



Percy Junor Hospital Successfully Completes First Surgery With Cutting-Edge 360 Degree Robotic Camera Holder



A team, including Dr. Carlos Wilson (left) and Senior Registrar from the Department of General Surgery at the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Dr. Ashok Kotagiri (right) performs the first surgery with the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder. Pictured also is Operating Theatre Technician Richard Lewis from the PJH.

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In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Percy Junor Hospital Successfully Completes First Surgery With Cutting-Edge 360 Degree Robotic Camera Holder



Dirk Cabral, Clinical Sales Manager from A.A. Laquis (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd. (left) explains the functions of the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder to some of the surgeons, nurses, nurse anaesthetists and operating theatre technicians who were being trained recently at the Percy Junor Hospital.

The Percy Junor Hospital (PJH) in north east Manchester successfully completed its first surgery using the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder on June 21, 2024. The device, which enables safer and more efficient surgeries, is the up-to-date version and allows for 360 degrees rotation.

General Surgeon and Senior Medical Officer at the hospital, Dr. Carlos Wilson explained that while robotics surgery is not new to Jamaica, to his knowledge, it is the first that the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder, is being utilized in the public health system in Jamaica.

Dr. Wilson shared that the team utilized the device in the removal of a gallbladder (cholecystectomy) for a patient with painful gallstones. He added that the patient is doing great and expressed gratitude to the team for the operation.

“Laparoscopic surgeries are done through tiny incisions where a camera is inserted into the abdomen of a patient

and through the camera we are able to see inside the patient. We then make other tiny incisions to put the instruments in to complete the operation, so with this machine, a robot holds the camera. Normally you would have to have an assistant surgeon or nurse hold the camera for you and after about 30 minutes of holding that camera in place, sometimes it gets a little bit shaky and the vision is not that good” Dr. Wilson explained.

The Senior Medical Officer added that: “With this 360-degree free-hand, it holds the camera in position steadily for as long as you need it to be, up to eight hours. The surgeon now controls the camera so with a shift of the head and the press of a pedal, you can move the camera to the left, right, up, down, or zoom in or zoom out. This allows us to do the surgery in a more comfortable way and brings us into the twenty first century as it relates to robotics surgery.”

Dr. Wilson noted that the expense of robotics surgery has made it difficult to be introduced generally; however, it has several benefits.

“It is safer for the patients and for the surgeons performing the operations. When we do an operation that lasts for over an hour and we have to be holding that camera, that leads to things like back aches and arthritis in surgeons and assistants which makes the operation more difficult. It makes the operations easier, safer for the patients and in time it should make the operations quicker because studies have shown it reduces the time of the operations by twenty percent. Hopefully we will be able to produce and present that research” Dr. Wilson said.

A team of surgeons, nurses, nurse anaesthetists and operating theatre technicians from the Percy Junor, Mandeville Regional, Black River, May Pen and St. Ann’s Bay hospitals were recently trained to use the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder.

The machine was procured by the Southern Regional Health Authority through a partnership with A.A. Laquis Ltd. who provided the training. The company has offices in Jamaica, Barbados and its head office in Trinidad and Tobago.

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Health Authority Pledges More Support for the Deaf Community



The health team including: SRHA Regional Director, Michael Bent (2nd left), Director of Nursing Services at the BRH, Maria Stampp (3rd left), BRH Patient Care Assistant, Sidaney Francis (centre), Dorcia Brown Lyle, Nurse Manager at the BRH (2nd right) and Driver at the hospital, Wayne Spencer (3rd right) shares a photo opportunity with the Teacher in charge of the May Pen Unit for the Deaf, Porsha Byfield-Wedderburn (left) and students, Shantoya Irwin (right) and Tamara Dennis.

The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has pledged more support for the deaf community, as it boosts its partnership and care for the community.

The pledge was made by Regional Director for the SRHA, Michael Bent on Tuesday, June 18 at a brief handover ceremony of a smart television set and other small appliances to the May Pen Unit for the Deaf. The school is located in Woodside, rural Clarendon, and caters to the educational needs of children from 10 months old to 21 years of age.

The items were donated by the In-service Education Department at the Back River Hospital in St. Elizabeth, which hosted a symposium in April 2024, focused on the theme, “Discovering Abilities in Disabilities: The Jamaican Perspective.”

