

Caribbean Life

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June 20-26, 2014 

CARIBBEAN LIFE PROUDLY PRESENTS

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HEALTHCARE

Awards 2014

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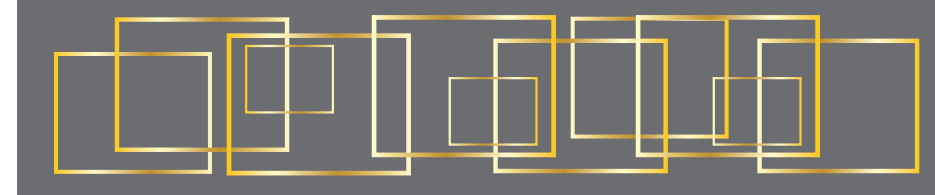
and join Caribbean Life in saluting

all of the 2014 honorees

including our own

Dr. Juliet Nevins





Celebrating an integral part of our healthcare industry

New York City is a leader in the vital healthcare industry that makes up 16 percent of the U.S. economy, but it would not be nearly as successful without the Caribbean Americans who comprise a significant portion of our workforce and dominate critical areas of our caregiving disciplines.

Caribbean contributions to the diagnostic, disease-prevention, and delivery of healthcare services are groundbreaking.

Jamaican microbiologist and pathologist Louis Grant [1913–1993] helped to isolate the devastating dengue virus, while his compatriot Mary Seacole [1805–1881] brought her mother's herbal remedies to the Crimean War's battlefields, self-financing her trip to the Black Sea peninsula to treat wounded soldiers after being passed over by Florence Nightingale.

Caribbeans have brought their heritage of loyalty and hard work to these shores in a swell of compassionate care, becoming naturalized United States citizens at

higher rates compared to other immigrant groups, and gravitating to our healthcare system in a win-win situation for all Americans.

Caribbean Life is proud to celebrate 48 healthcare professionals in our inaugural Caribbean American Healthcare Awards edition and at a gala on June 25 at Tropical Paradise Ballroom in Brooklyn, where we will formally salute these exceptional New Yorkers for helping to advance our healthcare system to its best possible outcome. We thank you, our readers, as well as the medical community for nominating the best and brightest in their fields.

Our awardees are as diverse as the myriad cultures that course through the veins of their ancestral lands. They include an army colonel who has served the country for 27 years in leadership and nursing-related

management positions; a hospice nurse who delivers palliative care to people in their excruciating final days and weeks of life; and an indomitable trauma surgeon who rises to the challenge of taking care of his patients.

Their stories are valiant and inspiring, and they include:

- A former undocumented home care attendant who toiled around the clock in her adopted homeland, obtained her legal status and launched her American Dream with her own home-care agency.

- A physician who was inspired as a young teenager to embark upon a career in internal medicine after witnessing “a man in a long white coat with a stethoscope” tend to his ailing grandmother in Haiti, and hearing his father's magical words, “This is a doctor and he's going to save your grandmother's life.”

- A nurse who was busy prescribing the rewards of her vocation to high-school students on career days at local schools, encouraging budding caregivers to take a leap of faith.

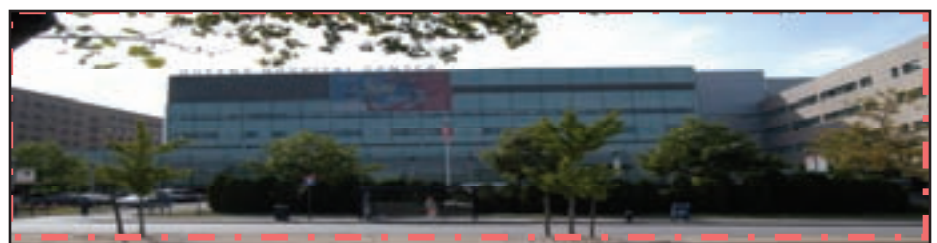
Our other honorees are as outstanding, and together they are forging an extraordinary combined footprint in our thriving city of limitless opportunities.

They have all surmounted unique obstacles along their personal and professional journeys, and demonstrated a commitment to hard work, an attention to duty, and love of community while healing and uplifting innumerable people and paving the way for our next generation of healthcare providers.

Caribbean Life is pleased to share their stories — as told by our talented writer Tequila Minsky — with our readers, and express our gratitude to them for being an integral part of New York's essential healthcare industry.

— *Caribbean Life*

Caribbean contributions to the diagnostic, disease-prevention, and delivery of healthcare services are groundbreaking.



