

**REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE OF THE
CARIBBEAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION/
COMMONWEALTH PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 13 – 19, 2012
BARBADOS**

Upwards to 200 registrants and guests attended this conference near Bridgetown, Barbados for five days of meetings, educational sessions, and camaraderie – Bajan Style.

Preceding the conference was a public education event – Management of Asthma in Barbados.

The first day of the conference was devoted to three special workshops: Good Manufacturing and Distribution Practices: Pharmaceutical Regulations; HIV Management: A Pharmacist's Perspective; and Medication Therapy Management: Is the Caribbean ready?

Day two started with the Annual General Meeting that was very well attended. The organization appears to have a sound financial footing and the only contention was a constitutional issue surrounding unfilled offices.

Following the keynote address by Sr. S. Bhamjee, and a presentation on health economic evaluations, pharmacists and guests attended the evening Opening Ceremony and cocktails.

Day three started the bulk of the continuing education sessions, with presentations on diabetic issues and ethical considerations in pharmacy. The afternoon saw the second portion of the Annual General Meeting and the election of officers and councilors. As a non-voting associate member, I was invited to assist in the vote count and registration. The audience said good-bye to Bassil Scantlebury from Barbados as President and welcomed Yvonne Johnson-Reid from Jamaica as the incoming President. The evening Bajan hospitality was well received at the annual Culturama.

Day four was a full day of educational sessions starting with human resources for health in the Caribbean. Other sessions entailed rational uses of medicines in institutional care, rational uses of antimicrobials, pharmaceutical situation in the Caribbean, harmonization of medicines regulations and dermatological manifestations of HIV. Guests were thrilled to attend the awards ceremony at the Concorde Experience, the only Concorde residing in the Americas. The awards ceremony was well attended and very much a pinnacle for the week. I was privileged to receive an award for participation in their Association. The organizers also are to be complimented for arranging to make a sizeable donation to a deserving Barbadian charity.

Day five was another full educational day from a session on pre-eclampsia, medical nutrition therapy, new areas for pharmacy practice, medication therapy management and a biodegradable carrier for antifungal agents.

The attendance by the Canadian associate member and observer is always well appreciated.

My travel route back to Canada took me from Barbados through Trinidad, where I was able to meet for a few hours with Mr. Clinton Sahadeo – Caribbean Pharmacist of the Year in 2010 – and pharmacist with the Eastern Regional Health Authority in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss pharmacy in his country.

In summary, the enthusiasm of the attendees at this conference is amazing. When one considers that some of these island states have less than 50 pharmacists, it is encouraging to see them get together to share their interests in pharmacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Meek, CPhA Representative to the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association