



Canada-Guyana Outreach Mission

Health Care for Guyana

www.cangomission.org

APRIL 2024 MISSION REPORT

April 2024 Mission Team:

The reason for the April 2024 mission was to complete the 2023 Mission that was cut short because 2 of our members contracted Covid-19. In this mission we concentrated on the Moruca region as well as two Schools for Special Needs Children. As some of the children in the region are malnourished, we gave each child that presented to our clinic a supply of multivitamins plus iron.

The team consisted of 11 members. They are as follows:

Four Physicians: Dr. Veronika Jedlovszky (Pulmonologist/ General Internist), Dr. Andrew Kahnauth (Pediatric Resident), Dr. Clare Mitchell (Developmental Paediatrician and our Medical Director), Dr. Emily Needles (Pediatric Resident).

Two Nurses: Heather Brubaker and Kesharie Courtman

Two Allied Health Professionals: Margaret Brac (Audiologist) and Leila Persaud (Pharmacist)

One local medical student: Alvern Austin

Two Support Personnel: Amanda Peters (local administrator), Rose Bontje.



Wednesday, April 17

The first group arrived in Guyana. On route we met Guyanese blogger, Beatrice Adams, who documented the team's departure from New York. The video was shared on Facebook and brought a lot of attention to CanGO over the next few days.

Thursday, April 18

On Thursday, April 18, the Developmental Team had a clinic at the Ptolemy Reid Centre in Georgetown. The team saw 2 patients with special needs, had a tour of the facility and spoke with the new administrator, Ashford Ambedkar, and staff about plans for a larger clinic in November 2024. The team attended Georgetown Public Hospital and visited the cardiac echocardiogram lab (Ms. Jonette April), the audiology department (Dr. Ruth Quaico) and with Paediatrician, Dr. Maranatha Presaud.



Friday, April 19

On Friday, April 19 the team traveled to Berbice where they saw patients at the School for Special Needs Children in New Amsterdam. Transportation and lunch were provided by Women for Special Needs Children, Georgetown. The team saw 23 patients with complex special needs. Additional members arrived in Georgetown Friday evening.

Saturday, April 20

The team, accompanied by Dr Holly Alexander, travelled to Mahaica and visited a long-term care facility. The facility cares for adults with leprosy and is adjacent to an orphanage which cares for multiple children with special needs. Following the visit, a flat tire was promptly changed by several helpful workmen and we proceeded to a quick visit with Dr Kanauth's grandparents and aunt who live close by. It was a joyful reunion and the team was provided with a much needed cold drink.

Sunday, April 21

The entire team travelled from Georgetown to Moruca where they stayed at the Vincentia Guest House. Several members of the team visited Kumaka Hospital and met with Dr. Singh to prepare for clinic the following day.

Monday, April 22

The team provided health care to patients at the Kumaka District Hospital for patients in Santa Rosa and surrounding areas. This was a very busy clinic. A total of 146 patients were seen: 20 adult males, 85 adult females, 19 boys and 22 girls. Two individuals were successfully fitted with hearing aids for the first time. Many additional patients came with visual needs that were not able to be addressed at this clinic but the plan is to bring an optometrist in the future.

Tuesday, April 23

The team travelled to Manawarin where they saw patients at the Manawarin Health Clinic. A total of 85 patients were seen: 15 adult men, 49 adult women, 4 boys and 17 girls.

Wednesday, April 24

The team travelled to Waramuri where they saw patients at the Waramuri Health Clinic. A total of 93 patients were seen: 12 adult men, 49 adult women, 13 boys and 18 girls.



Thursday, April 25

The team travelled from Moruca to Charity where they saw patients at the Oscar Joseph District Hospital (OJDH). A total of 52 patients were seen: 111 adult men, 21 adult women, 8 boys and 12 girls. In the evening, bags were organized and sorted for storage.

Friday, April 26 – Sunday April 28

The team returned to Georgetown for some well-earned rest and sight-seeing. Team members departed over the weekend.

PATIENT VISITS AND REFERRALS:

The total number of patients that were seen during this mission was **400**. Referrals were made as appropriate to Suddie Hospital and Georgetown Public Hospital for tests, further assessment and follow-up. Two children were referred for echocardiograms and 2 children were referred to Dr. Rajkumar for treatment of cleft lip and palate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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

Friends of Serviam, Ottawa, Canada

Ministry of Public Health, Georgetown

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:

In the 60's, many people left Guyana for a better life in Canada, England and the United States. I was one of those people as I immigrated to Canada in 1969. However, I always wanted to "give back" in some meaningful way to my country of birth. As luck would have it, my opportunity came when I took an audiologist (Johan Pinto) to Guyana to provide medical care to my half-brother who is hearing and speech impaired. During that visit I made arrangements with the Georgetown Public Hospital for Johan to treat other hearing-impaired patients, which he did. A few years later, knowing that I was the Administrative Officer of Otolaryngology in London, Ontario, the President of a medical group from the United States (Brydges) asked me to bring some Canadian Otolaryngologists to Guyana to join her team. Our newly formed Canadian group joined the U.S. group in 2009 and 2012.

In 2013, I registered Canada-Guyana Outreach Mission (CanGO) as a Canadian non-profit organization to provide healthcare to Guyana. The first CanGO mission to Guyana was in 2014. As much as I enjoyed being CanGO's President, it's now time for me to "pass the torch" to a younger group. I have, therefore, resigned from the Board of Directors at our last meeting. Nevertheless, I will still stay involved in any way where I'm needed, but will no longer be travelling to Guyana with the team.

I wish the new Board of Directors all the very best as they continue to provide excellent healthcare to the people of Guyana.

Yvonne Triesman
President
Canada-Guyana Outreach Mission
(519) 657-6061 (WhatsApp)