Queens Hospital Center

congratulates

Jennifer Henry

Tina Morris

Marisol Italia Perez

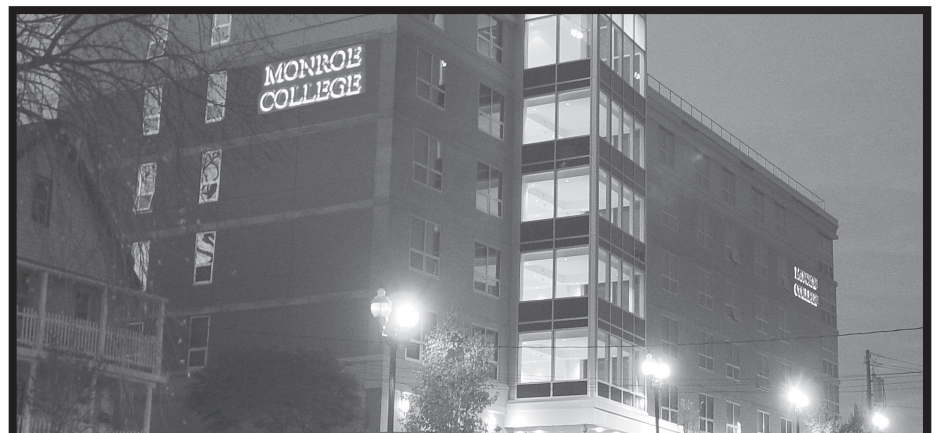
Lorna Rawle

for receiving the

Caribbean Health Care Award

and

Their Dedicated Service to the Queens Hospital Center



On behalf of the Monroe College Community,

Marc M. Jerome, Executive Vice President

and

Carol Genese, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

are proud to congratulate

Dr. Denese Ramadar

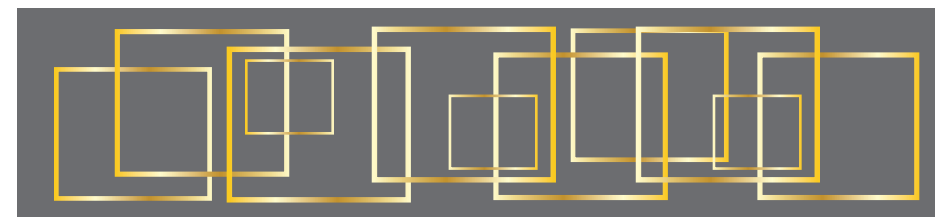
for receiving a

Caribbean American Healthcare Award

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COLLEGE**



Caribbean Life

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Caribbean American
Healthcare Awards



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**CARIBBEAN
AMERICAN
HEALTHCARE
AWARDS**

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Montefiore congratulates

Joan R. Davis

on being a nominee for
the inaugural Caribbean
American Healthcare Awards.

For more information, visit
www.montefiore.org/nursing.



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Sandra Ann Aberdeen

Health aide gives 100 % to her clients

Sandra Ann Aberdeen has been a SelectCare Home Health Aide for four years. “Meeting and working with people who really need me makes me feel that I am contributing something good in this world,” she says. “Helping people was always my calling and home care fit in my life.”

Ms. Aberdeen credits many in the path of her profession: her home aide instructors who taught her so well and the always available, SelectCare nursing supervisors who give her encouragement with difficult situations and suggestions. So too, does she acknowledge her mom. “My



mother, Mary Aberdeen has always been a support and a major influence in my life,” she says.

Currently, Ms. Aberdeen is a part of the SelectCare team caring for a man who has a rare progressive neurological disease. With regards

for this event, her clients sent, “Allan and I were very happy to learn that Sandra Aberdeen is receiving the Caribbean American Health Care Award from Caribbean Life.”

They further wrote: “During the last year, full of demanding and frustrating times, she (Ms. Aberdeen) has always been very attentive to his needs—always patient, caring, cheerful, witty and pleasant to have around.”

What is Ms. Aberdeen’s biggest challenge? “Continually ensuring that I give 100 percent to my clients every day, no matter what I am dealing with personally.”

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Grenada

WORKPLACE:
SelectCare Home Health Aide

EDUCATION:
High School Certificate
EMT certificate
Building & Codes Certificate

FAVORITE QUOTE:
Helping people was always my calling

Veronica Alert

Dedicated to serving the community

During her formative years in Guyana, Veronica Alert displayed an aptitude for nursing exemplified by her genuine concern for the well-being of others, and after a stint teaching for a while in her home country, she pursued her childhood dreams of becoming a nurse at the New Amsterdam Public Hospital. With strong determination, she became a staff nurse midwife and acting ward sister at New Amsterdam Hospital, Berbice, before migrating to the USA in 1992. She is the sixth of 10 siblings, born in East Canje.

Ms. Alert is a care-taker for her mother whose pres-



ence was a strong force as she was establishing her path in healthcare. “I am indebted to my mother Mrs. Elmira Alert for instilling values and discipline that were pivotal to her successes in life, and to my family members for their invaluable support given.”

A registered nurse, Ms. Alert is the program director of the Lucille Rose Adult Day Health Care Program at the Bishop Henry B. Hucles Episcopal Nursing Home, and also a nurse supervisor at the Center of Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Under the supervision of Professor Eileen McCarroll PhD, RN at Lucille Rose Adult Day Health Care Program, Ms. Alert serves as a preceptor to students who are doing their BSN.

