



# NEWSLETTER

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## IN THE NEWS...



of the COVID-19 pandemic; Bayview has entered into a joint venture with Seegene Inc. Seegene Inc. is a global leader in Multiplex Diagnostics with its Headquarter in Canada, which conducts in excess of 8,000 COVID-19 PCR tests per day. The decision to invest in a laboratory that conducts COVID-19 PCR testing arose from the desire to facilitate our patients in a fast and convenient manner, due to our COVID-19 Protocol which requires individuals to have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result prior to admission to the Hospital for medical and/or surgical care.

Bayview Labs is in the process of being accredited by the Barbados Ministry of Health & Wellness. Once completed Bayview laboratory will be operational. We are very grateful to the Ministry of Health & Wellness and The Best Dos Santos Labs for assisting us in getting to this stage.

At present, four Barbadian laboratory technicians have been hired and our Canadian partners have been conducting training over the last two months. Bayview Laboratory's aim is to conduct between three to five hundred tests per day. While Bayview Labs will focus strictly on COVID-19 PCR testing in the initial stages, it will be a fully functioning laboratory which will conduct all of Bayview Labs' tests and any other tests required by physicians or other medical facilities on the island, by the year end.

### BAYVIEW TO OPEN NEW LABORATORY

**B**ayview continues to play its part in the national effort to fight back COVID-19 and to this end we will be opening a new laboratory which will conduct COVID-19 PCR testing.

In an effort to better serve our clients and alleviate the strain that has been placed on the country's health system as a result



# Administrator's Message



Jules Reid - Hospital Administrator

**A** pandemic, a volcano and a hurricane! So far 2021 has been one for the history books with the first half of this year delivering the stuff that movies are made of. Fortunately here at Bayview Hospital we have a team of real life superstars who showed up and performed brilliantly each and every time we were faced with any challenge.

Since the start of the pandemic vigilance and adaptability have been key requirements to keeping everyone safe. Ensuring that protocols and policies meet the dynamics of the fluid environment that COVID has presented, remains the one prevailing constant. Despite the COVID fatigue that is felt by all, individuals have continued to show up and give 100 percent. It is this level of commitment and the excellent job done by the housekeeping staff to ensure that the hospital is always properly sanitized, that has made carrying out of a high standard of care in a safe environment possible.

When La Soufrière Volcano erupted in April and covered the island in ash, it presented yet another unexpected and hazardous issue. Fortunately for Bayview Hospital the members of the housekeeping and the maintenance departments did not rest on their laurels. Their diligence and hard work were instrumental in getting the hospital cleaned up and in good working order.

Just two months later the island would face another challenge when Hurricane Elsa blew onto our shores. All of the disaster planning and preparedness that we undertake at Bayview every May kicked into high gear. We were able to weather the storm and maintain patient safety as once again the dedicated spirit of the Bayview team came through. When power was lost we were able to get the generator up and running seamlessly. The

team rallied and performed yeoman service in trying circumstances with many sleeping at the hospital and not leaving until the all clear was given. Maintenance monitored the equipment and generator and adeptly dealt with the cleanup after the storm.

I would like to recognize all these individuals were apart of Bayview's Team Elsa

#### **On The Ward:**

Deputy Supervisor Nurse/Midwife Rita Hall  
Midwife Agnes Ross  
Nurse Mirlene Dorlean  
Dr. Shemica Mayers

#### **On Call Surgical Team:**

Nurse Louise Alleyne  
Surgical Tech Ralston Richards  
Nursing Assistant Keri Collymore

#### **Night Auditor:**

John Blades

#### **Housekeeper:**

Earline (Les) Jemmott

#### **Kitchen Assistants:**

Carol Ann Stoute  
Marelyn Joseph  
Roslyn Moore

#### **Maintenance Team:**

Allan Walrond  
Jabez Knight who made themselves available to monitor all equipment/generator etc

There is no question that we have had a lot to contend with. The manner in which Bayview Hospital has functioned despite everything that has unfolded is truly a testament to the character and tremendous efforts of everyone on the Bayview team.

For all the above and so much more, I would on behalf of the Management and Board of Directors of Bayview Hospital and the public of Barbados like to offer a heartfelt thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. Your service is greatly appreciated.



## ▶ Second Gen Bayview Baby

Sima Kothdiwala always knew that when the time came for her and her husband Umar to have children, that Bayview Hospital was where she wanted to have them. Not only were Sima and her sister born there, she had the opportunity to visit family members who delivered there as well. The reviews and what she saw for herself gave her a great level of comfort when Sima checked into Bayview to have her first daughter Aliyah, two and a half years ago. "I have to say that I was happy with everything. I had to have an emergency C-section and the nurses were very attentive. The recovery experience was great. The nurses would come and help you get around, the after-care was really good."

