



# Canada-Guyana Outreach Mission

## *Health Care for Guyana*

[www.cangomission.org](http://www.cangomission.org)

## NOVEMBER 2024 MISSION REPORT

Following the successful visit to Guyana in April 2024, planning began immediately for the planned visit in November 2024. Amanda Peters in collaboration with Yvonne Treisman (past-president) began preparations in Guyana including communication with local, regional and national health officers, discussions with local community leaders, and organization of accommodation, meals and transportation. Medication was organized through HPIC, donations from the Guyana Ministry of Health (albendazole), purchase of specific medications in Canada and use of medication stored in Guyana from the April visit.

### November 2024 Mission Team:

The team consisted of 12 members. They are as follows:

**Four Physicians:** Dr. Veronika Jedlovszky (pulmonologist/ general internist, USA), Dr. Clare Mitchell (developmental paediatrician, Canada), Dr. Elizabeth Peters (general physician, Guyana), Dr Mitch Persaud (paediatrician and allergist, Canada)

**Four Allied Health Professionals:** Margaret Brac (audiologist, Canada), Joel Brac (audiologist, Canada), Indira Geer (optometrist, Canada) and Leila Persaud (pharmacist, Canada)

**One medical student:** Alvern Austin (medical student, Guyana)

**Two Support Personnel:** Amanda Peters (chief operating officer, Guyana), Peter Gyurkovics (pre-medical student, USA) Rose Bontje (support, Canada), Nancy Persaud (support, Canada)



**Thursday November 21, 2024**

Team members Clare Mitchell, Margaret Brac, Joel Brac, Indira Geer, Mitch Persaud, Nancy Persaud and Rose Bontje left from Toronto to travel by air to Georgetown, Guyana. Lela Persaud, pharmacist had arrived several days earlier. Items needed for the clinics accompanied them: medication, hearing aids, prescription glasses, manual patient lifts and 3 wheelchairs. Medication was cleared upon arrival with Guyana customs and the group proceeded to accommodation at the Dawn Project in Liliendaal. A plaque to celebrate the contributions of Mr. Winston Eon Archer and Mrs. Karen Rosala Archer who organized fundraisers over many years was presented and will remain on the wall at Project Dawn.

**Friday November 22, 2024**

The team visited Ptolemy Reid, the national centre for children with disabilities in Georgetown. It was good to meet familiar colleagues from previous visits. Four patients with disabilities were seen for developmental paediatric assessment, two for hearing assessment and one for vision assessment. One patient was reviewed and received a new supply of medication. Toys were donated to the nursery day program at the centre. The team stopped at an orphanage and donated toys, sunglasses and vitamins to the children.

**Saturday November 23, 2024**

An optometry clinic occurred at Project Dawn. In total 19 patients were seen (3 children – 2 male, 1 female, and 16 adults – 4 male and 12 female). All received glasses and sunglasses. Several members visited a local leprosarium accompanied by Dr Holly. Two manual patient lifts were donated: one for a man with limited mobility following a stroke and a second for woman with developmental disabilities, cared for by her mother. A man with a tracheostomy was re-assessed.

**Sunday November 24, 2024**

The team was joined by two Guyanese members: Dr Elizabeth (physician) and Austin (medical student). The group travelled by car, van, and speedboat to Kumaka, on the Moruca River, Region 1, arriving at 1 PM. The group made a visit to Kumaka hospital to prepare for clinic the following day



### **Monday November 25, 2024**

The team ran a full day clinic at Kumaka Hospital. In total there were 161 patient visits which are detailed below.

#### **Kumaka patient visits**

<b>Clinician</b>	<b>Male patients</b>	<b>Female patients</b>	<b>Total patient visits</b>
Audiology	14	20	34
Optometry	13	51	64
Medicine	7	28	35
Paediatrics	9	13	22
Developmental Paediatrics	5	2	7

### **Tuesday November 26, 2024**

The team ran a full day clinic in the village of Waramuri. In total there were 122 patient visits which are detailed below.

#### **Waramuri patient visits**

<b>Clinician</b>	<b>Male patients</b>	<b>Female patients</b>	<b>Total patient visits</b>
Audiology	3	12	15
Optometry	9	40	49
Medicine	5	27	32
Paediatrics	9	7	16
Developmental Paediatrics	7	3	10



**Wednesday November 27, 2024 and Thursday November 27, 2024**

The team travelled to the Pomeroon, in region 2 and ran a full day clinic in the village of Kabakaburi for local patients on Wednesday and a second full day clinic at Kabakaburi for patients from St Monica and Karawab on the following day. In total there were 228 patient visits over the 2 days which are detailed below. Audiology team members made several home visits for patients unable to travel to the clinic. The team divided for overnight accommodation with some staying overnight in Kabakaburi and the others returning to Charity.

**Kabakaburi patient visits**

<b>Clinician</b>	<b>Male patients</b>	<b>Female patients</b>	<b>Total patient visits</b>
Audiology	28	33	61
Optometry	23	51	74
Medicine	18	49	67
Paediatrics	9	5	14
Developmental Paediatrics	6	6	12

**Friday November 29, 2024**

The full team returned to Charity. A small Developmental Paediatric clinic was held at Oscar Joseph Hospital. Two adult patients were also assessed. In total there were 37 patient visits which are detailed below. Three wheelchairs were provided to children with disabilities: one to a patient assessed previously in a small village, one to a patient who had outgrown the previous chair provided by CanGO and one to a patient with a progressive disorder who could no longer walk for long distances. Team members not participating in the clinic completed inventory of the remaining medication and nursing supplies. Medication and vitamins that would expire before November 2025 were donated to Oscar Joseph Hospital.

**Charity patient visits**

<b>Clinician</b>	<b>Male patients</b>	<b>Female patients</b>	<b>Total patient visits</b>
Audiology	6	5	11
Optometry	7	5	12
Medicine	2	0	2
Developmental Paediatrics	7	5	12



In the afternoon the team returned to Georgetown to prepare for the flight home on **Sunday December 1, 2024**.

In total there were 555 patient visits with the team members over 8 days. Details are shown below. Fifty hearing aids were dispensed to a total of 32 people. Prescription glasses were dispensed to 162 people.

#### **Total patient visits**

<b>Clinician</b>	<b>Male patients</b>	<b>Female patients</b>	<b>Total patient visits</b>
Audiology	51	72	123
Hearing aids dispensed			50
Optometry	59	160	219
Glasses dispensed			162
Medicine	32	84	116
Paediatrics	27	25	52
Developmental Paediatrics	27	18	45

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

Clare Mitchell  
President  
Canada Guyana Outreach



