

THE Register

NEWSLETTER OF THE BARBADOS NATIONAL REGISTRY



Barbados National Registry

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BNR MISSION STATEMENT

To collect and interpret high quality data on CNCDS, ensuring dissemination to the relevant public and professional organisations and individuals in Barbados. To promote the use of this information to reduce incidence, improve survival and quality of care for the Barbadian population.

Messages from Clinical Directors



Prof. David Corbin –
Clinical Director for the
BNR-Stroke

BNR - Stroke

Greetings to all readers,

The stroke arm of the Barbados National Registry for Chronic Non-communicable Diseases (the BNR) was the first to be launched on 1 July, 2008. I have been the Clinical Director appointed since its inception. It has been a pleasure working with the BNR staff. There is a real sense of commitment to the establishment of the first national registry in the Caribbean.

We have gone to extreme lengths to ensure that the information collected remains confidential so that persons who are registered need not be afraid that their health history will become public knowledge. My role is also to ensure that stroke is the correct diagnosis and that persons with conditions masquerading as stroke are not registered. Regrettably, the registry is not achieving full ascertainment of stroke cases across the island and I would like to encourage all healthcare personnel and colleagues to actively refer cases to the BNR at the earliest possible opportunity, and by whatever means is most convenient, even if you think that someone else has previously referred the case. The aim of the BNR-Stroke is to obtain an accurate picture of the impact of stroke on the health services in Barbados, which ultimately should promote effective development of existing services.

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Dr Rudy Delice – Clinical
Director for the BNR- Heart

BNR - Heart

We believe that the incidence of heart disease in Barbados, including acute myocardial infarction (MI) has increased based on annual hospital data. However, the last study investigating numbers of cases and factors associated with heart disease was about 20 years ago.

The BNR- Heart seeks to gather data on the occurrence of acute MI (heart attacks) in Barbados. The information gathered includes number of heart attacks, age and gender distribution of patients, outcomes and complications, the time it takes to access care, the risk factors and death rates of these patients. The process of gathering these data has had significant potential benefits. Apart from the data expected from the registry, we have been able to document the many challenges and deficiencies associated with the holistic diagnosis and management of acute MI in Barbados, from documentation, laboratory testing and training to resource issues. While those of us associated with the registry have started to address those issues within our power, for example training; it is hoped that we will provide robust information for action at all levels of the medical profession. I would encourage all practitioners to play a role by notifying the registry of all acute MI patients and those who have unfortunately died of sudden cardiac death in the community.

BNR - Cancer



Prof. Patsy Prussia
Clinical Director, BNR-Cancer

Dear Readers,

The importance of having a cancer registry in Barbados has been recognized since the early 1970s. It was the dream of Dr. Harold St. C White, Consultant Pathologist at the Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), 1973-2001 and Dr AD Fraser, Radiation Oncologist. In anticipation, duplicate cancer reports have been kept in bound volumes in the Surgical Pathology Department since that time. The creation of the BNR-Cancer by the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Chronic Disease Research Centre has made this dream finally come true.

Thus far, the BNR-Cancer team has completed identification of suspected and confirmed cases of cancer diagnosed in 2008 using surgical pathology and cytology reports, various registration books and death certificates from the QEH, the Bayview Hospital, the Ministry of Health and the Registration Department at the Supreme Court Complex, respectively. Starting with the breast and male genital system, the team is now in the process of retrieving patient notes from QEH in order to collect further data, such as tumour treatment and outcome information.

Due to inadequate record keeping, there have been some challenges in collecting complete data, thus requiring further retrieval from several data sources. It is hoped that, with time, feedback provided by BNR-Cancer to the medical community will improve record keeping and thus faster retrieval of relevant data. At this time, we would like to thank the hospital staff and private physicians who have been co-operative and wish for their unremitting support.

Service To The Medical Community

BNR Continuing Education Seminar Series

The BNR prides itself on being able to not only collect robust data on cardiovascular disease and cancer in Barbados but to utilise this information to improve patient care. To this end the BNR has developed the BNR Continuing Education Seminar Series with the aim to provide training in the areas of diagnostics and clinical documentation.



BNR Continuing Medical Education Series

Physicians will be awarded Continuing Medical Education credits for participation in these seminars and as many are aware these credits are now required for re-registration of doctors in Barbados. Support for these workshops has been provided by the Pan American Health Organization and the Ministry of Health.

Death Certificate Workshop January 2011

The Death Certificate workshop was held in the QEH auditorium on 31 January, 2011. It was chaired by the Chief Medical Officer and attracted participants from all sectors including the QEH, polyclinics, district hospitals, private practices and UWI medical students.