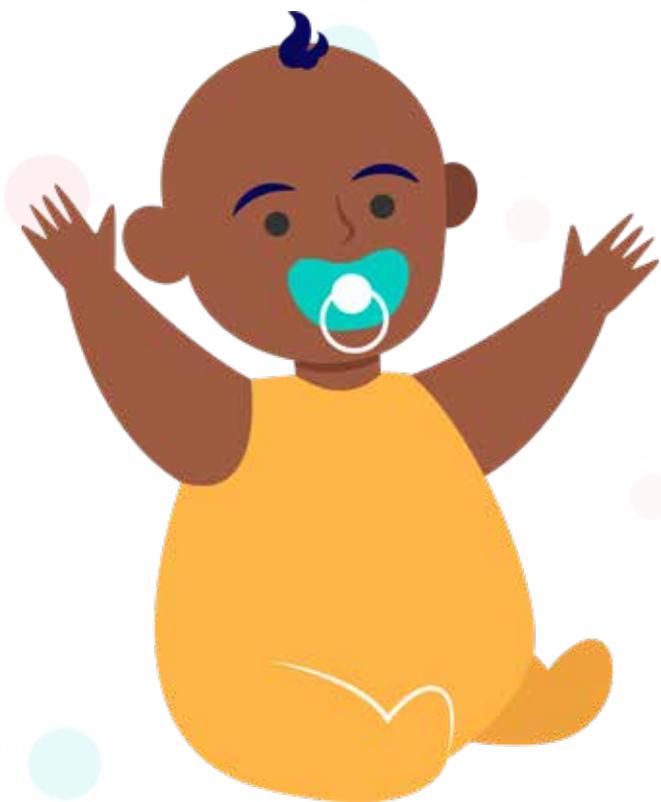
Having lived up to both the reviews and her expectations the first time she delivered there, when Sima became pregnant early last year, making the choice to return to Bayview a very easy one. Sima received the same excellent care, but her second time was very different. This delivery was a normal vaginal birth which meant several hours of labor but Sima had nothing but high praise for the nurses, who she said were extremely encouraging and caring during the entire labor process. The other major difference was one of global proportions, COVID-19. Having a baby at anytime can



be overwhelming even if you have had one before but having one during a pandemic would make even the most experienced mother nervous. Sima had to be careful going out in public and spent a lot of time at home to be on the safe side. Doctor visits were also different

because Umar had to wait outside of the office until it was time to go into see the doctor and when Sima went to get her ultrasound he wasn't allowed in with her at all. But on October 20th, 2020, when Sima gave birth to her second baby girl Mariyahher husband Umar was right by her side. Unlike the first time, when both her mother and mother-in-law were there and she was allowed to have visitors, this time it was only Sima's husband and mother with her. Sima was both happy and impressed with the way the room was consistently sanitized and Bayview's strict adherence to their COVID-19 protocols.

Pandemic aside Sima's 2020 Bayview experience was just as satisfying as the first but made even more special, due to the presence of one nurse in particular. That Nurse was Jeanette Gittens who looked very familiar to Sima's mum and with good reason. After chatting they soon realized that Nurse Gittens was the nurse who helped to deliver Sima 27 years earlier. For Sima that was just the icing on the cake she added that the excellent treatment and the extremely kind and caring nurses she encountered would make her recommend Bayview Hospital to any expecting mom.



# ▶ Nursing In The Time of Covid

“Let me be a source of strength for my patients and families. Let me be a constant help to the providers and the other nurses with whom I work. Lord fill me with the energy to open each day with a smile regardless of how tired I am. May I be a true sign of Your love to every person under my care.”

-The Nurse's Prayer

Utterances of the Nurse's prayer were probably never as prominent or collective as in 2020 which marked “The Year of The Nurse”. A year that had been dedicated to celebrating the the largest occupational group in the global healthcare sector, brought with it a pandemic that stopped the world and brought the critical role that nurses play into laser sharp focus. As workers on the frontline, they became celebrities in their own right, for putting their lives at risk while carrying out their duty of care under the most trying of circumstances.

Here at Bayview Hospital, we are fortunate to have nurses on staff that exemplify the qualities this noble profession demands. The manner in which they met the challenges as health care providers caused by COVID-19 is a testament to their dedication and commitment to their patients and profession.