“Becoming a nurse was one of the greatest things that God had planned for me and I am very honored to do what I do, serving the community,” she says.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Guyana

WORKPLACE:
Rose Adult Day Health Care, Program Director

EDUCATION:
Phoenix Univ., Pursuing BSN

FAVORITE QUOTE:
“You are the person who makes up your mind whether you’d lead

or linger behind, whether you’ll try for the good that’s afar or be contented to stay where you are. Take it or leave it there’s something to do, just think it over it is all up to you.” – Edgar Gues

Congratulations to Dr. Emmanuel Valery

At **New York Methodist** we pride ourselves on providing quality medical care to every community in Brooklyn. That’s why we have physicians, like Dr. Valery, who are fluent in your language. These New York Methodist affiliated professionals provide primary and secondary care for all members of your family, with the same high quality for which New York Methodist Hospital is known. And if further testing or procedures are needed, you can be referred to New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope.

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Debra A. Ambrose

Teaching is her thing

“My dad was a chronic asthmatic; he ended up with Sarcoidosis,” remembers Trinidadian Debra Ambrose who watched him suffer as his lungs got progressively worse. “But it felt good to be able to take care of him during this time.” That experience coupled with watching her mom, a nursing assistant, care for people influenced her career decision.

Her first position was as an LPN. She then worked and went to school simultaneously to get her BSN.

“I came from med-surge unit and after many years, I wanted to keep growing and learning,” she said. “Post



Anesthesia Care Unit allows you to see a wide variety of procedures and outcomes, for example, endoscopy, C-section, orthopedics, podiatry, and laparoscopic procedure.”

She recently started an online program to earn a master’s degree.

She loves to teach: “I’m always talking to people about taking their medication on time, and going to the doctor regularly.

Ms. Ambrose is an active member of the Community Outreach team, playing a leadership role in health fairs for the past five years, which she loves because it allows her to teach.

“Health fairs are about sharing information, making people in the community more comfortable so you can ask certain questions. A lot of people have no insurance and are afraid; at health fairs I can reach people and make sure they know they can get the services they need.”

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Trinidad

WORKPLACE:

The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

EDUCATION:

Kingsboro College, AA
Medgar Evers college, AAS
Downstate University BSN
Chamberlain College, pursuing master’s Nurse Educator

FAVORITE QUOTE:

Teaching is my thing.

Janet Bowen

Nurse gives her best knowing that first impression counts

“I try to get it right the first try,” says RN Janet Bowen who came from Jamaica at 33, continued her education and has worked as a nurse ever since.

“When I was 22 in Trinidad, I saw the interaction between patients and staff and I was inspired to enter this field,” she says of her first training at St. James Medical. “In a civil nursing class in Trinidad, we had a professor from Jamaica who said, ‘When you see a patient you always try to do your best, never your second best.’ I live by that.” Bowen chose the healthcare field because she loves communicating with and



meeting people from different cultures.

Bowen is the charge nurse in the sub-acute unit which caters for patients who no longer require hospital care but need skilled nursing and rehabilitative care that can not be sup-

plied at home, in an outpatient facility, or in a nursing home. As charge nurse, she supervises and supports the nurses in her unit. She also works with paraplegics, people afflicted by strokes and dialysis patients. The unit does rehabilitation work in building upper body strength and walking.

Claudia Diamond nominated this RN, who is now helping a certified nurse assistant with tuition to get her training, says “Ms. Bowen is a caring person who listens carefully to patients’ needs and addresses their concerns. She assists co-workers financially to go back to school.”

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Trinidad & Tobago

WORKPLACE:

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center,

Service Coordinator
Supervisor

EDUCATION:

Training at St. James Medical in Trinidad, scholarship to Hostos

Community College. B.S. in Nursing from New York City Tech.

FAVORITE QUOTE:
First impressions count.

Congratulations to NYSNA Leader
& NYC Public Hospital Nurse
JACQUELINE GILBERT, RN
and to all of the NYSNA honorees of the
Caribbean-American Healthcare Awards:

Janet Marva Bowen, RN, Joan Rosalee Davis, RN, Jennifer Henry, RN,
Dorian P. Samuels, RN, and Avril P. Silcott, RN

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New York State
NURSES
ASSOCIATION



Tenisha Brown

Fulfills her passion for helping others

Since 2012, Tenisha Brown has been working with AgeWell New York (Managed Long-Term Plan) and has grown to be a tremendous asset to the Care Management team. "I decided to go into the health care field because helping people is a passion of mine," she says.

Ms. Brown now a service coordinator supervisor manages 13 service coordinators and the entire Service Authorization Department. She was nominated for her positive, innovative and hard working attitude in light of the high demands of the job.

Ms. Brown always displays a professional and



"My mother is the greatest influence on my career choice."

"She has been an RN for over 30 years, and everything that she does is to help people become better in their everyday living." It is obvious that Ms. Brown take much from her mother who "interacts and talks about her patients putting a warm feeling in your heart. She loves what she does and takes great pride in it."

