

# St.VINCENT & the GRENADINES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



*Pres. Dr. R.E. Ambrose*  
*Sect. Dr. N. Lewis.*  
*PRO: Mr. S. Young*  
*Committee Members:*

*Vice Pres: Dr. M. Sheridan*  
*Treas; Mrs. R. Brisbane*  
*Asst. Sect.:Dr. J. Ellis*  
*Dr. K.Providence & Mrs. C. Daize*

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT OF 2008 – 2010 ACTIVITIES**

Over these past two years, I wish to thank the Executive, Membership and all persons working 'behind the scenes' of the SVG Medical Association for the support and collaboration received during my tenure in these **4 terms as President** of the now - most highly visible professional organization. Thanks to all for the confidence you inspired in me. Thanks our webmaster for establishing our website back in 2004 and maintaining it to keep us well informed.

### **SVG Med. Association Activities 2008 under Presidency : Dr. R. E. Ambrose**

1. A visit by the Medical Protection Society (MPS) representatives - Dr. Nancy Boodhoo and Dr. David Croser to SVG in January, and held a meeting with the membership (at our Headquarters) regarding the benefits of joining the Medical Protection Society. Our Secretariat and the program of activities conducted by our organization in the recent past, and were impressed with our work.
2. Participated in the Wreath Layering – Oblelisk – Chatoyer **National Heroes Day** March 14, 2008 – President – Dr. R. Ambrose & Dr. Mischka Duncan
3. **CASEBOOK Publication - September 2008**
4. In **October, the SVGMA held its major Program of Activities** began with the **Sir Arnot Symposium** – Theme : **Central Nervous System Disease**, with a slate of presentors from the region – Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The plan was immediately set in motion for the 2009 Symposium to discuss **ASTHMA in the Caribbean**.
5. This was followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> **College & Career Exhibition** and the **Social Event** for the Membership and visiting and participating Colleges and Financial Institutions – This was held of the Official Residence of the Governor General – His Excellency Sir Frederick Ballantyne, himself an honorary member of the Medical Association.
6. The hurricane struck Cuba and an appeal was raised for the **Cuban Relief Fund** October 2008 (some \$1,200.00EC was raised and forwarded to Ambassador of Cuba to SVG – Her Excellency Olga Trias
7. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Cap CityWalk** proceeded as usual and Tote Bags were added to the range of insignia . Several marchers attended and a rally was held in Heritage Square, Kingstown at the end of the March, where representatives of multiple organisations read statements of **:FOOTPRINTS** on Breast Cancer Awareness.
8. The Pre-Christmas – "**Chickey, Piggy BBQ & Callaloo**" –end of November 2008
9. Participated in **Ministry of Education National Career Fair** – December 2008 Booth Display and Presentation on Careers in Health Care – Principally PhysioTherapy –Mrs. J. Veira-Ballah- (conducted by the Min. of Education –

**Activities of Year 2009: - under Presidency – Dr. R. E. Ambrose**

10. **Book Grant Awarded** – British Medical Assoc & BMJ – TALC (Teaching Aids At Low Cost) –Notification granted in November 2008 – Books received – Jan. 2009
11. Junior Physicians Award 2008– Dr. Jasmine Ellis – to attend the Cardiology Symposium – TSOM (not able to attend) **February 14, 2009**
12. Junior Physicians Award – 2009 Dr. N Lewis – to attend the Cardiology Symposium – TSOM – Attended)
13. Coordinated Conference on **Heart Care Services in the Caribbean (Trinidad)** held at Grenadine House March 7, 2009
14. Obelisk –**Nat. Heroes Day – March 14** , 2009 - Dr Jose Davy & Pres.- Dr. R. E. Ambrose – Organised by the Ministry of Culture.
15. Audiometry Bursary from SVGMA – Ms. Shannon Durrant (SVG) to proceed to Sacramento, California, under Prof. C. Le Fevre, California State University – Reciprocating by Volunteer services to MCMH – **From March 2009 - November 2009.**  
(Ms. Durrant has since resumed in February 2010). The understanding is that she would be available at MCMH Outpatients every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.
16. Handing over **Books to School of Nursing - on April 7, 2009 -** World Health Day (SEARCHLIGHT Newspaper- **Apr 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**)
17. During the course of the year, we **activated the Student membership** and enrolled 24 medical students of the Trinity School of Medicine enrolled.
18. Coordinated the **ASTHMA PREVENTION project** of the students of TSOM – who had won a grant from AMSA – American Medical Students Association (USA) to conduct this study. (Subsequently won Poster Presentation at the recent AMSA 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Session Asthma Conference in USA)
19. We obtained **Membership Pins** to be sold (\$10.00) to all members, and we wish that you would dedicatedly wear these with pride.
20. **OCTOBER Activities : -**
  - (i)**Sir Arnot Cato Symposium** – October 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunset Shores Hotel – ASTHMA
  - (ii) **College & Career Exhibition** – Methodist Church Hall –October 14, 15
  - (iii) **Membership and Exhibitors Social Event** – Official Residence – Hon Prime Minister.
  - (iv) BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**
    - (i)**Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Cap City Walk** – Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> – in conjunction, Nurses, Girl Guides, (100<sup>th</sup> Years of Guiding in SVG), Soroptomists International (SVG), Jaycees and Women’s Community Group – W. Kingstown
    - (ii) Inviting a **Partnership with the Bank of Nova Scotia** to assist with offsetting cost of Tumor Markers for Mastectomy patients – (Not yet concluded)
    - (iii) **Breast Cancer Human Pink Ribbon- Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot – Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>.** – International acknowledgment – **Published in the CASEBOOK – MPS-Medical Protection Society – January 2010 – Bringing GLOBAL ACCLAIM to the SVG Medical Association !**

