

BNR STAFF AND INFORMATION

BNR LAUNCHES NEW DIGICEL HOTLINE

The BNR launched its Digicel sponsored Hotline on 04 March 2009. The presentation was made during the launch of the registry and was made by Mr Alex Tasker, Digicel's Head of Sales & Marketing. The Hotline will allow members of the general public to contact the BNR to notify cases of stroke, heart attack and cancer. Individuals are asked to call the BNR Hotline at 256-4BNR [256-4267] between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm Mondays to Fridays.



HOW TO NOTIFY

The BNR asks the medical community in Barbados to notify each stroke or acute MI you may diagnose, and to encourage/inform patients to be part of the registry. To notify, please use either the yellow BNR notification form or call the BNR Hotline on 256-4BNR.

The BNR must collect accurate data on every newly diagnosed stroke, AMI, and cancer patient. Every healthcare professional has a potential role to play, as you are in the frontline, diagnosing the cases.



Barbados National Registry
On Behalf of the Ministry of Health

THE REGISTER

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Newsletter of the Barbados National Registry

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

I extend hearty congratulations to the management and staff of the Barbados National Registry on the first issue of this newsletter, and for their pioneering work in establishing the first functional chronic disease registry in the Eastern Caribbean. The BNR is a significant component of the Ministry of Health's drive to improve upon the collection of information about chronic non-communicable diseases in Barbados and to improve on their management by creating an evidence base for decision making.

The need for systematic data collection and enhanced levels of research and monitoring has been clearly established as essential to our efforts to advance our understanding about these lifestyle-related disorders in a Barbadian context. This undertaking will allow us to understand more clearly how these conditions originate and impact within our local communities.

These diseases can have important consequences for all of us, as even

those of us who are not affected at present may possibly be affected at sometime in the future. We therefore need to be aware that it is only through full participation of all parties that this effort will reach the level of success that we envision and desire. This will empower us to make better decisions, and can translate into improved health outcomes for our population.

I take this opportunity to entreat Barbadian nationals, residents, practitioners, patients and their relatives alike, to take ownership of this registry, to see this as our registry and to supply the required information and utilize the outputs. It is only through this level of co-operation that we will together make this registry a success.

YOUR REGISTRY, YOUR HEALTH.



THE HONOURABLE DONVILLE INNISS

BNR Hotline Team

Ms Karen Greene (left) and Mrs Talita Thorpe (right), are the voices at the other end of the line when you call the BNR Hotline. Karen and Talita also frequently call private physicians' offices to enquire about any recently diagnosed strokes or AMIs.



Some of the BNR staff, from Left to Right: Rhea Harewood, Data Abstractor; Karen Greene, Steno Clerk; Angela Rose, Director; Tracey Blackman, Data Manager; and Joy Vanterpool, Data Abstractor.

CURRENT STAFF

- Director - Ms Angela Rose • Registrars - Ms Christina Howitt, Mrs Gina Pitts • Data Manager - Ms Tracey Blackman • Data Abstractors - Ms Rhea Harewood, Mrs Joy Vanterpool, Ms Jacqueline Campbell • Data Entry Clerk - Mrs Talita Thorpe • Steno Clerk - Ms Karen Greene

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BNR MISSION STATEMENT

To collect and interpret high quality data on CNCs, 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.

BNR Hotline 256-4BNR [256-4267] kindly sponsored by **Digicel**



WHAT IS THE BNR?

The Barbados National Registry for Chronic Non-communicable Disease (BNR) is a national surveillance system being conducted by the Chronic Disease Research Centre on behalf of the Ministry of Health. It comprises three registries: the BNR-Stroke, BNR-Heart and BNR-Cancer, with each registry collecting data on every case of stroke, AMI and cancer, respectively.

Data collected and analysed by the BNR will aid in the monitoring, evaluation, and planning of health care services, and will allow comparisons with the Caribbean and the rest of the world.

This registry is a new initiative for Barbados and its success is greatly dependent on the co-operation of health professionals and the general public.

The BNR data abstractors are actively involved in the collection of information from medical records. Their data sources include the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), district hospitals, polyclinics, private physicians and the death registry.

The data manager, with support from the CDRC statistician, takes care of all aspects of data security and validation, and ensures that BNR data are held securely and analysed appropriately. Data are collected onto standardised case report forms and are scanned into a customised database. Data management and data security meet international standards. In addition, Clinical Directors provide expert input for each chronic disease, especially concerning difficult diagnoses. Dr David Corbin is the Clinical Director for BNR-Stroke, and Dr Rudy Delice for BNR-Heart, with Dr Richard Ishmael playing a consultancy role.

