



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Clement Sankat, *BSc (UWI), MSc (UWI), PhD (Guelph), FIAGR, CEng, FAPETT*

Sir George Alleyne Distinguished Lecture Series

Delivered by Sir Christopher Edwards

'The Development of Medical Education towards 2020 and beyond'

Daaga Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine

Friday March 12th 2010 6.00 pm

Opening Remarks

Salutations

- Thank you Chair, Professor Surujpaul Teelucksingh
- Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Sir George Alleyne
- Chairman of Medical Education England and Senior Research Investigator at Imperial College of Medicine, Sir Christopher Edwards, our Distinguished Lecturer this evening
- Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Samuel Ramsewak
- Associate Dean of Public Relations and Special Projects, Dr. Elaine M. Davis
- Members of Campus Management and Colleagues
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening,

- It is indeed my pleasure to welcome you to The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus and to the Sir George Alleyne Distinguished Lecture Series. This evening's lecture is specifically designed to recognize the achievements of Sir George not only as our Chancellor, but as our most eminent medical graduate, academic and leader in the field of public health.
- A special welcome to Sir Christopher Edwards. It is truly a privilege to have you address us; I look forward to your lecture. I must say that I feel quite humble in the presence of two knighted officials, Sir George and Sir Christopher!
- Today we launched our 50th anniversary and one of my goals is to use this platform to shape our future. Your lecture on the Future of Medical Education is of great importance to all of us on the Campus and indeed our country and our region.
- Sir George's tenure at the Department of Medicine in the UWI has been exceptional and has had far-reaching impact on the Caribbean's medical and public health arena reflected in several honours conferred

on him by the University Medical Alumni and Guild of Graduates. His collection of over 140 publications is also testimony to his dedication to the world of academia.

- Sir George left the UWI to join the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as Chief of Research Promotion and Coordination in 1981 and from here on ascended the ladder of seniority and success in his chosen field. In 1983, he was appointed Director of the Area of Health Programs, in 1990 he was appointed Assistant Director of PAHO/WHO and subsequently in 1995 he was appointed Director. Since his retirement in 2003, he has served as Director Emeritus of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- With out a doubt, Sir George is recognized regionally and internationally for his tremendous contributions. In 2001, he was awarded the Order of Caribbean Community, the highest honour that can be conferred on a Caribbean national. In 2003, he was appointed by the UN Secretary General to serve as Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean region. In that same year, he was appointed by

CARICOM as head of a new Commission to examine health issues confronting the region and their impact on national economies.

- His illustrious career spans years of dedication to uplifting the standard of public health for the benefit of its citizens and the overall process of Caribbean development.
- The principles of equity and pan Americanism resonate throughout Sir George's work, writings and leadership reflecting his persistent desire to achieve the goal of 'Health for All' in the region. Sir George has certainly lived up to his favourite quotation "success is 1% genius and 99% elbow grease".
- As indicated earlier, this morning we launched the 50th anniversary celebrations of the St. Augustine Campus of the UWI. I believe that in order for our Campus to remain at the forefront of tertiary education in the Caribbean we have to preserve our core values. One of which is to nurture a keen sense of individual and social responsibility in both our students and staff. Sir George has demonstrated this, as he has served and continues to serve with great

enthusiasm, integrity and distinction fighting for equity in healthcare worldwide. We salute you, Sir George.

- In closing, let me extend heartfelt congratulations to the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Samuel Ramsewak, Professor of Medicine, Professor Surujpaul Teelucksingh and other members of the organizing committee for making sure that this important Lecture Series is a success.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.