

# Southern PRIDE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SWRHA



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# THE OFFICIAL HAND OVER OF SAN FERNANDO TEACHING HOSPITAL



The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, Prime Minister formerly cuts the ribbon to the San Fernando Teaching Hospital. (L-R Ms. Jerlean John, Chairman UDECOTT, Honourable Dr. Roodial Moonilal, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, SWRHA Chairman, Dr. Lackram Bodoie

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago officially handed over the San Fernando Teaching Hospital (SFTH) to the South-West Regional Health Authority on January 09th, 2014. The SFTH, an extension of the San Fernando General Hospital, will provide an additional 216 beds and is outfitted with plant and medical equipment that meet international standards. This state of the art facility will be the new home of the Paediatric and Adult Medicine Wards and some of the Outpatient Clinics.

The hospital will be opened on a phased basis, starting with the Outpatient Clinical Services commencing in February, 2014.



*See page 10 for a listing of outpatient services offered at SFTH*

## Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service at Siparia DHF

The SWRHA in conjunction with Johns Hopkins Medicine International has begun a pilot project at the Siparia District Health Facility on Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service. At the Siparia District Health Facility, screening commenced one month ago to diabetic patients with their retinal images being transmitted to a central grading unit on the South West Regional Authority compound. These images are then graded according to the presence or absence of diabetic retinopathy, and where present, the retinopathy is classified according to severity. Persons with sight threatening diabetic retinopathy are then referred to the ophthalmology department for assessment and treatment. On completion of the treatment, patients are referred back to their respective health care centres and resume screening on a regular basis.

The pilot project will be completed by the end of January 2014 and the findings will help to determine the structure of the formal diabetic retinopathy screening programme for South West Regional Health Authority.

On November 5th 2013, the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Fuad Khan toured the facility and was able to view a live screening process. Present were the Chief Medical Officer of Health- Dr. Colin Furlonge, Chairman of SWRHA, Dr. Lackram Bodoie, Chief Executive Officer - Mr. Anil Gosine, Director Dane Pierre, Programme Manager - Ms Nalisha Monroe, Clinical lead - Dr Ronnie Bhola, Professor David Owens of the UK along with other Johns Hopkins personnel.



From left to right  
Dr. Colin Furlonge, Chief Medical Officer (Ag); Mr. Anil Gosine, CEO; Dr. Shevanand Gopeesingh, Director of Health; Dr. Dale Sookoo, Medical Director, Primary Care; Dr. Lackram Bodoie, Chairman; Mr. Dane Pierre, Director



From left to right  
Professor David Owens; the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Fuad Khan and Dr. Lackram Bodoie, Chairman, observes the screening process completed by a technician.





Seated 2nd from left Franka Ollivierre-Andrews, GM Nursing with Nurse Managers of Primary and Secondary care Facilities.

## Showcasing SWRHA's Nursing Achievements 2012 to 2013

Nursing staff from primary care and secondary and tertiary care areas participated in a two-day session in which they presented their health promotion activities for the 2012-2013 period. The first session was held on Friday 8th November at the Pleasantville Community Centre, where primary care nurses from counties Victoria, Caroni South and St. Patrick highlighted the activities in each of their areas that had an immense impact on their communities.

The second session was held on 10th December, 2013 at the Nurses' Lounge, San Fernando General Hospital. Nursing representatives from the San Fernando General Hospital, Area Hospital Point Fortin, Couva DHF, Princes Town DHF, Siparia DHF and the Community Liaison Unit also shared their health promotion achievements. They emphasized that the success of these programmes was based on client participation, feedback on the objectives being met, the longevity of existing promotions and the continuation as well as the potential expansion of such events.



Director Sinanan Dass, Director Erica Phillip, Dr. Lackram Bodoie (Chairman), Mr. Anil Gosine (CEO), Speaker - Mrs. Franka Ollivierre-Andrews (GM Nursing)



(L to R) Kevin Cromwell, Registered Nurse; Dr. Fareed Rajack, Registrar; Dr. Hemwant Bhagwandass, Kamala Jaggernaut, Attendant; Daniella Wallace, Registered Nurse; Kamal Sookdeo, Medical Orderly; Dianne Saunders, Enrolled Nursing Assistant; Diandra Durgadeen Aide to Nursing, Syniel Lewis Rajkumar, Registered Nurse

## A New Milestone for the **Ophthalmology** Department, SFGH

On Thursday 5th December, 2013, Dr. Hemwant Bhagwandass and his surgical team of the Ophthalmology Department reached a milestone when they completed their 500th cataract surgery for the year. It was the first time in the history of the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) that a surgical team has performed this number of procedures in a year, added to which, all cases were infection free.