Ms. Brown is attending Medgar Evers College to earn her degree in nursing.

motivating "can-do" attitude while managing staff. She also provides training, direction and guidance.

"My mother is the greatest influence on my career choice," says Ms. Brown.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

WORKPLACE:
Age Well New York

EDUCATION:
Medgar Evers College, Attending
Age Well New York

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Be generous with your compliments, be stingy on your complaints, withhold the negative, and express the positive."
— Joel Austin

Ruby Bryan

Peace maker and a wonderful role model

Ruby Bryan grew up in Jamaica with a struggling mother and six siblings. She decided that she would study to complete her high-school education and get a good job.

Wanting to help her careworn family and her children, she immigrated to New York where she found employment as a home health aide, a move that placed her on a healthcare career path.

She completed studies for a certified nursing assistant. Then, she earned her LPN from a program that was a partnership between Hostos Continuing Education & Workforce Development and Ruby's union, Local



1199. While working a night shift (37.5 hours-a-week job) raising three children and shouldering other family and community responsibilities, by age 62, she had earned her RN and Associate's Degree in Applied Science at Hostos College.

Ms. Bryan credits all those around in helping her achieve so much. When she accepted the Outstanding Adult Continuing Education Student Award by the Continuing Education Association of New York last year, she said: "The faculty and staff at Hostos treated me with respect and dignity. They cared for me academically and emotionally." With pride, one of her Hostos mentor, Professor Jeannette Marrero describes Ms. Bryan as "a peace maker and a wonderful role model. She took care of her family, made time to study, and excelled in her studies. Ruby never wavered from her goals."

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

WORKPLACE:
Beth Abram Health
Services, RN

EDUCATION:
Hostos Continuing Education &
Workforce Development, LPN
Hostos College, RN, AAS

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Age is just a number. Just follow your dreams and don't doubt yourself. Have faith, hope, courage, and determination no matter the many obstacles that may come your way."

Kings County Hospital Center ... Always Here When You Need Us



*On Behalf of the Kings County Hospital Center Family
We Extend Warmest Congratulations & Appreciation to
Our Illustrious Caribbean American Healthcare Honorees*

Opal Sinclair-Chung, RN, BSN, MS
Lorna Samuels, RN, MSN
Emmanuel Valery, MD



Dr. Karlene Chin-Quee

Education opens doors and cannot be taken from you

In addition to Dr. Chin-Quee's stellar career in medicine including expertise in women's health, the wellness center she founded and directs, and numerous awards she has received, in 2002, the doctor began the organization, Heartbeats of the World, Inc. to provide medical resources and vocational opportunities such as job-skills training in Jamaica.

Among Dr. Chin-Quee's favorite quotes is one from Muhammad Ali: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

"Since 2003, we have graduated more than 600 students in Jamaica with 90 percent of graduates



obtaining the certificate for employment in Jamaica," she proudly reports. The organization also provides remedial education, has a pre-K educational program, and in its mission of serving children in underserved areas, provides support for children in

other Caribbean countries, Philippines and Africa.

"My mother is the most influential person in my life," Dr. Chin-Quee says, "a strong, powerful person who encouraged education."

The doctor believes that education creates opportunities and helps build self-confidence. "Once you achieve it, it can never be taken away from you." In service to others, she believes, "it makes you a better person; it allows you to achieve a higher level in your personal growth."

Dr. Chin-Quee chose medicine and surgery because she loves the sciences and loves to help others. They combines both of these things beautifully.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Jamaica

WORKPLACE:

The Chin-Quee Center for Wellness and Aesthetics, CMO, New York Heart-

beats of the World, Inc., CEO

EDUCATION:

Brown University, Stony Brook Medical School, M.D. Fellowship-trained, Anti-Aging, Regenerative and Functional Medicine

FAVORITE QUOTE:

Nelson Mandela's "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Dr. Millicent Comrie

Dedicated to women's health issues

Starting college in Jamaica, Dr. Millicent Comrie finished her undergraduate studies in the U.S.

Dedicated to health issues affecting women, Dr. Comrie is now the director and founder of the Center for Women's Health at Maimonides Medical Center.

Dr. Comrie is interested in the management of fibroids and menopause and has established the Fibroid Center, the only facility in Brooklyn offering an integrated gynecological, surgical, radiological approach to treatment. She has increased community outreach and forged alliances with community organizations to improve



women's health.

When providing care, she has at times treated uninsured without cost. Aside from her daily OB/GYN routine, she is passionate about empowering women through mentoring.

She is a member of the

Organization for International Development and the Caribbean-American Outreach Association. She also served as director of the Myrtle Ferguson Girls Rescue Center in Kingston, Jamaica and has done medical missions in Jamaica.

Dr. Comrie has been acknowledged by New York Magazine as one of the areas top-100 doctors, has been honored by several organizations including a rape crisis intervention program. She speaks on women's health issues on local and national television.

