who performed the first surgery.
- In addition the Obstetric Theatre in June 2012 received Anaesthetist and Nursing staff leading to the commencement of elective and emergency caesareans and other related surgeries in the dedicated Obstetrics Theatre. Congratulations to Dr Krishna Rampersadsingh and his team of Obstetricians and Anaesthetists, and Nurses assigned to the Obstetrics Ward.

## 2. New DM Programme at SFGH

Four doctors were accepted into the first Doctor of Medicine (DM) programme in Ears Nose and Throat (ENT). The programme started in September 2012 at the San Fernando General Hospital under the tutelage of Dr. Steve Medford, Associate Lecturer for UWI.

Already eight of our doctors have graduated with their DMs; one of the highest degrees in the medical profession. We extend our congratulations to the Doctors of Medicine in:

**Surgery** - Dr. Dave Harnanan, Dr. Nigel Bascombe, Dr. Shivraj Bahadursingh; **Radiology** - Dr. Maria Gosein, Dr. Shiva Konduru; **Anaesthetics** - Dr. Shridhar Polakala; **Psychiatry** - Dr. Miranda Foon; **Emergency Medicine** - Dr. Rachna Yogi



The DM Team of San Fernando General Hospital

## 3. Endoscopy Services

Endoscopy services began at the San Fernando General Hospital with consultants Dr. Rene Ramnarace and Dr. Feisal Daniel performing Upper and Lower Gastrointestinal endoscopies, colonoscopies, and other associated procedures. The team who were instrumental in the theatre being commissioned included Dr. Rene Ramnarace – Endoscopist, Mr. Kern Webb – Commissioning and Projects, Mrs. Karen Allen-Rajkumar – Head Nurse, Mrs. Cyd Robley-Lewis – Manager Operating Theatre, Ms. Christine Rabathally – Senior Registered Nurse, Mr. Michael Chatergoon – Medical Orderly, Mr. Peter Garcia – Medical Orderly. The first case was done by Dr. Rene Ramnarace – Endoscopist, Mrs. Catherine Soobrattie – Registered Nurse, Ms. Joanne Wright – Registered Nurse, Ilene Joseph – Enrolled Nursing Assistant.



Dr. Rene Ramnarace – Physician Endoscopist (front right) and the Endoscopy Team.

## 4. First Cardiac Ward

With the creation of the new Cardiac Care Unit, Dr. Pravinde Ramoutar began this cardiac clinic on 25th July 2011 and with the addition of Dr. Reshma Singh to the Cardiac Care Department, another clinic began on 8th May 2012. Doctors from the Cardiac Care Department and Internal Medicine provide these services with the assistance of Nurses of Out-patient clinic. On 12th June 2012, the San Fernando General Hospital constructed its first pacemaker implantation in Theatre. This surgery was performed by Dr. Lana Boodhoo with the assistance of the cardiac team and nurses including Ms. Ernette Guadeloupe - Enrolled Nursing Assistant, Mrs. Catherina Soobrattie – Registered Nurse, Ms. Andrea Young - Registered Nurse, Ms. Margaret Springer – Medical Orderly. Special thanks are extended to the GM Nursing, Nurse Manager, Theatre Manager and Finance Department for the sourcing and purchasing of pacemaker devices.



Dr. P. Ramoutar (Head of Department) second from left and the Cardiac Care Team

## 4. Breast Cancer Clinic

This is yet another first for the SWRHA as it launched its inaugural Breast Clinic on September 10, 2012. Research has proven that presently, cancer of the breast is the leading cancer in women, with increasing numbers of young women being affected.

This new clinic is conducted on Mondays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and is located in the Out-Patients Clinic. It is geared towards treatment of malignant and benign breast diseases of both male and female patients.

The SFGH already performs procedures such as Sentinel Nod Biopsy and Breast Reconstruction, however with the offset of this clinic; it is in high hopes to make it a multidisciplinary facility including oncologists, radiologists and other ancillary staff at the clinic. According to Dr. Jitendra Shah, founder of this new service, this holistic approach will lead to a better care of the patients.