According to Dr. Bhagwandass, this target was set at the start of 2013 with the intention of reducing the number of persons awaiting cataract surgery. He continued by saying that their achievement of this goal before year's end was possible because of the commitment of the surgeons and the operating theatre staff.

At present, the firm (teams) consists of Dr. Hemwant Bhagwandass, Consultant; Fareed Rajack, Registrar; Gillian Kanchan, Senior House Officer; Dr. Hanna Roopchand, House Officer; Stephanie Quan Soon, House Officer, while the supporting team consists of Nurses, Enrolled Nursing Assistant, Medical Orderlies and Aide to Nursing.

As of 6th December, 2013 the five ophthalmology surgical firms have performed 2038 cataract surgeries.



Dr. Hemwant Bhagwandass performs a cataract surgery with the assistance of members of his team.



# International Urological Conference Held at SFGH

The Caribbean Urological Association (CURA) in collaboration with the University of the West Indies and support from the Ministry of Health and the South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA), held its 15th Annual International Conference between October 25th - 27th, 2013 at the Urology Department, San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH).

The International guest facilitators included Prof. Arthur Burnett, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Richard Santucci, Societe Internationale d'Urologie (SIU); Dr. David Quinland, Chairman of the British Journal of Urology International; and Prof. Grannum Sant, Tufts University.

The conference comprised of lectures and workshops that were designed to equip specialist urologist from Jamaica, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Guyana with the knowledge and expertise through hands-on training that would enable them to become trainers in their respective countries. The roles of these trainers are to train the younger Urologists, at the Urology Post Graduate Level in reconstructive urological surgeries.

At one of Prof. Arthur Burnett's workshops, a Robotic Prostatectomy Surgery was conducted for the first time at SFGH. This ground breaking procedure was done on a patient who had no bladder control and was constantly leaking urine. The condition was corrected by implanting an Artificial Urinary Sphincter in the patient to control urine discharge.

At the end of the conference Prof. Burnett commended Dr. Lester Goetz and his team for their dedication to the advancement of Urology Services at the SFGH. He also thanked the SWRHA for its supporting role during the conference. Prof. Burnett also said that he expects the SFGH would play a major role in the regional advancement of urology training and provision of services.



Dr. Lester Goetz (second from right) with Urology colleagues from CURA



## Additional Ambulances for the SWRHA Emergency Fleet

The South West Regional Health Authority added five new ambulances to its emergency fleet during the period August 02, 2013 and January 03, 2014. These vehicles are expected to enhance the efficiency of patient transfer from one health facility to another.

Each ambulance is outfitted with a patient trolley, portable oxygen cylinder, fire extinguisher and medical cabinet with emergency supplies.

Siparia DHF, Couva DHF and Area Hospital Point Fortin each received one ambulance, while San Fernando General Hospital were given two of the emergency vehicles.



(l-r) - Mr. Lennox Barrow (Fleet Coordinator, SFGH) receives keys for the new ambulance from Mr. Randolph Badall (Chief Operations Officer)

# Retirement Symposium

The Human Resources Department, Organisational Design & Development Unit (Pensions Section) hosted its second two day Retirement Symposium on October 23rd – October 24th, 2013 at the San Fernando Hill for permanent officers who retired/will be retiring from the Authority for the period January 2013 to June 2015.

The Symposium examined the various aspects of retirement such as its importance, the need to prepare, plan and invest, mental health awareness and healthy lifestyle choices. The symposium was hosted by internal staff of the Human Resources Department, (Pension Section), and facilitated by both external/internal facilitators.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Anil Gosine, delivered the feature address and our own Mr. Pooran Sankar, Regional Manager, Psychiatric Services, Dr. Joel Teelucksingh, Specialist Medical Officer, Ms. Kyrie Aartie Homer, Dietitian and Ms. Devi-Ann John, Human Resources Assistant, provided information on mental health awareness, healthy lifestyle choices, preparation for retirement, which was well received by the retirees.

There were also presentations, from Maritime Limited, Guardian Life Holdings Limited, the Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retired Persons (TTARP), National Insurance Board (NIB) among others and displays from the Craftsman's Forum.