She is loved and appreciated by her patients because of the unique care she gives to them.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Jamaica

WORKPLACE:

Director and Founder of the Center for Women's Health

EDUCATION:

University of West Indies Morgan University, Howard University, BS, SUNY, Downstate Health Science Center, MD Columbia University, MPH

FAVORITE QUOTE:

I am dedicated to health issues affecting women.

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Lt. Col. Joan R. Davis

At your side on or off the battlefield

A 28-year-old Jamaican high-school graduate Joan R. Davis arrived in the United States with a nine-year-old daughter, four suitcases and a few dollars. Three months later, she enlisted as a private in the Army Reserves. Now, more than 20 years later, she is an Army nurse lieutenant colonel and staff nurse at Montefiore Hospital.

As an Army nurse, Lt. Col. Davis has been deployed to Italy, Panama, Germany, El Salvador, Iraq, and Kuwait.

"In the military, you're everything. I've nursed with a lot of improvisation. Also, I teach younger nurses and non-commissioned



in healthcare."

Says fellow Army Nurse Col. St. Pierre, "If you were at war you'd want Lt. Col. Davis at your side because she's the ultimate take-charge person. She's seen a lot of injury and death in her deployment and has given

injured soldiers courage and strength to not give up."

In Jamaica, at age nine, Joan Davis watched how a nurse came every day, caring, changing bandages for her cousin who was in a serious car accident. "She was kind and encouraged her," Lt. Col. Davis says. "I wanted to be that lady in white. I kept it in the forefront."

"When I graduated, I was the happiest nurse ever," she smiles, "and I'm still happy. I love what I do. I care for people as if I'm caring for myself or relatives."

Her wise grandmother, Merlin Coldspring gave her values she lives with every day and the goal – "to aim for the sky at all times."

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Jamaica

WORKPLACE:

Montefiore Medical Center, Senior Staff Nurse, GI

EDUCATION:

Bronx Community College, AAS, Dominican College, BSN, APHN, Army Public Health Nurse, Certificate

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Nurse as if you are lying on that bed or on that stretcher."

Jacqueline (Jacqui) Gilbert

An advocate for patient care

Jacqui Gilbert is a leader in her union, the New York State Nurses Association. As an active participant for the past 18 years, she first realized she could have a stronger voice to address patient care and workplace issues by uniting with fellow nurses. She is the president of NYSNA's Congress of Bargaining Unit Leaders and a member of NYSNA's HHC bargaining team.

Immigrating to New York from Trinidad and Tobago, 22 years ago, she chose to work at a New York City public hospital because that is where she felt she could best serve her community and pro-



vide needed services to fellow Caribbean immigrants. Ms. Gilbert is a woman and baby nurse and has been practicing for more than 35 years.

Nominated for this

award by her colleagues for her commitment to her patients, outstanding leadership as a nurse and union activist, Ms. Gilbert is a role model to young nurses, helping them learn the "best practices" skills they need. She tells them, "Always do the very best for your patients, no matter who they are."

Ms. Gilbert demonstrates how to organize and advocate for patients at the bedside, at the statehouse, and in the streets. Among Ms. Gilbert's involvement with professional associations and labor committees, she is also an auxiliary member on the New York State Board of Nursing.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Trinidad and Tobago

WORKPLACE:

Harlem Hospital, Woman and Baby Nurse

EDUCATION:

San Fernando General Hospital, Trinidad, Nursing diploma and Midwifery certificate, Pace University, BSN

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"You have to treat every patient as if he or she was the most important person in the entire world and our job is nurse them back to health."

Barbados Cancer Association USA (BACA), Inc.

**Congratulations to
O'Neill E. Parris, MD, MPH, FAAP
on recognition of
his contributions to Caribbean health**

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BACA is a 501 © 3 not for profit organization whose focus is cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and after care in the local immigrant community and Barbados. Our IRS Tax Identification number is 20-2104050



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PROUDLY PRESENTS

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HEALTHCARE AWARDS

Gala

JUNE 25, 2014

5 pm - 9:30 pm



Tropical Paradise Ballroom • 1367 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, NY (Bet. Farragut and Foster Ave.)

VALET PARKING

The evening will start with wine, beer, cold beverages and networking from 5 pm to 6 pm

Doors open at 5:30 pm for the buffet dinner • Our awards and presentations begin at 7:15 pm

Join us as we celebrate the contributions of these remarkable healthcare professionals

To purchase seats call Jennifer Stern at (718) 260-8302 or email jstern@cnglocal.com

All seat prices are \$85.00

CARIBBEAN HEALTHCARE AWARDS HONOREES

Sandra Aberdeen
 Veronica Alert
 Debra Ambrose
 Janet Bowen
 Tenisha Brown
 Ruby Bryan
 Dr. Karlene ChinQuee
 Dr. Millicent Comrie
 Lt. Col. Joan R. Davis
 Jacqueline Gilbert
 Verona Greenland
 Dr. Christina Guillen
 Yvette Halstead
 Mohanie Hemraj
 Jennifer A. Henry
 Dr. Juliet Hudson

