FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND: Our Medical School has changed significantly since our Alumni Association was formed twenty-four years ago. Cohesion and commitment to UWIMAA are undermined by many disparities such as: four independent medical schools across all campuses; the growth of a Single Virtual University; and the current focus on strengthening the Regional Character of the University. This has also resulted in a lack of the collegiate and professional cross fertilization, experienced firsthand by our more senior Alumni - the genesis of long and lasting friendships and networks, still treasured today.

Our younger alumni have a different perspective of UWI. Their classes are large and many alumni have never met some of their classmates. Student diversity, particularly at the Mona campus, is expected to decline. Project EXCEL will offset the ensuing negative effects, by augmenting the elective programmes in place at UWI partnership institutions in order to achieve the vision articulated below.

VISION: UWIMAA, through PROJECT EXCEL will foster a greater sense of regional integration and a Caribbean identity, within the medical student community, and eventually in the medical community.

PURPOSE: Exchange programmes will (i) provide opportunities to receive one-on-one attention from renowned specialists and senior practitioners in our Alumni groups - (Inside and Outside institutions); (ii) broaden the scope of diversity, guarding against insularity and fostering camaraderie, Caribbean identity and Regional integration; (iii) provide an avenue for Alumni involvement and contribution in either cash or kind or both; (iv) has the potential to grow into intellectually enriching long-term collaboration, and provide career enhancement opportunities for the students.

GOAL: Overarching: An externship program facilitated by senior alumni to make it possible for medical students to experience externships in CARICOM territories other than the ones in which they are pursuing their medical studies or from which they originate.

Specific: Students will have 5-6 week electives with alumni who are practicing outside of a campus setting, since that’s where most medical practice occurs. Outside institutions will include UWI non-campus territories and private institutions.

CALL TO ACTION: NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL ALUMNI TO COME ON BOARD!

Your Role can be…… Direct: Mentor a final year student for a five or six week elective

or Supporting………… Indirect: Sponsor an elective exchange: Provide Airfare, Accommodation, Meals
FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND: The University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences is renowned for producing new doctors with astute clinical skills. However, the current downturn in the global economic environment and its knock-on effects has brought several resource challenges to the Caribbean and UWI’s operating locations. It is felt that secondary training (general surgery, internal medicine, O&G, etc) at UWI, is good, but that sub specialty training is hampered by lack of resources. Establishing affiliations on a formal basis will allow more UWI graduates to experience the world stage of medical education and so militate against some of the ripple effects arising from current resource constraints.

UWIMAA has embraced the prospect of a project aimed at establishing strategic alliances with Universities in North America &/or Europe in order to create Graduate Medical Education placement opportunities, ranging from three months to three years, in order to enhance training though Residency &/or Subspecialty Fellowship Training Programmes. The intent is to further the aims of a few Alumni who, through consistent personal endeavor, have created much needed pathways and transitions for younger alumni who are graduates of the last decade.

VISION: PROJECT MOVING SCISSORS, using programmed support from UWIMAA members and affiliates will Establish Post Graduate Training Partnerships with select institutions
- Fundraising drives, organized in class cohorts or self appointed groups;
- A mentorship programme, for graduates selected for study overseas;
- the Secretariat’s provision of administrative backing and internal communications to raise & maintain the enthusiasm of the Alumni.

PURPOSE: This proposed intervention is expected to contribute to the greater good of the medical community, on both a regional and international basis, as aspects of the programme will be geared to retention of trained sub-specialists within the West Indies to the benefit of institutions, and recipients of healthcare services.

GOALS: - Better post graduate opportunities for the UWI School of Medicine resulting in health professionals with above average standards, because of adequate post graduate education.
- Transformation in trainee participation, satisfaction, knowledge, behavior, and patient outcomes, so as to improve the health status of residents, where graduates live and work.

CALL TO ACTION: NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL ALUMNI TO COME ON BOARD!

Your Role can be……… Direct : Facilitate a strategic alliance &/or In-country mentorship/liaison activities
or Supporting………… Indirect: Sponsor, Contributor, Fundraising organizer, coordinator

“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another”
- C.K Chesterson