Attendees at the symposium

During the two-day event there were a number of giveaways. Mr. Gildharie Soodoo, Medical Orderly won the essay writing competition entitled "A day in the life of a Retiree". All the retirees were presented with a certificate of participation and a token of appreciation.

The success of this two day event was made possible through the hard work and dedication from the staff of the Organisation Design and Development Unit. It was truly an event appreciated and remembered by all the retirees.



(Left) Betty Ann Pilgrim (Nurse Manager) receives keys from Dr. Lackram Bodoie, Chairman and CEO Anil Gosine (middle)

## New Nurses' Change Room at SFGH

Dr. Lackram Bodoie, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Mr. Anil Gosine, Chief Executive Officer officially handed over keys to the new Nurses' Change Room to Mrs. Betty-Ann Pilgrim, Nurse Manager on December 20, 2013.

This designated area located at Block F in the Nurses Hostel, San Fernando General Hospital is equipped with storage lockers, shower and toilet facilities to be used by Nurses and Enrolled Nursing assistants to change into and out of uniform when they assume and end duty or leave the hospital compound.

Also present at the presentation ceremony were Merlyn Grimes-Thomas, Assistant Nurse Manager (Ag) and Rishi Ramnarine, Senior Technical Officer, Property Services.



## SWRHA Cancer Walk

The Oncology Department of San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) hosted its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Friday October 4th 2013. Staff and supporters came out in their numbers to help inform the San Fernando community about breast cancer.

Staff and students from surrounding schools shared brochures with spectators as they marched through the hub of San Fernando with the rhythmic sounds of the Petrotrin Scout band and Naparima Boys College Marching band.

In the midst was General Manager of Nursing, Mrs. Franka Ollivere-Andrews, and former Mayor of San Fernando, Dr Navi Muradali who brought greetings before the walk commenced.



# 4<sup>th</sup> QUALITY AWARDS



South-West Regional Health Authority congratulates the winners of its 4th Quality Awards. The Quality Awards Ceremony was held on December 12, 2013 at the Paria Suites Hotel, La Romaine to recognize and pay tribute employees for their individual contribution to the delivery of quality health care to the people of the south-west region.



# NATIONAL AWARD SEGMENT

South-West RHA also paid tribute to members of staff, past or present, who have received national awards for their commitment and service to healthcare.

## These included:

- ★ Dr. Lall Sawh, awarded Chaconia Medal Gold in Medicine Surgery/Urology 1993.
- ★ Dr. Anirudh Mahabir awarded the Chaconia Medal Silver in Surgery, 1997
- ★ Dr. Rasheed Rahaman awarded the Chaconia Medal Silver in Medicine/Community Service, 1998.
- ★ Dr. Rajandaye Ramkissoo-Chen, Chaconia Medal Gold- Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 2001
- ★ Dr. Jean Yvonne Koon How-Cox awarded the Hummingbird Medal in Community Social Services, 2002
- ★ Prof. Hubert Daisley awarded the Chaconia Medal Gold in Medicine, 2006.
- ★ Dr. Rupert Indar awarded the Hummingbird Medal in Medicine, 2008.
- ★ Ms. Valerie Alleyne Rawlins awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Silver in Public Service, 2009
- ★ Mrs. Yvonne Pilgrim awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Silver in Public Service, 2009 for Outstanding and Meritorious Service to Nursing.
- ★ Dr. Nicholas Bennie Tia-Okwee awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Gold in Medicine, 2010.
- ★ Dr. Austin Trinidad awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Gold in Medicine, 2011.
- ★ Mrs. Bernice Wilma Avis-Parris awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Silver in Public Service, 2011.
- ★ Dr. Rajendra Prakash Maharaj awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Gold in Medicine, 2012
- ★ Dr. Michael Leong Poi awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Gold in Medicine, 2012
- ★ Dr. Steve Budhooram awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit Gold in Medicine, 2013.