Mr. Bent explained that the hospital partnered with the Jamaica Association for the Deaf for the symposium where staff members were taught

how to community with the deaf community.

“We do have persons in our facilities and in our care from the deaf community and we need to know how to communicate with them which is a good thing. I am encouraging other facilities to join the partnership so we can strengthen the communication with health service providers and the deaf community. I want this to be a continuous relationship or one where a significant percentage of my team members are able to communicate with the deaf community” Mr. Bent said.

Mr. Bent pointed out that he was particularly pleased and satisfied because the hospital chose to donate to an institution outside of its parish.

“We are grateful to be here to make this presentation. It is a cause that we believe in. I want to commend the team and the students who I have learnt are doing well. Some have excelled at the CXC level and some have even gone on to further their studies at the tertiary level. Having a disability is no set back or hindrance for discovering your disabilities and I am very proud at what is happening in this small and humble institution. I really look forward to hearing greater things from the team here and I am inviting the other health teams in Clarendon to come and partner with the school” Mr. Bent continued.

For Dorcia Brown Lyle, Nurse Manager with responsibility for Inservice Education at the BRH and facilitator on the symposium, it was a pleasure donating to the institution.

“I can tell you it was good fate how the May Pen Deaf Unit was found. We learnt that one of their greatest needs is a smart television and we are happy to donate that and other small appliances to them. I want to say a special thank you to all the persons who joined our symposium because without those individuals we wouldn’t have been able to gather those funds to make this contribution. It’s not usual for the health facility to be donating because we are normally receiving, but we are elated to make this donation” Nurse Brown-Lyle said.

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

No Contaminated Fish Found in Mandeville Market

The Manchester Health Department (MHD) is informing the public that results from fish samples taken from the Mandeville market in May 2024 reveal that there were no traces of chemical formaldehyde, commonly known as embalming fluid, in the fish.

This was confirmed by the Government Chemist Laboratory.

In May, the MHD received a report from two residents in the parish about falling ill after consuming a fish meal. The residents purchased the fish from the Mandeville market and then prepared it at home.

A detailed history was taken from the residents and raw and cooked fish samples were collected from them. Samples were also collected of sliced and other fish in the market from all the fish vendors.

The Manchester Health Department has been in dialogue with the complainants over the period until the results were shared.

The Manchester Health Department is encouraging persons to continue being vigilant when purchasing food for consumption. The team will continue its monitoring and surveillance of food establishments including the markets.

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

All Newborns in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mandeville Hospital Safe

All patients on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH) in Manchester, are safe following a minor fire at the facility this morning.

CEO for the MRH, Mr. Alwyn Miller explained that at about 3: 45 a.m. this morning, Friday, June 21, staff members were alerted by smoke coming from a ward which houses the NICU.

Investigations revealed that smoke was coming from an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) device, which resulted in a minor fire. The fire department was called and the fire extinguished.

Staff members immediately removed the 11 neonates (newborns) and relocated them to an appropriate area of the paediatric ward. Following an assessment, all newborns and staff members are safe.

The facility has assessed the situation and it is being rectified.

Facilities on the Move

Mandeville Hospital Takes Know Your Numbers Campaign to Team Members

On Wednesday, June 26, the Mandeville Regional Hospital hosted its inaugural Know Your Numbers Campaign staff welfare activity to empower its dedicated team members with essential diagnostic tests and services, from blood pressure checks to blood sugar and HIV tests. The event also featured mouthwatering dishes which were packed with nutrition.

Please see below highlights.



