



Canada-Guyana Outreach Mission

Health Care for Guyana

www.cangomission.org

MARCH 2023 MISSION REPORT

March 2023 Mission Team:

After a 3-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of CanGO decided that a small team will travel to Guyana in March to become acquainted with the post-pandemic situation there. The team consisted of only 11 members. They are as follows:

Three Physicians: Dr. Veronika Jedlovszky (Pulmonologist/ General Internist), Dr. Clare Mitchell (Developmental Paediatrician and our Medical Director), Dr. Denise Niemira (Family Physician),

One Paediatric Resident: Dr. Emily Needles

Two Nurses: Dr. Lorraine Emeghebo (PhD. in Nursing), Chandra Chunilall

Two Paramedical Personnel: Margaret Brac (Audiologist) and Peter Gyurkovics (Emergency Medical Technician)

Three Support Personnel: Penelope Jenkinson (Chef), Amanda Peters (local administrator) and Yvonne Triesman (President of CanGO).



DEVELOPMENTAL TEAM:

Dr. Clare Mitchell, Margaret Brac, and Yvonne Triesman arrived in Guyana on Wednesday, March 22. They were joined by Dr. Emily Needles who arrived on March 23, 2023.

GENERAL TEAM:

Members of the General Team arrived in Guyana on Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, 2023. This team consisted of Dr. Veronika Jedkovszky, Dr. Denise Niemira, Dr. Lorraine Emeghebo, Chandra Chunilall, and Peter Gyurkovics.

Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24

On Thursday, March 23, 2023 the Developmental Team had a clinic at the Ptolemy Reid Centre in Georgetown where they saw 5 complex patients, saw 15 patients at a busy audiology clinic, and gave a presentation to all staff on therapeutic supports in developmental paediatric patients.

On March 24, the team traveled to Berbice where they saw patients at the School for Special Needs Children in New Amsterdam. Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Needles saw 25 patients and Margaret Brac completed 11 audiology assessments.

Sunday, March 25, 2023



Both Teams (Development and General) traveled from Georgetown to Warakaba in the Upper Pomeroon River where accommodation was provided at the Longhouse. On the way to Charity, medication was collected from Suddie Hospital for use during the mission. In addition, return transportation from Charity to Warakaba was provided by the Regional Health Officer in Region 2, Dr. Ranjeet Singh.

Monday and Tuesday, March 26 and 27

On Monday and Tuesday, the teams held joint clinics in the Longhouse at Warakaba for patients from Kabakaburi, St. Monica, Karawab and Bat Creek. The Developmental Team saw 23 patients and completed 11 audiology assessments.

Unfortunately, during this time two of our members were diagnosed with COVID-19 and had to be transported back to Georgetown where they were quarantined at Project DAWN. This was devastating news for the entire team as we were all concerned for their health.

Wednesday, March 28

While the General Team continued to work at the Longhouse in Warakaba, the Developmental team traveled to Charity where they held a clinic at the Oscar Joseph District Hospital (OJDH). A total of 25 patients with complex developmental needs were seen at the OJDH.



The total number of patients seen by the General Team (2 physicians) from Monday to Wednesday was **109**.



Thursday, March 30

Since the entire group may have been exposed to COVID-19, it was the decision of the Directors that we would not continue our planned schedule and travel to Moruca for clinics on Thursday and Friday. This was a very difficult decision for us but one that had to be made to safeguard the health of patients in the remote villages of Santa Rosa, Waramuri and Manawarin.

Sunday, April 2

Most members of the team (except the two members with COVID-19, Dr. Clare Mitchell and Yvonne Triesman), departed Guyana for North America. Clare and Yvonne traveled to Linden while those recovering from COVID-19 remained in Georgetown.



Monday, April 3 and Tuesday, April 4

On Monday, April 3 and Tuesday, April 4, patients with developmental disorders, along with their parents/guardians, were seen at the Linden Centre for Special Needs Children (Monday) and the Resource Unit for Special Needs Children, Wismar Hill (Tuesday). A total of 33 patients were seen at the 2 clinics.

On Tuesday evening Clare and Yvonne were joined by the two members who had since recovered from COVID-19 for the trip to North America.

PATIENT VISITS AND REFERRALS:

The total number of patients that were seen during this mission was **257**. Referrals were made as appropriate to Oscar Joseph District Hospital in Charity, Suddie Hospital and Georgetown Public Hospital for tests, further assessment and follow-up. We again collaborated with the Cleft Lip and Palate program (1 patient) and the Georgetown Cardiac Echo lab (3 patients).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The CanGO Team is deeply grateful to the following organizations that supported this mission.

All Saints Catholic Women's League, Strathroy, Ontario

Friends of Serviam, Ottawa, Canada

Guyana Medical Relief, California, U.S.A.

Ministry of Public Health, Georgetown

Regional Health Officer, Region 2

Women for Special Needs Children, Georgetown, Guyana

CanGO is also indebted to the **many** individual donors and volunteers - too numerous to mention – for their continued support of this very worthwhile endeavour.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Although I will still be involved with CanGO, this was my last mission trip to Guyana. I would therefore like to express my gratitude to the CanGO family for their commitment and service to the people of Guyana. Without this group of dedicated professionals, the annual missions would not be possible. I'd also like to thank Amanda Peters who was a very valuable member of the 2023 team and assisted with the organization of this year's mission. We're thrilled that she has consented to be CanGO's representative in Guyana for future missions.

Yvonne Triesman
President
Canada-Guyana Outreach Mission
(519) 657-6061 (WhatsApp)
yet@rogers.com