- 1 Manipulative Staff of the Year, Mr. Zarak Noonoo, Couva District Health Facility
- 2 Medical Professional of the year, Dr. Claude Khan, Couva District Health Facility
- 3 Outstanding Management Professional of the Year, Mrs. Betty Ann Pilgrim, San Fernando General Hospital
- 4 Medical Professional of the year, Dr. Jitendra Shah, HOD General Surgery collecting award on behalf of Dr. Dilip Dan, San Fernando General Hospital
- 5 Outstanding District Health Facility of the Year, Siparia District Health Facility
- 6 Outstanding Quality Improvement Coordinator of the Year, Ms. Cathy Ann Pereira
- 7 Outstanding Nursing and Midwifery Professional of the Year, Nurse Linda Charles Shepherd, Cedros and Icos Health Centres
- 8 Chairman Award for Research and Scholarship, Dr. Lester Goetz, San Fernando General Hospital
- 9 Chairman Award for Research and Scholarship, Dr. Theodosius Poonkin

# WORLD QUALITY MONTH 2013

November, 2013 was World Quality Month and quality professionals around the globe used it as a platform to highlight their efforts and developments in the field. The theme for 2013 was "Making Collaboration Count," and it emphasized the importance of quality, its impact on customer service and its role in fostering team work as a tool for achieving success.

In keeping with this theme, the Quality Improvement Department at the SWRHA embarked on several activities, one of which was the distribution of the ABC's of Customer Service brochures at health facilities and Emergency Departments throughout the region. There was also the Pledge to Quality Walls where persons placed their hand prints on canvases as a pledge of their commitment. These were placed in the rotunda of the Couva District Health Facility and the San Fernando General Hospital Emergency Department.

The highlight of the month was a Quality Poster Competition which was open to all departments. The posters were expected to reflect teamwork as a part of the reinforcement of the organization's foundation and focus on the importance of quality. There were eighteen entrants, with the 1st prize going to the Medical/Surgical Out Patients Clinic, SFGH; 2nd place went to the Administration Department, Couva District Health Facility; and third place went to Ward 4, Male Orthopaedic, SFGH.



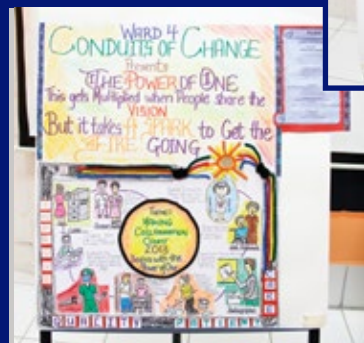
## 1st Place

Medical/Surgical Outpatient Clinic, SFGH



## 2nd Place

Administration Department, Couva District Health Facility



## 3rd Place

Ward 4, Male Orthopaedic, SFGH.

## Ward 14 Wins Diabetes Poster Competition 2013



WARD 14 Display



**W**ard 14 did it again! They captured the title for the second consecutive year as winners of the SFGH Diabetes Poster and Display Competition. The competition was hosted by the Community Liaison Unit, San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) in an effort to raise awareness about this disease.

This event was an integral part of the SFGH World Diabetes Day month long celebrations. It utilised the creativity and innovation of our staff to aid with the promotion of good health and diabetes education. Participants used various mediums such as videos, drama, and textured materials to reflect the theme "take a step for diabetes".

The results were as follows:

1st Place - Ward 14 "Diabetic Treasure Hunt"

2nd Place - Sewing Room "Take a step for diabetes"

3rd Place - Ward 6 Surgical "Take a step for diabetes"

## Children "Moving for Health" in Flanagin

**T**he staff of Flanagin Health Centre visited the Flanagin RC School on September 26th, 2013 to talk to the fourth and fifth standard students on the importance of practicing healthy eating habits and maintaining healthy lifestyles. The dietitian, Ms. Jochelle Mohammed explained the six basic food groups and all the vitamins and nutrition we get from them and all that our bodies needs to **GROW, GLOW and GO**. The students were also asked about "every time foods and sometimes food," after which they participated in a quiz on the information that was shared with them. At the end of the lecture fitness instructor, Ms. Sheila Duke took the students out to the paved area to show them some exercise moves..

The objective of this health promotion activity was to get the children "Moving for Health" and to educate them on the importance of healthy lifestyle practices in order to prevent the rise of communicable diseases among our young generation.



Patient listens attentively to nutrition presentation

## Stepping Up to Good Health in St. Patrick



Arlene Danclair, PCNM (Standing 2nd row 3rd from L) with the administrative staff and some Nursing staff of St. Patrick East

**I**n observance of Caribbean Wellness Day 2013, the Nursing Administration of St. Patrick East hosted a health fair entitled, "**Step up to Good Health**", on September 27, 2013 for staff of the CMOH St. Patrick Administrative Office and other Government agencies located at the Siparia Administrative Complex.

