

**UWIMAA Canadian Chapter
Annual General Meeting
Minutes
Sunday 02 May 2021, 12:00 – 2:00 pm EST
Via Zoom**

Pre-AGM events - Informal Meet and Greet session began at 11:33 am

- Dr. Upton Allen welcomed everyone and introduced this session.
- Two industries made brief power point presentations on their company's aims and how they are integrated in the Caribbean and Canada.
 - o Tamara Seales (Seaford Pharmaceuticals)
 - o Joel Scales and Ryan McEwen (Jamieson Laboratories).

**Annual General Meeting
(called to order at 12:09 pm)**

1) Welcome and introductions

- Dr Upton Allen called the meeting to order and welcomed members and other invitees. He thanked the previous President, Dr. Peter Wong, and everyone for their participation in the virtual AGM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was the second virtual conference. Approximately 51 persons were in attendance.
- Each attendee was called on to give a brief introduction.
- Dr. Allen introduced the current Executive and thanked them for their work in the Chapter.

2) Minutes of 2020 AGM

- The minutes of the 2020 AGM had been circulated. Dr. Paul Steinbok moved to accept 2020 minutes; Dr. Neville Galan seconded; all were in favour.

3) Report of President – Dr. Upton Allen

- There are four main goals for the Chapter:
 - o To keep it vibrant and as a leading medical alumnus, which we are doing well along with the South Florida Chapter.
 - o To maintain the integrity of the UWIMAA under the umbrella of the Institutional Advancement Division (IAD) of the UWI.
 - o To enhance the focus on the inclusion of young members into the alumni and enhance their professional advancement.
 - o To explore diversification of the sources of funding, for example, increasing the categories of membership by Honorary Membership.

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Other significant contributions include:

- BlackNorth Initiative – Dr. Kissoon and Dr. Allen serve on this initiative. The aim is to advance the interests of black medical and nonmedical professionals through the academic pipelines.
- COVID-19 related activities – many of our members are involved.
- UWI Alumni meetings - Dr. Allen has also been involved in the meetings of the overall UWI Alumni, spear headed by Ms. Celia Davidson, of the IAD. Of special note is the recent Report of the Chancellor’s Commission on the Governance of the UWI, chaired by Sir Dennis Byron. The aim of the commission was to give recommendations with regards to governance and finances of the UWI. One significant recommendation is the proposed increase in Student fees by about 40% which can affect student access. Our Chapter will circulate the report to the members and a forum will be set up regarding further discussion of its implications.
- UWIMAA overall executive endowment funding – this will be discussed in more detail.

ACTION POINTS:

- Our Chapter:
 - o to distribute the link to the Report of the Chancellor’s Commission on the Governance of the UWI (<https://www.uwi.edu/chancellorscommission/docs/GovCommission-2020.pdf>).
 - o Set up a forum to discuss the implications of the above report.
 - o Information on the endowment fund to be sent out to the membership.

4) **Remembrance of those gone before us** - This was presented by Dr. Michelle Barton Forbes.

- Tributes were done for:
 - o Dr. Wayne John Edwards, Psychiatrist, (June 24th, 1954 to April 13th, 2021), Class of 1980, who passed from complications of COVID-19.
 - o Dr. Theresa Fung Chung-Walkine, Family doctor, Class of 1980. She passed away in April 2021 in Jamaica from complications of COVID-19.
 - o All physicians and health professionals that have passed away due to complications of COVID-19.

We thank them for their hard work and fearlessness. May they rest in peace.

5) **Financial Report** - This was presented by Dr. Christopher McDonald.

- There is no new report from the last AGM. The 2020 return is currently with the accountant.
- The cash flow statement prepared by Dr McDonald was displayed.

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Most of the money is still towards yearly contributions to the secretariat, and restricted funds for scholarships and prizes. The prizes are:

- DB Stewart prize for the highest mark in Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
 - The Andrew Masson prize for surgical postgraduate training in Canada and
 - The Massiah/DaCamara Scholarship for financial assistance of undergraduate students.
- Available funds for the UWIMAA remains limited. Source of funds are mainly from payment of dues and donations. Diversified sources of income are being considered.
 - Payment of donations, like dues and can be used for tax purposes.
 - Dr. Upton Allen moved to accept the financial report and this was seconded Dr. Winston Gittens; all accepted.

5) Subcommittee Reports:

Communication and website Committee – Presented by Dr. Makini McGuire

- Dr. McGuire thanked the membership for engaging us with information on seminars, conferences and important information.
- Our website is functional and links are on all the emails.
- Research network database – we are aiming to get all the research profiles. Please send us this information.
- Newsletter – this will be launching soon. Members can send in their accomplishments to be posted in the newsletter.
- Further social media groups are being considered, including Instagram, and new members are encouraged to be involved.
- Virtual teaching opportunities – this will be discussed further for development. The Sickkids Caribbean initiative and Caribbean based societies, such as the Epilepsy Society, are already doing some of this, geared towards physicians, medical students and nurses. The potential for this to be leverage for funding opportunities from various organizations will be considered as an option for sustainability.

ACTION POINTS:

- Development of Instagram in our social media profile
- Virtual teaching based on the specialities in our membership will be discussed further with regards to set-up and sustainability.

Awards Committee – Presented by Dr. Karl Massiah and Dr. Pamela DaCamara

- Members should begin to consider potential nominations for the awards.

