

WONCA POLARIS NEWSLETTER

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Wonca
Young Doctors'
Movements



WELCOME TO NEW FM RESIDENTS

Dr. Marvin Reid,
President of WONCA
North America gives a
warm welcome and
encouraging thoughts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See our list of upcoming
conferences.

WELCOME TO WONCA POLARIS

Polaris is the North American Young Doctors Movement of WONCA for family physicians, trainees, and medical students! We are here to connect you with the global family medicine community and WONCA!

Polaris was founded 2014. To date, we have hosted two pre-conferences, established FM360 (an international exchange program) in the region, and completed the #1 wordforfamily medicine projects.

Now Polaris is ready to spread it's wings. By facilitating exchanges, exchanging information and making connections with the global community, primary care will improve for everyone.

Welcome to the WONCA Family!

Check us out starting May 19th at
www.woncapolaris.com

MEET THIS MONTH'S FEATURED DOCTOR

Dr. Maria Leigh-Ann
Clapperton - the
President of the Trinidad
Chapter of the
Caribbean College of
Family Physicians



A WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WONCA NORTH AMERICA -

It is said that Family Physicians provide care across the life cycle from embryo through to old age and until death. The Family Physician is the vanguard of the public health system in any country. The World Health Organization states that “We are convinced that strengthening primary health care (PHC) is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people’s physical and mental health, as well as social well-being, and that PHC is a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for universal health coverage (UHC) and health-related Sustainable Development Goals”, (WHO ASTANA Declaration 2018), a position long advocated by WONCA. In fact, there is international consensus that this goal can only be achieved by investments and strengthen of Family Medicine training and deployment.

It is within this context, that I extend a hearty welcome to those of you who have started the journey to become Family Physicians as well as those who are almost at the end and about to sit residency exams. Although at different points of the training spectrum, your choice indicates your commitment to quality health care not only for your individual client, but the family unit and community as whole. For this commitment, I salute you and wish for you a successful onward journey.

In closing, it would be remiss of me not to encourage you find time to network and share of your time and skills with like-minded physicians. This you can do by becoming involved with POLARIS, the young doctor’s movement of the North American Region of WONCA. Through your participation, you will be exposed to greater diversity of experiences at the individual, community and International level. In fact it is a great way to become involved in Global Health.

With best wishes

Marvin Reid (Prof)

President, North American Region (WONCA)



Show your support for Polaris, Family Medicine, and Young Doctors by looking for our booth at the next Conference (see below) or buying a pin online after the [May 19th](#) launch of our website.

FEATURED FAMILY DOC: DR. MARIA LEIGH-ANN CLAPPERTON

“As a House Officer working an Emergency Department, I saw that a lot of people were coming in with complications of preventable lifestyle illnesses. I became very curious and driven by what must be done to reduce this large number of admissions. I’ve had a great example set by my own Family Physician from childhood, so the more I learnt about Family Medicine, I became enamored with the role of the Family Physician and the whole biopsychosocial model of patient centered care.”

This is how Dr. Maria Leigh-Ann Clapperton from Trinidad and Tobago described the spark which drove her to pursue a career in primary care.



“Lack of resources and under staffing can be challenging, so I hope to see more emphasis and more budgetary allocations being made towards strengthening primary health care in my country (Trinidad & Tobago). It is my goal to one day see Family Physicians receive the recognition they truly deserve not only as Specialist physicians but also as the gate keepers of the health care system and for Family Medicine to really be recognized on par with other specialties.”

- Dr. Maria Leigh-Ann Clapperton

She completed her Residency in Family Medicine at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus in 2017 and less than a year later, she became the President of the Trinidad Chapter of the Caribbean College of Family Physicians (CCFP), a position she currently holds.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES IN NORTH AMERICA 2019

APR 26

AAFP National Conference of Constituency Leaders:
<https://www.aafp.org/events/aclf-nccl/nccl.html>

MAY 19

Caribbean College of Family Physicians World Family Doctor Day Conference:
<http://ccfp.caribgp.org/event/world-family-doctor-day-conference/>

JUL 25

AAFP National Conference Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students:
<https://www.aafp.org/events/national-conference.html>

SEPT 24

Family Medicine Experience:
<https://www.aafp.org/event/s/fmx.html>