21. The calendar year closed with the Annual Pre-Christmas **CHICKY, PIGGY BBQ & Callaloo** – Friday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

(22) ASSOCIATION ARCHIVING

During the year 2009, a commitment was set by the Executive undertake an **electronic ARCHIVE** - documenting the (1) **Registration of Medical Practitioners** This was challenge undertaken by the PRO – Mr Shaun Young, and he has accomplished this.

(2) **Historical information** about the profession in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. We had the opportunity to be enlightened by the History of medical professionals working in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Some of these Historical events will be in a History page on our Website.

For instance, the Medical Association was established in 1951 – so that perhaps next year (2011) – it would be a good time to have a **Gala Event** to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year of this Organisation.

It may interest you to know that the first registration of Medical Practitioners occurred on January 1, 1877 when some 7 physicians and surgeons were assigned to this country.

The first local physician was Dr. Ardon Breseford Brereton (Layou) = registered 15<sup>th</sup> November 1930 (80 years ago) – University of Edinburgh,

The first Island Scholar to qualify as a physician – Dr. Arnot Samuel Cato – 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1936.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Island Scholar – Dr. William Landreth Cummings – Registered 24<sup>th</sup> February 1947. Both studies at the University of Edinburgh.

The first female physician is Dr. Annie Agnes Higman – 27<sup>th</sup> May 1946 – University of Punjab.

Dr. Frederick Nathaniel Ballantyne – 1965 and paid \$4.80 Receipt # 90588

The first to be ‘**struck off**’ the register was Dr. Charles Masson in 9<sup>th</sup> May 1913 – “*for infamous and disgraceful conduct in a professional respect*”

Throughout the year attempts were made to engage members in the review of the Draft of the **Health Professionals Act**, but we made no reasonable head-way in this regard. It is my hope that the new Executive will take on this assignment. I am of the understanding that this Bill on finally on the Parliamentary calendar of 2010. I am willing to continue working on this project.

The Association’s Constitution was circulated online, so that all can access it and read and bring issues for discussion.

In 2009 – the Association maintains its representative presence on the following National Boards:

GNC – General Nursing Council – Dr. Camille Nicholls

NESDC – National Economic Social Development Committee – Drs. Ambrose & Sheridan

Medical Accreditation Board – Dr. Dacon Anderson

National Accreditation Board – Dr. Ambrose

Coalition of Services Industries - Dr. Ambrose & N. Lewis

Rehabilitation of Offenders Consultation Committee- Dr. A. Morris Patterson

Occupation Health & Safety Consultation Committee – Dr. R. Ambrose

**Year 2010:**

The year opened with the tragic Earthquake in **Haiti January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Contributed to Haiti Earthquake victims – Supply of Drinking Water =50 cases of 1.5ml bottles of water – in collaboration with RC Enterprises, and Mountain Top Spring Water.

**January 29, 2010 – SVG Medical Association receives its copy of CASEBOOK** containing the publication of our Breast Cancer Human Umbrella Ribbon – Page 6 of the January issue – giving the Association international acclaim.

In closing, I must say that over the years, I have had the privilege of the unbending involvement of a Core of the Executive, who made an excellent working-team for me to achieve the many milestones of the Association.

Without them and my staff at the Caribbean Medical Imaging Center as well as volunteers from the Department of Radiology at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital it just not happen the way it did.

Dr. Rosalind E. Ambrose, President  
St. Vincent & the Grenadines Medical Association.  
(Filed March 2010)