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ACTION POINTS:

- The Chapter will send out a timeline for the awards so members can consider the nominations as this is a process.

Professional Advancement and Continuing Education (PACE) Committee – Presented by Dr. Upton Allen:

- Looks at opportunities for graduates new to Canada. In November a forum was set up with Dr. A. Atkinson, Dr. C. Forrest, Dr. T. Kissoon, Dr. A. Jarvis, Dr. J. Young, Dr. Wallace, Dr. Allen and Dr. Malini Dave. This was useful to delineate the processes and areas of emphasis for entry into the Canadian system. The importance of connections between International Medical Graduates and pivotal persons in the Canadian system was identified as important especially for the surgical field. Research/Scholarship preparation for postgraduate training – needs to be a consideration for emphasis throughout medical school and into Internship and as a House Officer. The plan is for a repeat session this year.
- COVID-19 update – a session is potentially carded for late spring/early summer.

ACTION POINTS:

- Date for the new session to be decided – Opportunities for graduates new to Canada.
- COVID-19 update session to be planned – content/speakers/fee.

Membership Committee:

- New names were added at the AGM – residents and fellows.
- Eight new members were added over the year
- We encouraged anyone who may have contacts with other UWI graduates to reach out to us with their contacts in an effort to continue to grow our community.

6) IAD:

- We will give a summary update on the IAD sent out by email.

ACTION POINTS:

- IAD summary to be sent out to the membership.

7) Distinguished Service Award – Citation given by Prof. Tex Kissoon

- This award is being awarded to Dr. Badri Rickhi for his contributions in the field of Psychiatry at the National and International levels.

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- Dr. Rickhi thanked the Chapter for the award as well as the predecessors who made the pathway for us and his supportive classmates.

ACTION POINTS:

- Dr. Rickhi will receive his award certificate in the mail.

8) Testimonials of previous prize winners:

- Distinguished service award 2020 – Dr. Garth Richard (quote)
- DB Stewart prize 2019 - Dr. Shanice Scarlett (video presentation)
- Sir Harry Annanmunthundo prize 2019 – Dr. Ryan Nicholas.

9) Honorary mention – 50 years of service, Class of 1971:

- Dr. Shirley Braithwaite
- Dr. Francis Chin
- Dr. Trevor Chin Fook
- Dr. Albert DeGoias
- Dr. Kenneth Sealey
- Dr. Paul Steinbok

10) Other member achievements:

Makini McGuire – Completes Yr 1 PhD Health Administration at York University
 Joanna Walters – Completes MPH at Waterloo University
 Kevon Dindial – Completes Core Hematology/Oncology Fellowship
 Alicia Polack – CARMS match to Pediatric Residency at SickKids, Toronto
 Rosemary Moodie – Receives The Order of Ontario and UoT Dean’s Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award
 Nadine Morrison – Staff job at Kingston, paper of the month Pediatric Neurology
 Judy Seesahai – Junior Staff at Sunnybrook
 Peter Wong – Master in Public Administration at Queens University
 Dr. Shreeves – Opening new Family Practice (Ottawa)
 Tex Kissoon - Elected president World Sepsis Alliance
 Upton Allen – Leads team assessing COVID-19 prevalence, risk factors among Black Canadian communities, Top 50 most influential persons 2020 (#31) – Toronto Life Magazine, Boonoonoonoos Award recognition 2021, Jamaica Canadian Association.

11) Other Business

- **Proposed slate of officers for 2021 – 2022:**

President	Dr. Upton Allen MBBS ‘81
President Emeritus	Dr. Karl Massiah MBBS ‘65
Past President	Dr. Peter Wong MBBS ‘82

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Vice President	Dr. Makini McGuire	MBBS '13
Secretary	Dr. Judy Seesahai	MBBS '98
Treasurer	Dr. Chris McDonald	MBBS '75

Members at Large

Dr. Michelle Barton-Forbes	MBBS '88
Dr. Joseph Butchey	MBBS '67
Dr. Jillian Lewis	MBBS '97
Dr. Pamela DaCamara	MBBS '65
Dr. Albert Aikerman	MBBS '76

The officers were moved as unchanged by Dr. Paul Steinbok and seconded by Dr. Winston Gittens. All agreed.

- Door prize – a gift card was won by Dr. Winston Gittens.
- UWI reform – alternative funding for UWI medical school St. Augustine (for example for example from capital markets) – more information needs to be gathered on this.
- Stay tuned for updates to follow on important events/AGM 2022.

ACTION POINTS:

- Door prize gift card to be emailed to Dr. Gittens.
- Important dates to be determined.

12) Adjournment

Dr Makini McGuire moved to adjourn; second by Dr Joseph Butchey; All were in favour 2:40pm.

Post AGM event - Feature Speaker Dr. Badri Rickhi

An excellent presentation followed which was well received! Dr. Rickhi spoke about his academic, clinical, educational and research interests. He established a charitable organization and sits on multiple other foundations. He was instrumental in the development of an online program (Breathing room) and app related to mental wellness. Dr. Badri concluded with a brief segment on “Simple Ways to Identify Mental Health Challenges During Covid”.

For more information, one can contact Charlotte Dennis email: c.dennis@cinim.org or check the website at www.cinim.org also <https://breathingroom.me>.

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