



PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SRHA Proud of Nurses Winning Successive Top Awards in Nurse of the Year Competition

Regional Director for the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Mr. Michael Bent said the health authority is proud of its nurses who have won top awards in the LASCO and Nurses Association of Jamaica's (NAJ) Nurse of the Year Awards Ceremony, for the second time in a row.

The Regional Director extended heartiest congratulations to Fione Collins, the deputy director of nursing services at the Percy Junor Hospital in Manchester for winning the coveted Nurse of the Year title and to Machel Edwards-Lewis, specialist nurse at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester for placing second in the competition.

He also congratulated third place winner Antonette Bent, charge nurse-emergency room at the University Hospital of the West Indies and Stacy-Ann Carpenter, Registered Nurse from the Percy Junor Hospital who received the third-place award for public speaking.

In 2024, nurses from the SRHA won the top three spots, with Abigail James, Registered Nurse from Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth winning the coveted title. Roshelle Mendez was the 1st runner-up, and Davia Dwyer, the 2nd runner-up; both from the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester.

Mr. Bent noted that this is a wonderful feat for the nurses, particularly in the month of July, when healthcare workers are being celebrated and lauded for their commitment, service and sacrifice, as part of Healthcare Workers Appreciation Month.

"The board of management, management teams and team members are really overjoyed by Nurse Collins and Nurse Edwards Lewis accomplishments. This competition recognizes nurses who demonstrate high standards of professional, ethical, and personal development and for our nurses to come out on top again is a good feeling. We are very proud of these ladies and it is a very proud moment for the region: Mr. Bent said.

(more)

Chairman: Wayne Chen; **Vice Chairman:** Michael Stern, **Board Members:** Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Omar Miller, Denise Edwards, Sherill Morgan, Simone Scarlett, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Kimberly Nain, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

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"I want to encourage them to continue on this path of excellence and use this platform to encourage and motivate their fellow nurses, so the standards of the nursing profession can be elevated a little higher" he added.

The competition was held on Saturday, July 19, under the theme, 'Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for Nurses Strengthens Economies'.

The Southern Regional Health Authority administers public healthcare in the parishes of Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth.

Picture 1



Outgoing Nurse of the Year, Abigail James crowns 2025 Nurse of the Year, Fione Collins.

(more)

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Picture 2

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Second place winner, Machel Edwards Lewis is pictured here with former Deputy Director of Nursing Services at the Percy Junor Hospital, Laverna Campbell.

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