One of those nurses is Nicole Parris, who has been a

nurse at Bayview for almost 22 of the 24 years she's been in the profession and who, despite the challenges of the pandemic, remains passionate about her job and looking after her patients. “I always give of my best. Nursing comes with different roles, it's wholistic you deal with the families helping them understand what's happening with their loved ones, but most importantly its caring and it's so rewarding when a patient comes in at a critical stage and leave with a second chance at life. It's a career that I am glad I am in, if I had to do it all over again, I would choose to be a nurse, because it comes naturally for me, caring for people looking after people putting yourself in their shoes until they get back on their feet. I love it I love my job.”

When the pandemic arose the strict protocols that were implemented did not phase Nurse Parris because taking proper measures to protect themselves and patients from infectious diseases is something they have always done at Bayview. The pandemic did cause Nurse Parris to become even more vigilant in her approach to both work and home life. “I had to treat everyone as if they had COVID. I had to think about my children as well

as my parents, who are in the high risk group. I had to consider them and my patients. I had to think about where I go and about not bringing home anything to my family. I had to think about going into the hospital with patients who are critically ill and with immune systems that are already weak, I really had to be on alert. I had to be weary especially in the public places, where people weren't mindful of social distancing and sometimes let people know, they were too close. I had to do a lot of thinking."

Nurse Parris really felt the impact of the limiting of the human touch and interaction during the pandemic. "It really hit home for me... up to now I social distance from my kids. The hugs you give when they go off to school or come home have decreased until I've showered. I can't spend as much time by the patient's bedside talking to them which is very important in understanding them and educating them. It feels as if you aren't really interacting with them, you still go, but the touch of a hand or on the head with a glove is not the same and one of the the hardest parts for me is explaining to relatives that they aren't allowed to visit, that is heartbreaking."

The importance of the nursing profession coming to the fore during this time is something that Nurse Parris is pleased about. "Nurses are also living in the pandemic it's affecting us as well. We have to do our best to cope

but at the same time we have to keep going. We continue to treat people with dignity and to inform them as best as we can, our role has not changed. We still put on smiley faces and do what we have to do. Nurses have been underrecognized for a long time and I am so glad that they now see how essential and critical we are."

Teon Waithe began her journey with Bayview as a student nurse and upon completing her degree joined the hospital as a fulltime Registered Nurse. Nurse Waithe never imagined that a year into her career she would be on the frontlines of a global pandemic. "In the initial stages we were unsure like everyone else in the world. This was the first time dealing with something of this magnitude but I rode with the wave and took it one day at a time."

For Nurse Waithe nursing is her calling and despite the long hours, the physical and emotional demands and even a pandemic she can't imagine doing anything else. "I thoroughly enjoy what I do it brings me a lot of pleasure being a nurse and being able to serve my patients. I build relationships with my patients and get to know them beyond what's on the paperwork." Building that rapport with patients became challenging during the pandemic. "Nursing is a personal profession, you have to be up close and personal with your patients, social distancing is challenging but I made sure I had the PPE. The physical touch is not the same but still interacted and gave the emotional support they needed."

# The Hon. Dr Jerry Bruce Emtage



One of Bayview Hospital's practicing physicians, Dr. The Honorable Jerry Bruce Emtage, MBBS(Hons), FRCS (C) (Urology), received one of Barbados's highest national awards, the Companion of Honor. The award for distinguished national achievement and merit was given to Dr. Emtage for his contribution to the medical profession and particularly in the field of urology.

The recognition of the work of this trailblazing son-of-the-soil, is much deserved. At the beginning of his professional life, he was faced with making the decision to do urology or a post graduate degree in law, Dr. Emtage elected to fill, what at the time was a huge void in the island's medical services. "There were no urologists here, there was one guy in Jamaica, but none here and I thought the population needed it." Dr. Emtage went on to complete his training in Canada and despite extremely lucrative offers of career opportunities there, he was intent on keeping the promise that he made to himself to return to Barbados. When his professor asked why he was leaving and why instead not just work in Barbados a few months out of the year, Dr. Emtage made it clear that that was not an option.

"I told him you wouldn't understand and that whenever next we see each other I will either be looking level with you or down at you, but I will never be looking up at you and that is what drove me towards this sort of pact Barbadiana that I had with myself." For Dr. Emtage this meant making sure that Barbadians had treatment that was on par, if not superior to what his counterparts in North America could provide in the area of urological services. It is this mindset which drove Dr. Emtage, despite the cost and bureaucratic red tape he encountered, to make a large but what he considered to be critical investment when he started his practice in Barbados.

