

We are excited to honour **UWI**

ARE WE managing diabetes adequately so as to decrease complications? The major cause of death in patients with diabetes is cardiovascular disease, that is, heart attack and stroke. This is likely due to the fact that type 2 diabetes mellitus doubles the risk of major cardiovascular complications irrespective of whether the person has established heart disease or not.

Numerous studies have shown the importance of blood glucose control in reducing microvascular complications, such as diabetes affecting the eyes, kidney and nerves. However, this is not the case for the cardiovascular complications and hence the importance of prevention of diabetes as well as screening and early management of cardiovascular complications.

The University Diabetes Outreach Programme is preparing for our 24th Annual International Diabetes Conference to be held on April 26-28, 2018 at the Jewel Runaway Bay, Jamaica. We are excited to honour the University of the West Indies, which has been one of our founding partners, as they celebrate their 70th anniversary. The University of the West Indies, Mona, is the founding campus of the Caribbean's top university, renowned for world-class tertiary education, internationally recognised accredited degrees and research. It was



founded in October 1948 as an independent external college of the University of London, with the first faculty being Medical Sciences.

UWI is now offering a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in humanities and education, science and technology, science and agriculture, engineering, law, medical sciences and social sciences. We find it quite fitting to therefore have our acclaimed professors and graduates of the University of the West Indies educate us on the diverse complications of diabetes. We will have intriguing talks on diabetes and oral health, menopause, brain, heart, sexual challenges, obesity, the adolescent and pregnancy, e-care and chronic diseases, and a tale of diabetes in the Caribbean, to name a few. We hope to see you there!

Cheers.

DONNA BRAHAM
Co-chair, UDOP
conference organising
committee