"This will result in a better standard of care for the patient, as well as increase our expertise in the management and understanding of breast diseases." Shah said.

Dr. Shah is Head of Department for General Surgery (Ag.) at SWRHA and served on the advisory committee for the 2000 National Cancer Registry of Trinidad and Tobago.

## 5. Chemotherapy Service

As of September 2012, the San Fernando General Hospital provides a full Chemotherapy service at the Oncology Suite, Monday to Friday between the hours of 7 am to 6 pm. Other services offered include

- An in-patient service for patients requiring 24-hour infusions
- Radioactive iodine treatment to patients.
- Gynae-Oncology Surgical services and Colposcopy
- Administration of biological and cytotoxic treatment for both malignant and benign disease (where applicable).

The Oncology Department also assists in expediting our patient's treatment by attending to patients at National Radiotherapy Centre at St. James once weekly, as well as our peripheral outreach clinics at Couva, Princes Town and Siparia District Health Facilities.



Dr. Dylan Narinesingh – HOD Oncology (Ag) second from left and the Oncology Team

# INDUCTION AND PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAMME

at San Fernando General Hospital



Participants of the Preceptorship Programme

Recently, nine registered nurses commenced employment at the San Fernando General Hospital's (SFGH) Obstetric Department. These midwives were the first in Trinidad and Tobago to have a six months preceptorship programme that has been developed by Denise Braham, Practice Development Midwife.

The aim of preceptorship is to enhance the competence and confidence of newly registered practitioners as autonomous professionals. Preceptorship will support the policy drive to place 'quality at the heart of everything we do in healthcare', while maximizing productivity through harnessing and spreading innovation. This can also support strategies that impact directly on patient and service user experiences.

By the end of the preceptorship period (the length of this period is dependent on the needs of the individual), the midwife will be able to deliver equitable, quality care based on the needs the local population in accordance with local protocol; in addition to being able to work collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team.

Preceptorship should therefore be considered as a transition phase for newly registered practitioners when continuing their professional development, building their confidence and further developing competence to practice and not as a way to meet any shortfall in pre-registration education.

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# INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2012

RAPIDFIRE KIDZ FOUNDATION

## KIDZ TREAT!

**S**outh-West Regional Health Authority (S.W.R.H.A.) in partnership with the Office of the Mayor of the City of San Fernando and Rapidfire Kidz Foundation treated the children at San Fernando General Hospital with toys to commemorate the United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day 2012. The theme for this year's International Youth Day was "Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth," a day in which the accomplishments of our young people were applauded.

In attendance to present the gifts to the children were His Worship the Mayor Dr. Navi Muradaly, Deputy Chairman Mr. Ulrich Birbal, Chief Executive Officer of SWRHA Mr Anil Gosine, Former General Manager of Nursing (Ag) Ms Geraldine Lewis, President of Rapidfire Kidz Mr. Kevin Ratiram and other sponsors.



(Former) Executive Medical Director (Ag), Dr. Lester Goetz; President of Rapidfire Kidz, Mr. Kevin Ratiram; Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ulrich Birbal; San Fernando Mayor, His Worship Dr. Navi Muradaly; Former General Manager of Nursing (Ag), Ms. Geraldine Lewis and Chief Executive Officer of SWRHA, Mr. Anil Gosine.

## CHILDREN move their body for a HEALTHY LIFE *Style*



ENA Petronella Maugé shares some healthy information with a participant

**S**outh-West Regional Health Authority gave support to Little Feet Dance Group (LFDG) as they hosted a Health Fair "Move Your Body" for children on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at the Creative Arts Centre, Circular Road, San Fernando.