"One of the interesting things that happened was that I was offered a deal to get top of the line equipment. A Canadian colleague said to me, I hear you are going back to Barbados and I have a deal for you. There is a company closing down that has 300,000 Canadian dollars-worth of urological equipment and I can get it for you for \$50,000 so I called the hospital, and let me tell you, coming home wasn't easy. The powers that be at the time were about to make it exceedingly difficult to get back in here. But I had people pushing for me like Oscar Jordan, Michael Clarke and Frank Ward. When I called those in authority at the QEH and I told them about the offer, I was told that the hospital doesn't work like that. So, I bought it myself and came back to Barbados and that allowed me to start to practice exactly to how I was trained. I didn't have to come back and succumb to the strictures of what government presents, in terms of having to get someone to provide something for me. I provided for myself,

everything that I wanted."

Throughout his career Dr. Emtage has maintained his accreditation, kept up with cutting edge technology and continues to deliver first world care to his patients. His commitment to excellence and unwillingness to settle for mediocrity has earned him the respect of his colleagues locally and internationally, but it is the example that he set for his children that has played a critical role in his overall approach to his profession. "I would not have been able to live with myself or look my children in the eye if I were to strive for anything less than providing the best care possible to my patients."

Acknowledging the fact that he suffers fools with great difficulty, Dr. Emtage said that he has tremendous respect for the intellect of Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley and that receiving the national honor (under her administration/leadership/from her?) gives him a great sense of pride.

"This was one of my proudest moments. It was great to have received the award and to receive it alongside my school friends Sir Patterson Cheltanham and Randy Harris and my schoolteacher Mr. Patrick Frost. There is nothing like being recognized by your country, for what the country and the people think has been your contribution. One of the things that I told my kids having completed my training both at the resident level and fellowship level in the US and Canada, was that I wanted them to come home to a place where they could see people who looked like them excel and that all was possible and so as a result of that I felt good to have achieved what I have and to have been awarded this, simply for my children, it was like you see what I told you? Dad can be recognized here."

# Dr. Michelle Vincent

**B**ayview Hospital recently welcomed its first pediatric surgeon, Dr. Michelle Vincent, to its esteemed cadre of practicing physicians.

Dr. Vincent received a scholarship from her homeland Grenada and studied pediatric medicine in Trinidad at the University of the West Indies-St. Augustine. After graduating in 1997 she decided to combine her love of pediatrics and surgery and went on to specialize in Pediatric Surgery, training in Jamaica and the U.K. During this time Dr. Vincent trained at several hospitals, including Sheffield Children's Hospital in South Yorkshire England.

In 2014 Dr. Vincent came to Barbados and took up the position of Consultant Pediatric Surgeon at QEH, where she worked briefly before that as a junior doctor in 2007. The seasoned and well-respected physician is one of only two pediatric surgeons on the island. Dr. Vincent loves working with children and finds the work extremely rewarding. "My present specialty work involves the surgical care of newborns and children up to 16 years old. The youngest patient I have had was an hour old. When working with children you can't keep your emotions out of it, but you stay grounded and focused on the little one in front of you needing to get better.

It's quite rewarding seeing them recover when they come back to clinic and you see how much they have grown. You can hardly believe that was the baby or child that you worked on."

The majority of Dr. Vincent's pediatric surgery work involves circumcisions, hernia repairs, repair of hydroceles, management of constipation, management of recurrent urinary tract infections and management of undescended testicles and painful testicles. In addition to Pediatric surgery, she also provides pediatric urology services such as Hypospadias surgery, along with the repair of congenital urology conditions, posterior urethral valves and pyeloplasties for PUJ (pelvi-uretric junction) obstruction.

Bringing her private practice to Bayview Hospital is something that Dr. Vincent has wanted to do for a long time for a number of reasons. "Bayview Hospital has a good reputation, and I knew they didn't have pediatric surgeon on board. Throughout the years parents have expressed their preference to me, about wanting to have their children operated on at Bayview, so this now allows me to provide that option and practicing here is also useful for my own personal growth and development. Everyone from the nurses to the anesthetists to the auxiliary staff have been very accommodating. The screening protocols are excellent, and I feel comfortable operating there. At present certain lists have been cancelled at the QEH and being at Bayview gives me another option."

Dr. Vincent is a welcomed addition to Bayview Hospital and the management and staff are pleased to have her on board as one of our admitting physicians.

