2020 NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

“ADVANCING HEALTH RESEARCH IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO”

March 25 - 27, 2020

About the Conference

The Ministry of Health, Tobago House of Assembly, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, The University of Trinidad and Tobago, The University of the Southern Caribbean and Regional Health Authorities, are collaborating to host the country’s first National Health Research Conference.

The Theme for the 2020 Conference is “Advancing Health Research in Trinidad & Tobago”.

Quality Abstracts in ALL HEALTH AREAS can be submitted for presentation.
(e.g. Public Health, Environmental Health, Biomedical Research, Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, Nutrition, Health Economics, Social and Behavioural Health Sciences, etc.)

The Conference will culminate with an Awards and Prize Giving Ceremony. Awards will be given to recognize outstanding Trinidad and Tobago researchers. Prizes will also be awarded, based on the research presented at the Conference.

Call for Abstracts

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at the 2020 National Health Research Conference.

Deadline for Receipt of Abstracts: November 15, 2019
The Abstract

The Abstract (from Objectives to Conclusion) must be no more than 250 WORDS and must be formatted as follows:
(See Sample Abstract on Page 3)

a) Title: In bold type. Title case. No abbreviations.

b) Authors: Begin on a new line two spaces below title. Use italics. List:
   Initials of first names followed by surnames. Do not use full stops after initials.
   Omit degrees, titles and numbers.

c) Institution/Department: Begin on a new line below Authors. Use italics. List:
   Department, Institution where work originated

d) Email Address: Include in the next line.

e) Text: Arrange under the following sub-headings:
   I. Objective
   State the main objective/research question/hypothesis of the study.
   II. Design and Methods
   Briefly describe the design of the study and how it was conducted, indicating study
   population, sampling, procedures, measurements.
   III. Results
   Present only the main results with an indication of variability (e.g. SD) and precision of
   comparisons (e.g. 95% confidence intervals), where appropriate.
   IV. Conclusions:
   Limit to only those directly supported by the results. Be as clear and specific as possible
   about the “take home” messages.

Submission

Email Abstract to: 2020nationalconference@gmail.com
All submitted abstracts must have received ethics approval from the relevant Internal Review Board or Research Ethics
Committee.
Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged. If you do not receive acknowledgement within three (3) days of submission,
please contact:
   Ms. Nikisha Headley or Mrs. Kershelle Barker
   Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development
   The University of the West Indies
   Tel: 662-2002 ext. 85486
   2020nationalconference@gmail.com

Caribbean Medical Journal Supplement

Selected abstracts will be published in a special supplement of the Caribbean Medical Journal. Authors are required to submit
a transmittal letter that states that all authors have approved the publication of the abstract, edited if necessary. The email,
address and contact number of the corresponding author MUST be included.

CME Credits

Persons attending the Research Conference can register for CME credits.

Contact Information

If you need additional information or clarification, please contact us at:
2020nationalconference@gmail.com
Tel: 662-2002 ext. 85486
Sample Abstract

Factors Associated with Quality of Life Impairment among Asthma Patients Attending Specialty Clinics in Trinidad

M A Ivey¹, S Sakhamauri², L M Pinto Pereira¹
¹Department of Para Clinical Sciences and
²Department of Clinical Medical Sciences
Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
youremail@email.com

Objective
To examine factors associated with asthma related quality of life impairment (AQLI) among patient attending asthma clinics in Trinidad.

Design and Methods
A consecutive sample of 428 patients, ≥18 years, attending asthma clinics in Trinidad were recruited. Data were collected using interviewer-administered questionnaires which captured demography, comorbidities, triggers, hospital admissions and emergency department (ED) visits. AQLI was evaluated using the Juniper Mini AQL questionnaire to capture both the physical and emotional impact of the disease. The data were analysed using Chi-square test and multivariable logistic regression (SPSS Version 25).

Results
Majority of patients were female (81%), ≥40 years (80.4%), of Indo-Caribbean descent (61.9%), and overweight (71.7%). The most commonly reported health conditions were gastro-oesophageal reflux (53.0%), hypertension (47.2%), allergic rhinitis (45.1%), anxiety (42.8%), sleep apnoea (35.0%), and depression (32.5%). Environmental allergens (73.8%) were the most commonly reported trigger factor. The prevalence of moderate to severe AQLI was 60% and significantly associated variables were: age group (p=.0003), ethnicity (p<.0001), trigger factors (p=.013), sleep apnoea (OR=3.07, p=.001), gastro-oesophageal reflux (OR=2, p=.014), depression (OR=3.59, p=.001) and anxiety (OR=2.52, p=.003), frequent (two or more) exacerbations (OR=4.07, p<.001) and having ever visited the ED (OR=4.78, p<.001) in the last 12 months. Independent predictors of AQLI were age, ethnicity, sleep apnoea and ED visits (Nagelkerke’s pseudo R2=41%).

Conclusion
Asthmatics demonstrate a high prevalence of moderate to severe quality of life impairment associated with demography and co-morbidities. Understanding these factors may improve doctor-patient interactions, treatment and management.