In commemoration of the United Nation's Universal Children's Day, a day towards improving children's welfare, the LFDG hosted this event to bring awareness to child obesity. SWRHA's Nutrition and Dietetic Department was on spot to provide healthy food and snack choices, to counsel parents about their children's eating habits and to measure their body mass index (BMI). The children were also treated to a Zumba session and giveaways.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DRAMA COMPETITION



Crystal Ballah (right) and the Quality Team at SWRHA Mental Health Competition

**I**n an effort to ensure that its employees and public are informed and equipped to deal with various mental health disorders, the South-West Regional Health Authority held an in-house Mental Health Drama Competition amongst staff on substance abuse. The competition was part of the Ministry of Health's drive to help raise awareness on mental health disorders and the benefits of treatment.

The SWRHA leg of the competition was held at the Naparima Bowl on September 24th 2012. The Naparima Bowl was filled with play lovers as executive managers and other staff members and their families came to be entertained and educated. With a rendition entitled "Over Precious", Quality RAC gained 256 points advancing them to the Grand Finale among our peers of Ministry of Health and other Regional Health Authorities.

Placing 2nd was Team Communique (Corporate Communications) who received 244 points with their rendition "Redemption". In 3rd place receiving 239 points was Psychiatry Department, SFGH with "Out of the Darkness"; while our 4th place winners were Quality Couva District Health Facility with 219 points.

Teams were judged on direction, plot, acting, technical aspects, and overall impact and ability to convey the theme. Entertainment was provided by Muhammed Muwakil and Freetown Collective, talented musicians that gave an excellent interpretation of the "spoken word".

SWRHA went on to cop second place at the Ministry of Health's Finals of its Staff Mental Health Drama Competition held at the Capital Plaza Hotel's ballroom on Friday 26th, October 2012. Our very own Crystal Ballah of the Quality Improvement Department won the award for Best Actress as "Lucy", the alcoholic in their rendition of "Over Precious".

The Staff Mental Health Drama Competition was an educational campaign of the Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) to bring awareness to mental health, and its available treatment options and centres, as well as to reduce the stigma that often exists.

# 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Divali CELEBRATIONS



## A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

The South-West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) joined the Hindu community and hosted Divali celebrations on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH). Unity shined as directors, managers, staff and children joined in lighting deeyas after Pundit Lackram Chan gave the invocation for the evening.

The crowd, including patients at SFGH, were treated to the hypnotic sounds of the Nirvana Orchestra, enchanting movements of the Susan Mohip Dance Company and pulsating rhythms of the Ackbar United Tassa Group. Member of Parliament for San Fernando West, Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan commended the SWRHA for its civic mindedness in observing Divali.

"This is a national festival and as an institution that is a crucial component of our national health system, the SWRHA is showing that it understands the importance of such events in the lives of our citizens."

The festival of light came to an end with the distributed meals to all in attendance by the Divali Committee Chairperson, Mr. Michael Chattargoon.



Chairman Dr. Lackram Bodee and CEO Anil Gosine partake in the Divali Celebration while Mr. Michael Chattargoon looked on



Susan Mohip Dance Company

# Christmas Celebrations

## Splendour of Christmas

Children were most enthused as Santa made his grand entrance at South-West Regional Health Authority's third Annual Splendour of Christmas held on December 8, 2012 at the San Fernando General Hospital car park.

Santa gave presents to the children of SWRHA employees while the Christmas committee distributed bags filled with treats. Those in attendance and patients were entertained by the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Band, Kenny J and naughty dancing Elves from the Little Feet Dance Group. The festivity ended with live parang.



Tamara Williams and Stacy Felix of Finance department with Decorating Competition Challenge Trophy



Simone Joseph of Corporate Communications and the Little Feet Dance Group visited with Santa at the Christmas Splendour.

## Decorations Light Up SWRHA

Christmas spirit was alive in South-West Regional Health Authority as various facilities decorated their units, making it a wonderful time for employees and customers this season.

The Doctors of Ward 14 at San Fernando General Hospital pooled up and decorated the ward with lights, draperies and a Christmas tree, making it a special time for the children ward at the hospital.

