

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Report of a visit to

St. George's University School of Medicine

Grenada and St. Vincent, West Indies

February 5-11, 2007

And

Maimonides Medical Center  
4802 Tenth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

Lutheran Medical Center  
150 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY

Long Island College Hospital  
339 Hicks St., Brooklyn, NY

Jamaica Hospital Medical Center  
8900 Van Wyck Expressway, Jamaica, NY

Flushing Hospital Medical Center  
4500 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, NY

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center  
585 Schenectady Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

The Brooklyn Hospital Center  
121 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center  
One Brookdale Plaza, Brooklyn, NY

January 22-24, 2007

## INTRODUCTION

The objective of the site visit team was to evaluate the preclinical component of the program of medical education of St. George's University School of Medicine that takes place in Grenada and St. Vincent, West Indies and the clinical component of the St. George's program that takes place in New York State. The primary purpose of the visit to the campus in Grenada and the campus in St. Vincent was to reevaluate that part of the University's program of medical education, especially the basic medical science component that prepares students for their clinical education in New York State. The purpose of the visit to the affiliated hospitals in New York State was to:

- review administrative and support facilities;
- review faculty and course objectives; and
- reevaluate the clinical training undertaken by the University's students.

When visiting the affiliated hospitals, the team reviewed the integration of the clinical training within the University's total program of medical education and the respective roles of the academic and administrative officers and the affiliated hospitals in student selection, supervision, coursework, and academic evaluation.

**THE TEAM**

Lynette Ringenberg, MD  
Professor of Pediatrics  
University of South Florida  
School of Medicine  
Tampa, FL

Richard Edmonds, PhD  
Associate Executive Dean (retired)  
Albany Medical College  
Albany, NY

Bernard Pollara, MD, PhD  
Chief of General Pediatrics  
University of South Florida  
School of Medicine  
Tampa, FL

Leo Sullivan, MD  
Consultant in Neurology  
Intervale, NH

Thomas J. Monahan, MA  
Executive Secretary  
New York State Board for Medicine  
Albany, NY

Douglas P. Elkins, MS  
Assistant Executive Secretary  
New York State Board for Medicine  
Albany, NY

The four consultant members of the visiting team have substantial experience in medical education. All hold or held professorial or administrative rank in United States medical schools.

**Activities of the Team During the Visit**

The team members reviewed individually all of the materials provided by St. George's University prior to the visit. They included the Database Document, the school catalog, and documentation and appendices in support of the Database Document. Student and faculty records, financial aid folders, and curricular materials were examined in Grenada. The team members interviewed administrative officers, faculty members, and students in Grenada, St. Vincent, and selected affiliated hospitals in New York State. The observations and determinations in this report are presented on the basis of these activities.

## FOREWORD

St. George's University submitted an application to operate the clinical component of its program of medical education in New York State in the fall of 1982. In February 1983 and December 1984, different teams of medical educators and Department Staff visited St. George's operations in Grenada; St. Vincent; Barbados; Miami Shores, Florida; Bayshore, New York; and hospitals in New York State. In June 1985 the Deputy Commissioner for Higher and Professional Education determined that deficiencies and problems regarding the administration, resources, curriculum, faculty, and the adequacy of student records precluded approval of St. George's application. The University subsequently appealed the determination of the Deputy Commissioner to the Commissioner of Education. On December 23, 1985, the Commissioner dismissed the appeal.

In February 1986, St. George's University submitted a revised Data Base Document and supporting materials. In April 1986 a team of medical educators and Department staff visited St. George's operations in Grenada, St. Vincent, Bayshore, New York, and hospitals in New York State. In December 1986, a team of medical educators and Department staff met with representatives of St. George's in New York City. On January 29, 1987, the Deputy Commissioner of Higher and Professional Education informed St. George's that he was prepared to approve the program of St. George's School of Medicine for the purpose of placing students in specific hospitals in New York State provided that the University complies with twelve conditions. On January 30, 1987, St. George's accepted the conditions. On February 3, 1987, the Deputy Commissioner approved St. George's program "effective through June 30, 1989 so long as the State Education Department is satisfied that all conditions are being met. Approval beyond June 30, 1989 will be dependant upon the results of the Department's next formal review, to occur prior to April 1989."

On November 29, 1988, a Department team visited St. Vincent and a team from the Department visited Grenada from January 29, 1989 to February 2, 1990, Bayshore NY on March 13, 1990, and the University's affiliated hospitals in New York on March 20-21, 1990. In a letter dated September 28, 1989, the Deputy Commissioner for the Professions informed St. George's that he was prepared to extend the University's approval provided that the University agreed to five conditions. In a letter dated October 4, 1989, the University accepted those conditions and in a letter dated October 17, 1989, the Deputy Commissioner for the Professions extended the approval until October 1, 1993, "subject to a positive outcome of an interim visit to be conducted in the fall of 1990 and provided that the State education Department remains satisfied that all conditions are being met. Approval beyond October 1, 1993 will be dependant upon the results of the Department's next formal review, to occur on or about April 1993."