BNR OPEN DAY AND LAUNCH

Pictured from right to left: Clinical Director for BNR-Stroke Dr David Corbin, BNR Director Ms Angela Rose, along with BCC nursing students among others listening to a speaker at the BNR Open Day.



On 4 March 2009, the BNR hosted its inaugural Open Day. Several secondary school and nursing students, BARP members, as well as the general public, were invited to the BNR offices "to be educated about chronic diseases and the functions of the Registry."

Tutorials on Stroke, Heart Attack and Prevention and Cancer in Barbados were presented by medical professionals Dr David Corbin, Dr Lynda Williams and Prof. José Ortega respectively. Lively personal accounts

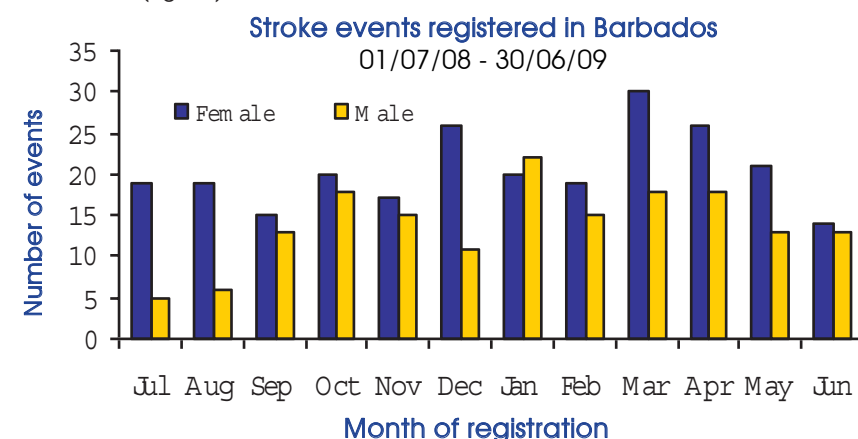
were also given by survivor of a stroke and a heart attack. Throughout the day, guests were treated to poster tours presented by BNR staff.

At 4:00 p.m., members of the medical community, including private physicians, QEH and polyclinic staff, were invited to witness the official launch of the BNR. In attendance were specially invited guests Prof. Trevor Hassell (Chair, CNCD Commission), Prof. Anselm Hennis (Director, CDRC), Dr Kenneth George (CMO (Ag)), Canon Noel Burke (Chaplain, QEH) and Master of Ceremonies Prof. Henry Fraser (Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI).

The keynote speaker was the Honourable Donville Inniss, Minister of Health, who endorsed the importance of the work of the BNR in his speech. Mr Alex Tasker, Managing Director of Digicel, was also on hand to present the Digicel sponsored BNR Hotline to the BNR team.

PROGRESS REPORT: PRELIMINARY DATA FROM BNR-STROKE

The BNR-Stroke is now an established registry, with 413 patients registered in the 12 months from its start date to 30 June 2009. An additional 151 were notified, but have not been confirmed, as patient records were not available. Although numbers are small, there have been about 50% more stroke events in females than males (figure).



The main challenge during implementation has been "buy-in" from the private sector. Less than 10% of stroke notifications in the first 6 months were reported by private physicians, while prior experience indicates up to 33% of stroke patients are diagnosed and treated in this sector. In addition, 28% (151) stroke patients did not have full data abstracted (32: died but death registry information not yet available for confirmation; 49: undetermined diagnosis; 70: patient records not retrieved).

Limitations in full case ascertainment are being addressed. It is hoped that the success of the BNR as a potential surveillance model could be used to promote the development of a standardised Caribbean-wide surveillance system.

BS&T SUPPORTS THE BNR

Group Chief Executive Officer of BS&T, Mr G. Anthony King (left) presents a cheque to assist with the BNR to the Minister of Health, the Hon. Donville Inniss.



The Barbados Shipping & Trading Co. Ltd recently presented the BNR with a \$25 000 donation to aid with the functioning of the registry. The presentation was held on Friday 15 May 2009, at the Ministry of Health, Jemmott's Lane, St Michael.

The Minister of Health, Mr Donville Inniss, was on hand to accept the donation on behalf of the BNR, along

with the BNR Director Ms Angela Rose, CDRC Director Prof. Anselm Hennis, BS&T CEO Mr Anthony King, and BNR Data Abstractors Ms Rhea Harewood and Mrs Joy Vanterpool.

Minister Donville Inniss noted the importance of the BNR "in the collection of critical information which would lead to the better management of the diseases." He reiterated that "the work of the BNR would help us to be in a position to analyse (chronic non-communicable diseases) to (recommend) both preventative and other intervention methods that can see Barbadians living longer and having a better quality of life."