Dr. Vincent Hutchinson
 Dr. J. Keith Joseph
 Dr. Tracey Joseph
 Dr. Danielle Laraque
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 Winsome McLean-Davis
 Guilaine Michaud
 Jennifer Morris
 Tina Morris
 Dr. Juliet M. Nevins
 Dr. Patricia Nicholas
 Beverly Nichols
 Dr. O'Neall E. Parris

Marisol Italia Perez
 Claudette D. Powell
 Prof. Denese Ramadar
 Lorna Rawle
 Dr. Ella-Jean Richards-Francois
 Dorian P. Samuels
 Lorna Samuels
 Dr. Bernadette Sheridan
 Avril Patricia Silcott
 Opal Sinclair-Chung
 Carol St Pierre
 Dr. Roy Streete
 Dr. Emmanuel Valery
 Merle Warren
 Lt. Col. Paulette P. Williams
 Angella Williams

Verona Greenland

An agent of change in the community

Verona Greenland is a healthcare executive with more than 34 years executive experience. She is the founder, president and CEO of the Morris Heights Health Center Bronx and was the driving force in advancing it from a storefront medical facility to a multi-site integrated health and social services organization serving more than 60,000 patients annually, and employing 467. Transforming the community became more of a calling than a job.

She has been credited with being at the forefront of the national health center movement, developing innovative approaches and



programs to address concerns such as: HIV/AIDS, infant mortality and mental health issues. Her latest accomplishment is the construction and development of Harrison Circle, a mixed-use facility that provides low-income housing for

seniors, as well as expanded primary and specialty medical services.

She answered the call when Gov. Cuomo put her on his task force to deal with nutrition issues.

As chair of the Perkins Advisory Council at the Bronx Community College, she advises on policies to advance and expand educational opportunities for members of the community.

She is the recipient of many awards acknowledging her leadership and advocacy and continues to create ease of access to quality, affordable health and social services for all residents of the Bronx and be a voice for the vulnerable.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Jamaica

WORKPLACE:

Morris Heights Health Center (MHHC) Bronx, Founder, President, CEO

EDUCATION:

Columbia University, MPH
UCLA, Graduate School of Management

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"To whom much is given, much is expected."

Dr. Christina Guillén

An advocate for children

First-generation Dominican-American, Dr. Christina Guillén realized early on that it would take hard work, determination and perseverance to become successful. Deeply religious, she also credits her accomplishments to the love and support of her parents and her family.

A pediatrician and an assistant professor of pediatrics at Downstate Medical Center, she is involved in resident education and training, is a mentor and faculty advisor.

She is a child abuse specialist and conducts medical exams on children who are admitted to Downstate Medical Center Abuse clinic.



Dr. Guillén believes that, "Although child abuse is very sad, I believe that the role of a pediatrician is not only to prevent and treat diseases, but to be an advocate for children."

Dr. Guillén examines children at the Kings County

Child Abuse clinic, referred for evaluations from ACS, foster agencies and community pediatricians who suspect abuse. She also testifies as an expert witness for the Brooklyn District Attorney's office.

She is a member of several medical associations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, and the National Hispanic Medical Association.

Committed to serving the Brooklyn community, Dr. Guillén is involved in various community outreach projects and also lectures to the youth on health issues.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Dominican descent

WORKPLACE:

Downstate Medical Center, Pediatrician

EDUCATION:

Stony Brook, BS. Psychology
City College, CUNY, MS. Biology, Downstate College of Medicine, MD

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Doing this work allows me to protect children that are being harmed and can't protect themselves."

Yvette Halstead

An excellent and passionate teacher

In Jamaica, Yvette Halstead resisted career pressure from her dad. "My father wanted me to become a police officer because he was a police officer," she said. "Each time he asked me 'What do you want to be in life?' my response would always be a nurse. I was always fascinated with how nurses presented themselves in a very respectable manner and I loved the white uniform and the nursing hat." The helplessness Ms. Halstead felt when her father had a stroke drew her more to the profession.

Now, Ms. Halstead has 22 years of nursing behind her. At Jacquelyn Hern-



andez Adult Day Health Care, her supervisor and nominator Marlene Seara says that in addition to her knowledge and reliability as a nurse, "Ms. Halstead is an excellent teacher and genuinely cares for the well

being of our seniors."

Ms. Halstead acknowledges there are many who had an impact on her career. "However, I would say the most influential is my first clinical instructor, Nurse Princess Gordon, of Medgar Evers College. She has this quiet demeanor but very effective in teaching and demonstrating to the nursing students the art and skills in nursing. She displayed respect to every student and always encouraged us to strive for excellence and to go for the next level. She teaches with passion and I loved that and want to be like her. Not everyone has that gift."

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Jamaica

WORKPLACE:

Jacquelyn Hernandez Adult Day Health Center- RN Coordinator

EDUCATION:

Medgar Evers College: AAN, BSN

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"To whom much is given, much is required."