In October 1991, a Department team conducted an interim visit to Grenada and St. Vincent. In a letter dated March 24, 1992, the Deputy Commissioner for the Professions notified St. George's that he had determined that the University had met the conditions specified in the 1989 report and extended the University's approval until June

1, 1994. The approval was extended because the site visit team had recommended the extension due to anticipated significant programmatic and curricular changes. The Deputy Commissioner also noted that approval beyond June 1, 1994 "would depend on the results of the Department's next formal review which should occur in the fall of 1993."

In October 1993 a team of medical educators and Department staff visited Grenada, St. Vincent, and affiliated hospitals in New York State for the purpose of reapproving the program for the placement of students in clinical clerkships in affiliated hospitals in New York State. As a result of the visit, the Deputy Commissioner for the Professions informed the University on April 1, 1994 that the approval was extended through December 31, 1998. Approval beyond December 31, 1998 was dependent upon the results of the University's next formal review that would occur in spring 1998.

In March 1998 NY State Education Department staff and a team of medical educators again visited Grenada, St. Vincent, and selected affiliated hospitals in New York State for the purpose of reapproving the medical education program for the placement of students in clinical clerkships in affiliated hospitals in New York State. As a result of that visit, the Deputy Commissioner for the Professions informed the University on August 19, 1998 that the approval was extended through December 31, 2003.

In March/May 2002 NY State Education Department staff and a team of medical educators again visited Grenada, St. Vincent, and selected affiliated hospitals in New York State for the purpose of reapproving the medical education program for the placement of students in clinical clerkships in affiliated hospitals in New York State. As a result of that visit, the Deputy Commissioner for the Professions informed the University that the approval was extended through December 31, 2007. Approval beyond that date is dependent upon a formal review that would occur in 2007. This report presents the findings of the required formal review.

## ADMINISTRATION

St. George's University School of Medicine was chartered in 1976 by an act of the Grenada House of Parliament, following a two-year feasibility study that highlighted the advantages of such an institution to Grenada. The first class began studies on January 17, 1977. In August 1978 the campus of Kingstown Medical College was established on the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The School of Medicine conducts its basic science program at the True Blue Campus in Grenada and the Ratho Mill Campus of Kingstown Medical College in St. Vincent. In 1994 the Windward Island Research Foundation (WINDREF) was incorporated. The research facilities and offices of the Foundation serve as significant resources for research programs to the staff and students of St. George's University and its Faculty of Graduate Studies. In 1996, the government of Grenada enacted new legislation which empowered the University to grant additional degrees. Under this legislation, the University instituted a School of Arts and Sciences and School of Graduate Studies that award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees respectively. In 1997 the University was renamed "St George's University" to reflect the fact that it was now a multi-school or multi-faculty educational entity.

The 2006-2007 catalog continues to state that the primary functions of the School of Medicine are:

1. To provide a medical curriculum designed to prepare highly competent students with intellectual and technical expertise necessary for the practice of medicine in the public and private sectors, and with the skills essential for expanding and improving existing health-care delivery systems; to instill in each graduate a desire to pursue a lifetime of growth within the medical profession to better serve both the public and the profession; and to promote the highest ideals of the medical profession;
2. To improve the health standards and health-care delivery system in Grenada, St. Vincent, and other Caribbean nations, and in other developing nations through its combined educational and service programs, including the Grenadian and Vincentian Scholarship Program, this has provided an education for many physicians.

The catalog also states that the goals of the medical curriculum are:

1. To provide each student with an information core essential to all practicing physicians;
2. To provide each student with the knowledge and experiences necessary to advance both scientifically and humanistically in the care and treatment of sick persons;

3. To encourage students to assume responsibility for their own continuing education, thus diminishing dependency on the teacher as the sole source of information and forming the basis for the self-motivated study necessary for the practicing physician's lifelong expansion of knowledge;
4. To encourage the students to develop a logical approach to the analysis and management of clinical problems;
5. To expose students to medicine as practiced throughout the world and to provide them with the experiences necessary for the practice of medicine in developing countries.
6. To create awareness of the preventive aspects of medicine, of the importance of health education in the community, and of the role of the physician as a health educator; and
7. To emphasize the mastery of basic competencies necessary for post-graduate training.

According to the Data Base Document prepared for this site visit, the overall control and policy decision rights are vested in the following owners/trustees:

- Charles R. Modica, BS, JD; Chairman
- Patrick F. Adams, BA, LLB, JD; Secretary
- Louis J. Modica, BBA;
- Edward J. McGowan;
- John J. Cush, BA, MD;
- Reverend Mons. John T. Heinlein, MDiv;
- Sr. Jeanne O'Laughlin, OP; and
- Arthur Massolo, MA.

According to the most recent edition of the *Faculty Handbook*, governance of the University takes place through:

**Board of Trustees.** The Board of Trustees ultimately directs and manages all affairs of the St. George's University and its Schools including: location and construction of physical facilities, monitoring the adherence of the curriculum to the goals of the University, determining the size of the faculties and student body, appointing of all business and academic administrators, and managing of all University assets. It also