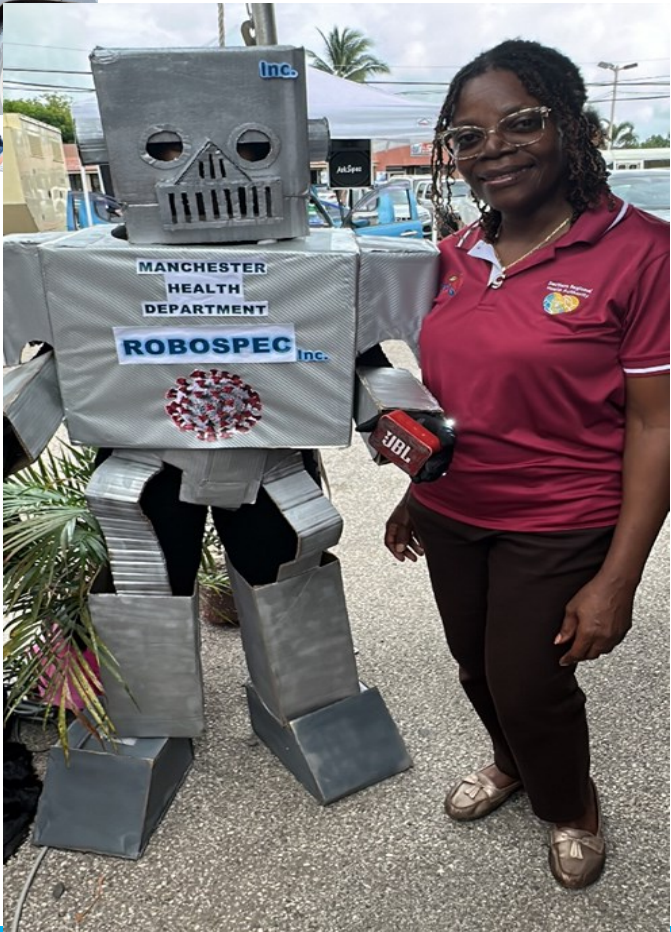
Facilities on the Move

SRHA Hosts Exciting & Informative World Food Day Fair

The Southern Regional Health Authority commemorated World Food Safety Day on Friday, June 7, with an exciting and informative fair. The public health inspectors from Clarendon, Manchester, and St. Elizabeth brought history to life, representing pioneers like Louis Pasteur, John Snow, and Nicolas Appert.

Their contributions reminded of the advancements made in public health and the work that still lies ahead. The fair also showcased innovative solutions, educational games, and engaging competitions—all aimed at boosting public awareness.

Please see below photo highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Percy Junor Hospital Celebrates 79th Anniversary

On Friday, June 31, Percy Junor Hospital (PJH) in Manchester commemorated its remarkable journey of 79 years of existence. The team also hosted their annual Customer Appreciation Day, a resounding success that honoured both their dedicated team members and cherished external patrons. The incredible team at PJH works tirelessly to provide exceptional services. Without them, our mission would be incomplete.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Manchester Health Department Takes Us Back to School

See below highlights of the Manchester Health Department’s School Uniform Day on Friday, June 21. Embodying creativity and fun, the team showed up and represented their alma mater.



Staff Highlight

Celebrating Excellence in Nutrition and Dietetics



Debbie Ottey-Golding (right), Parish Nutritionist for Clarendon, was honoured with the Public Health Nutrition - Community Award of Excellence, and Mrs. Deonne Langley-Spencer (left), Assistant Dietitian at May Pen Hospital in Clarendon, was honoured with an Award of Excellence in Dietetics - Hospital Setting- both by the Jamaica Professionals in Nutrition and Dietetics (JAPINAD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

These prestigious awards recognized their outstanding contributions to promoting wellness and improving community and hospital health through their expertise in nutrition.

The award ceremony took place on Saturday, June 1 at the Golf View Hotel in Mandeville, Manchester. Let's give them a round of applause for their unwavering commitment to better health for all!

Wellness Bytes

“Mental Wellness”



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How Much Are You Willing To Share For Your Mental Wellness?



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HR And You:

“Core Competencies”

Core Competencies

Competency	Definition
Oral Communication	Listens and verbally expresses oneself in a manner which is clear, fluent, and to the point which hold the listeners attention.
Written Communication	Clearly and fluently expresses oneself in writing, and in producing correspondence and reports that are readily understood by the intended audience.
Teamwork & Cooperation	Participates and works co-operatively with others and/or inspires, motivates, facilitates and guides others in the pursuit and accomplishment of shared goals, fosters commitment, team spirit, pride and trust.
Initiative	The extent to which employees display a sense of urgency and passion in the execution of their jobs; and display interest in new developments, considering without prompting whether these will affect the organization.
Customer and Quality Focus	The extent to which employees display an awareness of the importance of meeting internal and external customer needs; embracing the C.A.R.E Philosophy.

Credit: Juline Singh, Manager, Human Resource Development, SRHA

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We welcome your input.

Please submit your articles and feedback for the July edition to:

The Corporate Communications & Public Relations Branch

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The Lighter Side



"when i fell, nothing would happen to me. i wasn't delicate, like you kids."