

Southern Regional Health Authority

Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Efficiency

3 Brumalia Road, Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica WI **Tel**: (876) 625-0612-3 / 962-9491 / 962-8232 | **Fax**: (876) 962-8233

Website: www.srha.gov.jm



PRESS RELEASE

May 7, 2021
| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mandeville Hospital Receives State-of-the-art Equipment to Detect Laryngeal Cancer

The Mandeville Regional Hospital's (MRH) Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Department in Manchester has received rigid laryngoscopes, chest support unit and biopsy faucets equipment valued at J\$1.5 million to detect and treat laryngeal cancers, the sixth most common cancer in men.

The donation was made to the ENT department on Thursday, May 6 at the MRH, by the Manchester Wellness Foundation, which has adopted the ENT department. The Foundation donates millions to purchasing well needed equipment and instruments for the hospital annually.

ENT Consultant at the hospital, Dr. Andrew Manning explained that persons would have to travel to either Kingston or Montego Bay to access these services; however, with the acquisition of the state-of-the-art equipment, the services will now be available to central Jamaica.

"If you detect laryngeal cancer you can save someone's life without having to resort to major surgery. If you don't catch it early enough it's quite debilitating and presents the person with severe difficulties, for example if the mass grows to a certain size you won't be able to breathe. We actually do laryngoscopy here (MRH) but we have been using older equipment for some time. This equipment represents state-of-the-art, modern equipment and we are able to use it with some other bits of equipment that we had before" Dr. Manning explained.

"To put it into perspective, if someone presents to us with certain symptoms, persistent hoarseness being the main symptom, we are able to see that patient, take that patient to theatre and under general anaesthesia we can safely do a biopsy and send it to the pathologist and confirm the diagnosis. If we catch it early enough, say stage one or two, we can send the patient either to Montego Bay or Kingston and the Government has recently acquired a linear accelerator so we can treat (more)

Chairman: Wayne Chen; Vice Chairman; Michael Stern, Board Members: Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, Omar Miller, Dave Powell, Permanent Secretary's Nominee: Dr. Naydene Williams, 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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these patients with minimum morbidity and treat it at an early stage so you are saving that person a lot of trauma" Dr. Manning added.

The ENT Consultant pointed out that having the service at the hospital will cut down on the waiting times in the public system, adding that: "once you can make the diagnosis early you should be able to treat more persons early. If you treat somebody with radiotherapy it means you don't have to have a major surgery and that person doesn't have to come into hospital and stay in bed and use up a lot of oxygen and anaesthesia, so all of this helps towards that."

CEO for the hospital, Alwyn Miller thanked the Manchester Wellness Foundation noting that without their intervention, it would have been unlikely for the hospital to procure the equipment on their own.

"We are very thankful and this will continue to help us as a hospital and the ENT service to respond to emergencies and other selective circumstances. We are very pleased about this partnership which dates back several years and without a doubt, persons outside of the parish will be able to benefit from the improved services from the equipment" Mr. Miller said.

For her part, Chairman of the Foundation, Nadine Sinclair noted that the Foundation is honoured to be able to partner with the medical services in the Manchester region and help to improve services in the ENT and other departments in the hospital.

She noted that since the establishment of the Foundation in 2003, the Foundation has raised and disbursed more than J\$ 19 million to health facilities in Manchester; through two major fundraising events, a run walk and a vintage party.

(more)

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Picture 1



(Left to right) MRH ENT Consultant, Dr. Andrew Manning; Manchester Wellness Foundation Nadine Sinclair; MRH Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Everton McIntosh and MRH CEO, Alwyn Miller examine the equipment donated to the hospital.

(more)

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Picture 2



MRH ENT Consultant, Dr. Andrew Manning shows the use of one of the

pieces of equipment donated to the hospital on Thursday, May 6.

(30)

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For more information contact: Latoya Laylor Brown **Public Relations Officer** Southern Regional Health Authority Tel: 962-8232/779-2663

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