



## Lenworth Jacobs

Chancellor, there is a somewhat obscure quote from the literary giant John Donne, wherein, in reference to men of medicine, he says; *I observe the physician with the same diligence as the disease*. One does not have to adopt the critical gaze of the postmodern scholar or, indeed, of the diagnostic general practitioner, to appreciate that there are many possible ways to interpret this loaded pronouncement. Is Donne, albeit from his perspective of the limited knowledge of the Middle Ages suggesting that the science of medicine is less than accurate, indeed, more of an art than a science? Is he making a pronouncement on the character of physicians themselves, questioning their ethics and motives? Or is he simply suggesting, without base implication, that it is in the physician's body language, preceding verbal communication that we might know, beforehand, the true state of affairs and the prognosis for recovery?

Fortunately Chancellor, none of these dreary conclusions, except perhaps the third, apply convincingly to modern medicine and least of all to our Graduand today, who is a master of his discipline in both theory and practice; a paragon of his divers communities in both the United States and the Caribbean and an exemplary communicator of the results of his research and experience to medical audiences and the public through numerous books, book chapters and scholarly articles.

Professor Lenworth M. Jacobs graduated from the University of the West Indies in 1970 and then went on to Harvard where he completed his Masters of Public Health, continuing to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and the Boston University Medical Center, where he fulfilled his surgical residency. Since 1983, Professor

Jacobs has been the Director of Trauma and Emergency Medicine at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut, is a Governor of the American College of Surgeons, past President of the American Trauma Society, past President of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma and past Vice-President of the American Association for the Study of Trauma. He is also Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee of the University of Connecticut, as well as a Director of the University of Connecticut Health Centre.

It is in the field of trauma surgery and management, Chancellor, that Professor Jacobs has made his greatest contribution and it is, indeed, a substantial one. He is founder and National Director of the Advanced Trauma Management (ATOM) course, for which more than 1200 surgeons have been certified in 26 sites in the United States, Canada, the Middle East and West Africa. Among the many accolades for his work in developing and popularising trauma management techniques are those from West Africa, where he was awarded in 2007 the West African College of Surgeons Honorary Fellowship for service to African surgeons by implementing ATOM in West Africa; the American College of Surgeons, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the National Safety Council which granted him the "2005 Surgeons' Award for Safety" for continuous commitment to patient care through prevention programmes, surgical excellence and education, and the American Trauma Society which granted him the President's award in 2004. Professor Jacobs has been prolific, publishing more than 180 papers and delivering more than 200 presentations internationally, nationally and regionally.

Chancellor, the field of medicine is a broad one and the sheer number of alumni of the University of the West Indies who have proceeded to make remarkable contributions in many areas of the profession is overwhelming. Yet, it is fair to say that even among the constellation of his glittering peers, Lenworth Jacobs' contribution is outstanding and recognition at the highest level by his *alma mater* is long overdue.

Chancellor, by the authority vested in you by the Council and Senate of this University, I present Professor Lenworth Jacobs for the conferral of the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.