Due to the high demand for training on this topic, the Ministry of Health requested that the workshop be repeated later in the year to give other interested staff members an opportunity to attend. It was strongly suggested that the Coroner, or some representative from the Coroner's Court, be present to field questions being posed on the various legal aspects of death certification and provisions will be made to facilitate this.

Based on the issues raised, it was evident that there was a need for standardized protocols outlining death certification in Barbados. To this end, Dr Joy St. John, the Chief Medical Officer, convened a working group, including the coroner, hospital, public sector and private sector physicians and death records personnel, tasked with the responsibility of drafting this death certification protocol.

Death Certificate Workshop September 2011

A second Death Certificate Workshop was held on 12th September 2011 and we were pleased to have Coroner Faith Marshall-Harris participate in this workshop. Her presentation on the role of the Coroner and the circumstances under which a post mortem becomes legally required was well received by the audience.

She noted that the Coroner's office would only order an autopsy when the death was sudden or unnatural or if foul play was suspected. She lamented that physicians would refer cases to

her office that did not meet these criteria. This often occurred when physicians were reluctant to issue death certificates because of uncertainty about the patient's cause of death. In these circumstances the Coroner recommended that private post mortems be conducted. Mrs. Marshall-Harris emphasized that the State needed to prioritize which autopsies were to be performed due to its limited resources and that the involvement of the Coroner's office often became burdensome and traumatic for families.



Caribbean Wellness Day 8th October 2011

SERVICE TO BARBADIANS

As part of its outreach programme to the public the BNR participated in several Health fairs held by civil and corporate Barbados during 2011. These represent an important opportunity to inform the public about the work of the registry as well as to encourage Barbadians to adopt a healthier, more active lifestyle that would reduce the risk of persons developing chronic diseases such as stroke and heart disease.

In this regard, the Registry visited The University of the West Indies Staff Open Day, the Elegant Resorts Health Fair, the Caribbean Wellness Day held at Ilaro Court and the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Open Day.

Upcoming Health Fairs

The BNR will be attending the open day held by the Erdiston Teacher's Training College on November 9, 2011 and the St. Luke's Brighton Primary's inaugural Health Fair on November 29, 2011.

Please contact the BNR hotline at 256 4267 (256 4BNR) if you would like the BNR to attend your organization's Open day or Health Fair.

STAFF CHANGES

In 2011 the BNR said a regretful goodbye to its Cancer Registrar Rhea Harewood who left to pursue a Masters degree in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Ms Jacqueline Campbell is now Senior Data Abstractor for the BNR-Cancer and we know that she will excel in this position.

We also welcomed two new part-time BNR data abstractors: Nurses Pissammai Maul and Wendy Browne.

The BNR is very grateful for the kind assistance it receives from its team of volunteers who help the Registry to operate successfully. Our part-time volunteers include: Kayla Boyea – data abstractor; Natasha White Ekomaye – data abstractor; Claire Clouden – administrative officer; Joannah Wilson – annual follow-up nurse; Heather Beale – data entry.



Pissammai Maul and Wendy Browne

BNR Team



Left to right: Back: Jacqueline Campbell, Tracey Blackman, Angela Rose, Gina Pitts, Karen Greene | Front: Lauren Maul, Pissamai Maul

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QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL **Medical Records Department**

Mrs. Elva Best
Mrs. Jean Collymore
Ms. Linda Simpson
Mrs. Cecile Roberts
Ms. Wendy Ifill
Ms. Donna Harris

A&E Records

Mrs. Magdalene Jordan
Mr. Hillary Gill – Retired

Death Records Department

Mrs. Maria Phillips
Ms. Noreen Jackson

Orderly

Mr. Stephen Barrow

Haematology

Nurse Broomes
Nurse Sealy
Dr. Laurent
Dr. Fakunle
Dr. Lewis

Radiotherapy

Kera Rogers
Derlwyn Wilkinson

Pathology/Cytology Labs

All Staff

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Supreme Court of Barbados - Registration Department

Ms. Walker
Mr. Trotman
Ms. Jemmott
Ms. Blanchette

Coroner's Office

Magistrate Faith Marshall-Harris

Diagnostic Clinic Bayview Hospital Polyclinics Geriatric Hospital District Hospitals

The Barbados National Registry
"Avalon", Jemmott's Lane / Bridgetown, St Michael
BB11115
Phone: +246-256-4BNR / Fax: +246-228-0360

E-mail: bnr@cavehill.uwi.edu | Website: www.bnr.org.bb