Mohanie Hemraj

Hard worker with a passion for learning

Mohanie Hemraj is native of Guyana, South America. Ms. Memraj's mother instilled in her, love, values and an outstanding work ethic. "I decided to join the health care field because I love helping others and giving back to the community," she says, having found a way to do so with AgeWell New York.

"The biggest influence in my career/life is my nephew Sewnarine Hemraj (Vishnu) who has a PHD in pharmacy. He's very passionate about helping others," she says, "making sure people get their medication on time and always



explaining to patients in detail how to take it and how much to use. The drive that I see in him makes me want to do more for people."

After working in another industry for 11 years

with a computer business certificate, Ms. Hemraj was offered the opportunity in 2012 to work at AgeWell New York at its inception. Ms. Hemraj started as a member services representative and worked her way up to supervisor in less than one year.

According to senior management, she is integral to the growth and development of the AgeWell New York team.

"Ms. Hemraj is extremely hard working with a passion for learning. She is dedicated, reliable and personable with all AgeWell New York members."

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Guyana

WORKPLACE:

AgeWell NY Member Services Supervisor

EDUCATION:

Drake Business School, Computer Business Certificate

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." (Mother Teresa)

Jennifer A. Henry

Helping others live a better life

Starting as an EMT, emergency medical technician for the Bureau of EMS and holding several different positions, Jennifer A. Henry decided to become a nurse, juggling work, parenting and college to achieve her goal. The transition was a rewarding one and her prior skills and professionalism in the field made the challenges in nursing easier. With now more than 20 years in healthcare, Ms. Henry wants to pursue a doctorate in nursing.

"The professors at Medgar Evers College had a great impact on me," she says of Professor Mighten, Professor Murray and oth-



ers who influenced her in this career path. They never doubted that the nursing class of 1999 had the intellect to be many of the best nurses today."

Being of service and giving is an integral part of Jennifer Henry. She says, "I

am always willing to help, to give of self and to lend my services to help others live a better life."

She is a strong advocate for patients' rights and empowering patients to navigate the health care system, and credits her experience of working with diverse populations throughout the five boroughs.

Ms. Henry believes that providing holistic care is one of the biggest challenges in healthcare today as well as the ability to offer preventive care, health teaching and managing the chronically ill in underserved communities.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica
WORKPLACE:
Queens Hospital Center, Gotham/Specialty Nursing Agencies.

EDUCATION:
Medgar Evers College, AAS Nursing, St. Joseph's College, BSN, St. Joseph's College, MSN

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." - (Gal. 6:9)

Dr. Juliet Hudson

Taking care the best way we can

Jamaican-born Juliet Hudson came to internal medicine first as an LPN, then as a RN, and later became a medical doctor.

After high school in Brooklyn, Dr. Hudson joined the United States Air Force and after completing her military stint, attended nursing school. She jumped right into critical-care nursing and the rigors of the intensive care unit. After completing her BSN and her pre-med courses as a single mom, she went on to medical school.

"To really engage with your patients has become an art these days," Dr. Hudson says, "especially in the this age of medicine where



the ability to assist aspects of patients care, no matter how trivial or intensive the case may be, adheres her to this profession.

"I see giving the best I have to those I encounter and need it," she says. "I can only hope to make differences in the many lives that I may encounter in the years to come."

Dr. Hudson has worked in critical care, as a clinical educator, and management to an internal medicine practice. She has participated in many community outreach, screening programs and health fairs and has received numerous civic, professional and Air Force awards.

HMOs, different plans, rules, regulations and preventive lawsuits have taking over the care we give." She stays optimistic, "I still believe that it is the patient that drives this system!

Interacting with families and knowing that she has

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica
WORKPLACE:
Maimonides - Attending Physician.

EDUCATION:
Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, MD, St. Johns University, Queens N.Y. Pre-med courses, St. Joseph's College, BSN Helene Fuld School

of Nursing, Harlem, AAN
FAVORITE QUOTE:
"To offer a life time of caring and well being and help my patients take charge of their health and make it a living success"

Dr. Vincent Hutchinson

Helps Harlem residents stay healthy

"I wanted to be a doctor from as early as eight or nine years of age," says Barbados-born Dr. Vincent Hutchinson. "I can still remember anxiously looking forward to my visits to our family doctor's office. I have always wanted to help others.

"My father instilled in me very early on the importance of hard work, discipline, and honesty." His 42 years in medicine is a testament to his father's impact.

In 1999, Dr. Hutchinson, as chief of Pediatric Allergy and Asthma embarked on an plan to attack the prevalence of children's asthma from the grassroots. He



helped develop "The Harlem Children's Zone Asthma Initiative," a home-based, asthma case management program that provides medical, educational, environmental, social, and legal interventions. Families

received a free vacuum cleaner, air-conditioner filters, garbage cans, and "pro-bono" legal services.