In addition the Corporate Communications Department of SWRHA held its annual Christmas decorating competition within departments in and around the Regional Administrative Centre on December 21, 2012. The theme was "Christmas Is..." And employees truly showed what Christmas meant to them.

Taking away the first prize of a hamper valued \$900 in the large category was the Finance Department, while logistics and Human Resource (HR) Recruitment Unit placed second and third respectively. For the small category HR Training Unit won, receiving a \$700 hamper. In second place was Internal Audit and Regional Radiology Office came third.

Christmas at SWRHA was truly merry and bright.



Mr. Anil Gosine - Chief Executive Officer SWRHA and Member of Parliament San Fernando West, Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan along with Santa visit patients on Christmas morning.

## Christmas Treats on Christmas Day

The children at the San Fernando General Hospital were not forgotten on Christmas morning as they were visited by The Member of Parliament for San Fernando West, the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan who came to distribute presents to the Children on the paediatric Wards 5 and 14.

While at the hospital, the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan accompanied by Deputy Director Ulrich Birbal, Director Terrance John and C.E.O. Anil Gosine, took time to join the Friends of the San Fernando General Hospital as they spread joy throughout the hospital by distributing gifts and singing Christmas Carols.





# Welcome

## THE NEW FACES IN EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

### **Mr. Randolph Badall** Chief Operations Officer



Mr. Randolph Badall is the new Chief Operations Officer of the South-West Regional Health Authority and brings over 25 years of operations experience from various Central Government Ministries. Mr. Badall's previous position before joining the South-West Regional Health Authority was that of Special Projects Manager at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC), Mount Hope, where he worked with Cardiologists and Consultants from the Ministry of Health on the National Cardiac Programme together with managing the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory of the EWMSC.

Mr. Badall possesses formal training at the undergraduate level in the fields of Agriculture, Occupational Safety and Health, Economics and Engineering and at the post-graduate level in International Relations, Project Management and Health Administration. He is also a certified Project Management Professional from the internationally recognized Project Management Institute.

Mr. Badall's appointment as Chief Operations Officer of the SWRHA acts as support to the Chief Executive Officer by managing various functional areas within the SWRHA.

### **Mr. Mohan Ramjit** General Manager, Policy Planning and Research



In November 2012, Mr. Mohan Ramjit was appointed to lead the development of policies, strategic planning and research by establishing linkages with all the Executive Managers and Clinical Heads to initiate and positively influence all change initiatives. He also has the responsibility of overseeing the Quality Improvement department to lead, develop, implement and evaluate Quality Improvement programmes and plans in the South-West Region. Prior to this Mr. Ramjit worked extensively in the financial services sector holding senior positions where he was responsible for supporting key distribution channels and the implementation, monitoring and evaluating of strategies to increase operational effectiveness and the client experience.

Mr. Ramjit holds an Executive Master's degree in Business Administration specializing in International Marketing and International Finance from the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, University of the West Indies, and a certificate in Management Development from the Institute of Business University of the West Indies. He is a certified Leader Coach in sales and service management disciplines and has attended numerous Executive Development Programs in Trinidad and Canada.

### **Mr. Haimdath Ramoutar** General Manager, Human Resources



A substantive Director, Human Resources at the Ministry of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs, Mr. Ramoutar entered the public services in the Human Resource Management Division in 2002. Previously, he served as a teacher at the San Fernando Senior Comprehensive (1988-1991) and at Princes Town Senior Comprehensive (1994-2002).

Mr. Ramoutar is the proud uncle of four nephews and one niece and the eldest of six; two other brothers and three sisters. He enjoys cricket, football, gardening and 'liming'...though not necessarily in that order.

### **Dr. Dale Sookoo** Medical Director of Primary Health Care

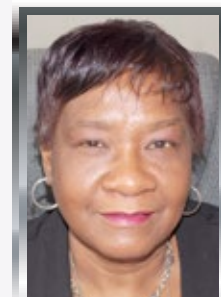


Dr. Sookoo has been a part of the SWRHA's family for the past thirteen years when he began his career as a medical intern at the San Fernando General Hospital in 1999. Dr. Sookoo has worked his way up the corporate ladder and now holds the position of the Medical Director of Primary Health Care of the SWRHA.