The day's activities were geared toward sensitizing, educating and informing individuals on how to monitor and check their blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol and body mass index. Participants also received advice on the importance of observing proper nutrition and diet in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle through lecture presentations and other activities designed to encourage individuals to become more conscientious about their health and well being.

In an effort to promote continued health monitoring, all personal and health data were recorded in a health passport, which was given to each person as a record for future use.



# दिवली

## Celebrations

### AT THE SFGH



(L-R) CEO Anil Gosine and Chairman Lackram Bodoes lit the first deeya

The 40th annual Divali celebrations at San Fernando General Hospital came off on 25th October 2013.

It was an evening which brought various categories of staff and visitors together to witness the richness of this Hindu festival of lights. The programme included offering of prayers, religious songs, classical dances, live tassa, the lighting of deeyas and a fashion show put on by staff and relatives.

The deeyas were lit at 6:00 p.m., after which Divali messages were delivered by Dr. Anand Chattergoon, Medical Director SFGH; Anil Gosine, CEO and Dr. Lackram Bodoes, Chairman.

Dr. Bodoes, in his greetings noted that the wind had made the lighting of deeyas difficult but through perseverance and collective effort from everyone, staff and visitors, they were able to get the lamps lit. He urged everyone to acknowledge the importance of perseverance and the value of each individual as he or she continues to work at the SWRHA to meet the patients' health care needs.



Internal Auditor, Koreen Trimm distributes gifts to children at the Paediatric Ward

## Christmas Treat for Paediatric Patients

SWRHA's Internal Audit Department treated the children on the Paediatric Surgical Ward (Ward 5) to a puppet show and other Christmas goodies on 19th December 2013. The children who live on the ward were presented with care packages consisting of toiletries, clothing and other essential items for their everyday needs.

According to Koreen Trimm- Bailey, Internal Auditor, this activity was one of their quarterly team building exercises geared towards fostering camaraderie among the staff with the aim of ultimately strengthening their working relationships.



(Backrow Middle) GM Nursing Franka Olliviere Andrews with nursing staff of the ICU/HDU

## Christmas Dinner with ICU and HDU

The staff of the Intensive Care and the High Dependency Units, San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH), held their Christmas dinner at the Nurses' Lounge on December 6, 2013. The Nurses' Lounge was transformed into an ambience of fun and entertainment, and a key part of the evening's programme included a tribute to the nursing career of Head Nurse Virginia Scanterbury Maloney in the Intensive Care Unit.

As colleagues recounted their experiences of working or being trained by Scanterbury-Maloney, there were moments that brought tears to their eyes, as well as, bursts of laughter as they fondly recalled the good nursing practices she instilled in them. Her ideology was that the patient is a priority and that nurses should be proud of their profession as caregivers.





## SAN FERNANDO TEACHING HOSPITAL

# SAN FERNANDO TEACHING HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT CLINIC SERVICES

### Maternal & Child Health

- ❖ Gynaecology
- ❖ Antenatal

### Paediatrics

- ❖ Cardiac
- ❖ Medical
- ❖ Surgical
- ❖ Urology
- ❖ Premature Babies

### Medical

- ❖ Diabetic/ Endocrine
- ❖ Cardiac
- ❖ Dermatology
- ❖ Gastroenterology
- ❖ General Medicine
- ❖ Heart, Rhythm and Device

- ❖ Neurology
- ❖ Physical Medicine and Rehab
- ❖ Renal
- ❖ Oncology

### General Surgical

- ❖ General Surgery Male & Female
- ❖ Gastroenterology
- ❖ Breast
- ❖ Plastics

### Diagnostics Clinic

- ❖ Neurology - EEG
- ❖ Neurology - EMG/ENG
- ❖ Cardiology - Holter/24hr
- ❖ Cardiology - ECG
- ❖ Cardiology - Stress test
- ❖ Urology - Uro Dynamics

- ❖ Neurology - Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- ❖ Neurology - Sleep laboratory
- ❖ Imaging - Ultrasound
- ❖ Imaging-X-RAY

### Neurosurgical

### Orthopaedics

### Urology

- ❖ General Urology
- ❖ Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy (B.P.H)
- ❖ Change of Catheter
- ❖ Uroflowmetry
- ❖ Uro-Oncology





# PHOTO GALLERY





# Southern PRIDE

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

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