Dr. Hutchinson is the medical director of the Harlem Children's Zone Asthma Initiative, the director of Pediatrics at Harlem Hospital Center, the associate clinical professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the president of the Caribbean American Medical and Scientific Association.

He is also a member of the National Medical Association and an advisory board member of the NMA Executive Steering Committee on Asthma.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Barbados
WORKPLACE:
Harlem Hospital, Pediatrics, Allergy & Clinical Immunology

EDUCATION:
University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (M.D.)

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you."

Dr. J. Keith Joseph

Meaningful societal change through healthcare

"Medicine chose me," says Dr. J. Keith Joseph, continuing, "when I saw it as a way to flexibly engage in improving people's lives through the application of both the advances of technology and social justice."

Dr. Joseph observes that "in most developed and some developing countries, healthcare is considered a human right. Its application as such can be and has been one way to engage in meaningful societal change." A good portion of his career has been spent in practicing rural medicine living this observation.

As a first year medical



cal work in international rural communities. And, during medical school, residency and after, Dr. Joseph worked with him, 20 years total. Dr. Joseph calls him and Jim Kim, the president of the World Bank, mentors and friends.

"The 14 years I spent working in rural Haiti, Peru; Malawi, Lesotho and the DR Congo transformed not only my career, but my world view. It contextualized many of the forces that shaped me, growing up as an African American of Caribbean descent, and re-oriented my view of history and how I aspire to engage with the world," Dr. Joseph says.

student, Dr. Joseph took a course with a first year professor, Dr. Paul Farmer. Dr. Farmer became known for his groundbreaking medi-

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Trinidad-descent
WORKPLACE:
Lutheran Caribbean American Family Health Center

EDUCATION:
Yale University, B.A.
Harvard Medical School, M.D.

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Dr. Tracey Joseph

Making people feel confident when they smile

Trinidadian-born Tracy Joseph practices dentistry in Brooklyn. She says, "As a woman in a male-dominated field, it can be challenging navigating the road to success." One of the mantras she tries to remember for interacting with everyone she comes in contact with is by Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

She was drawn to dentistry for a variety of reasons. "Dentistry allows me to satisfy my love of science and helping people as well as my desire to be an entrepreneur. I love helping people



to be the best they can be," she says, adding, "and providing them the ability to have great oral health and confidence when they smile, which goes a long way in anyone's life."

Paying tribute to her mother, Stephanie Joseph,

who influenced her career, Dr. Joseph acknowledges her dental professor Mitzzi Neiders at SUNY Buffalo Dental School who had a significant impact on her.

On the profession's challenges she says, "Working with dental insurances is challenging because clients believe that their coverage allows the dentist to do what is best for the patient. In reality insurances are moneymaking entities that allow care that is the least expensive but not necessarily the best fit for the patient. It becomes a trapeze act or any dentist trying to provide the best care while allowing the patient to utilize their dental coverage."

deal to offer the world is in trouble. And if she's a black woman, she's in deep trouble." - (Hazel Scott-Trinidadian-born pianist)

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Trinidad

WORKPLACE:
Private Practice, Flatbush Avenue

EDUCATION:
Brooklyn College, BS
SUNY Buffalo, DDS

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Any woman who has a great

Dr. Danielle Laraque

Positively affecting the lives of children

Haitian-born Dr. Laraque immigrated to the U.S. in 1962. She was barely a teen when she knew she wanted to be a doctor. "My mother was a strong, financially savvy woman who was a very independent thinker. When I decided to become a physician at age 12, her belief in me was unwavering."

Early in her career as a pediatrician, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow in General Academic Pediatrics, with research focused on lead poisoning and calcium status in children. In her 33 years in pediatric medicine, she has combined practice, research and advocacy and has trained count-



less fellows, residents, and medical students.

Dr. Laraque went into this specialty to positively affect the lives of children. She founded three separate child protection, multidisciplinary teams treating abused and neglected children.

Her research over the past three decades has focused on injury and violence prevention in children. In the past decade, she has focused her attention on defining systems' changes that will facilitate the integration of the identification, diagnosis and treatment of children's mental health problems in primary-care settings.

This multi-lingual doctor has served on several policy committees and professional associations focused on children's physical and mental health. Dr. Laraque is an internationally recognized expert issues critical to health care delivery in underserved communities.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Haiti

WORKPLACE:
Maimonides Infants and Children's Hospital of

Brooklyn, Chair, Department of Pediatrics

EDUCATION:
UCLA, MD

FAVORITE QUOTE:

The transformation to provide equal access to all.
Belief: Kindness and non-violence

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Maimonides Medical Center
Vice President, Maimonides Infants & Children's Hospital

Millicent Comrie, MD

Director, Brooklyn Heights Women's Center
Attending Physician, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Maimonides Medical Center

Juliet Hudson, MD

Attending Physician
Maimonides Community Physician Network

Bernadette Sheridan, MD

Regional Medical Director
Maimonides Medical Center

Warmest congratulations Drs. Laraque, Comrie, Hudson and Sheridan for these well-deserved honors.

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