The main responsibilities now undertaken by Dr. Sookoo include assisting the Executive Medical Director of Health to achieve the strategic goals and operational objectives of the Authority and ensuring that established policies and protocols for clinical service are adhered to. In addition, Dr. Sookoo monitors medico-legal matters and provides oversight on related issues.

Dr. Sookoo has attained his post graduate diploma in Primary Care, MSc Family Medicine at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and his Master of Business Administration Heriot-Watt University. He is also a registered member with the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago.

### **Ms. Franka Olliviere-Andrews** General Manager, Nursing, SWRHA



Ms. Andrews began her training at San Fernando General Hospital as a Registered Nurse, Licensed Midwife during which time she left after attaining a government scholarship to pursue Paediatric Nursing in England. Ms. Andrews worked briefly at the College of Nursing, NIHERST for five years as an Assistant Nursing Tutor. In 1996, Ms. Andrews left to study District Health Visiting after which she assumed the position as the Paediatric Nurse Coordinator with the Central Regional Health Authority in 1997 where she spent time coordinating the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative from 2002 to 2005 at Mount Hope Woman's Hospital. Ms. Andrews pursued a Bachelor of Nursing at the School of Advanced Nursing Education, UWI.

Ms. Andrews acted in the position as Regional Nursing Manager at the North Central Regional Health Authority for two and a half years before joining the South-West Regional Health Authority as the new General Manager, Nursing. Apart from Nursing, Ms. Andrews enjoys spending time with her family, friends and travelling.





# PHOTO GALLERY



## Captions

- A:** IT Manager, Ms. Jannelle Alexander and Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ulrich Birbal at South Heart Walk at Palmiste Park;
- B:** Dr. Jose Nunez and staff at the Out-Patients Clinic spread the Christmas cheer; **C:** Nurses Manager Ms. Betty-Ann Pilgrim receives a token from Ms. Joy Providence of Community Liaison Unit as SWRHA commemorated World Diabetes Day **D:** Corporate Communications staff, Candace Abdoole prepares Deyas for the Divali celebrations at SFGH; **E:** The Nativity Scene on display in Finance Department for a Christmas Decoration Competition; **F:** Rapidfire Kidz Foundation President, Kevin Ratiram and SWRHA's C.E.O. Anil Gosine distributes gifts for Youth International Day;
- G:** SWRHA PPC's Ika Farfan poses with family for Splendour of Christmas III celebrations;
- H:** Ward 14's poster display for World Diabetes Month; **I:** Staff of the Ward 2 clinic at a community outreach programme; **J:** Children enjoying the Splendour of Christmas III celebrations; **K:** Quality Control Officer, Ms Kizzy Hinds-Bartholomew performs at the Mental Health Drama Competition with the Quality Couva District Health Facility team **L:** SWRHA's Chairman Dr Lackram Bodoie and colleagues at the Chairman's Christmas Event; **M:** Corporate Communications Team at SWRHA's Mental Health Drama Competition; **N:** SWRHA represented at Ministry of Health's Fight the Fat Cook Out at Queen's Park Savannah.

The logo features the word "Southern" in a white, elegant script font, with "PRIDE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font below it. A thick, wavy line in white and light green curves across the background behind the text.

# Southern PRIDE

**Do you have a story for the Southern Pride?**

Contact the Corporate Communication Department at 653-4259

Crystal Marcano-Watson, Manager, Corporate Communication	ext. 2107
Carla Saunders, Professional Secretary Ag.	ext. 2105
Teresa Landeau, Communication Liaison Officer Ag.	ext. 2136
Ishla Mohammed, Communication Liaison Officer Ag.	ext. 2890
Richard Alexander, Graphic Designs	ext. 2890

With contributions by:  
Candice Gunness, Clerk  
Simone Joseph, OJT