

PROFESSOR PALOMA MOHAMED MARTIN Ph.D
VICE CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA



Paloma Mohamed is Professor of behavior and communications at the University of Guyana and an adjunct Professor of Cultural Diplomats at Trent University. She is currently the eleventh Vice Chancellor and first woman to lead the University in its 57 year history. Prof Mohamed has led the University of Guyana's Transitional Management Committee as its 2nd Chair since Aug 2019. She has been Deputy Vice Chancellor, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement known as PACE, a department which she founded and built over the last 4 years. Prof Mohamed is a Guyanese born behavioral scientist who was educated at the University of Guyana, Harvard University (HIES), the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine for her PhD (2007) and the Centres for Mental Health and Addictions in Canada (2014-15). where she did her post-doctoral work. Her area of specialization is social and behavioral change and in this regard her academic pursuits have dovetailed with serendipity into her work at UG. Prof Mohamed returned to Guyana in 2007 to help resuscitate the failing Centre for Communication Studies and despite her extensive international footprint has remained with UG becoming Director of the Centre for Communication Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chair of the TMC. In committing to UG's becoming a top ranking University, she has functioned as a world class academic, researcher, beloved and inspirational teacher as well as a dedicated and courageous servant leader.

Prof. Mohamed's output as an artist, teacher and scientist have also been widely acknowledged both inside and outside of Guyana. Apart from 3 Guyana Prize for Literature awards Paloma Mohamed been awarded a Presidential Medal of Service in 2012 and the City of New York Award for Culture in 2013. She became the first woman Caribbean Laureate for Excellence in Arts and Letters in 2015 and was again recognized with a National Arrow of Achievement in May 2015.

DR. EMANUEL CUMMINGS
VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA



Dr Emanuel Fitzpatrick Cummings, Currently serves as the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Engagement at the University of Guyana. Is a Fulbright Scholar, a full Member of the British Physiological Society, a Full Member of Health Systems Global and a former Dean Of the College of Medical Sciences UG. A Reader in Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Genetics in the School of Medicine - UG, A visiting Professor in Biochemistry , Molecular Medicine and Genetics at the American University of Barbados . An experienced and successful University Administrator where he pioneered the development of the College of Medical Sciences at the University of Guyana , Transforming the College from 1 Undergraduate Programme to currently 11 . He introduced for the first time programmes such as Dentistry, Optometry, Specialties in Medical Rehabilitation and a significant number of Post-Graduate Programmes in Medicine in Collaboration with GPHC. He has a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry from the University of Central Lancashire. He is an Eminent medical Researcher with a number of Publications in the area of Nutritional Management of Diabetes and Cancer . He has hundreds of Citations and his work has been cited Medical Researchers all over the world . He is an expert in Medical Accreditation and has participated in anumber of Site Visits with the Caribbean Medical Accreditation Authority in Medicine and Allied Health Care Professionals . He was awarded by PAHO/WHO in 2015 for his contribution to Medical Education .

HONORABLE DR. FRANK ANTHONY
MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Dr Frank Anthony graduated from the People's Friendship University, Russia. He has been practising medicine in Guyana since 1993. In 2000, he graduated with a Masters of Public Health in Israel at the Braun School of Public Health (Hebrew University). On returning home, he became the Executive Director of the Health Sector Development Unit, which was responsible for the reorganising of the health sector in Guyana. During his time at the unit, Dr Anthony served as the Project Manager for the World Bank-funded program on HIV Prevention and Control, Inter-American Development Bank-funded Health Sector Program, Basic Nutrition Program, Health Sector Policy and Institutional Development Grant and also for the Global Fund Grant on HIV, TB and Malaria.

In addition to being in clinical practice over the years, Dr Anthony has been teaching at the University of Guyana as an adjunct professor in Public Health. He has also consulted for several organisations in the area of public health. He served as an elected member of the Guyana Medical Council.

Dr Anthony brings many years of parliamentary experience, having served the people of Guyana as the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports (2006-2015) and as the shadow minister of Health (2015-2019).

Dr Anthony has functioned in various capacities including as a Member of the Constitution Reform Commission, Member of the University of Guyana Council, Vice-Chair of the Ethnic Relations Commission, Chairman of Georgetown Prisons Visiting Committee, Member of the Guyana Medical Council and among others.

Dr Anthony is married with two children.

DR. DAMANI PIGGOTT

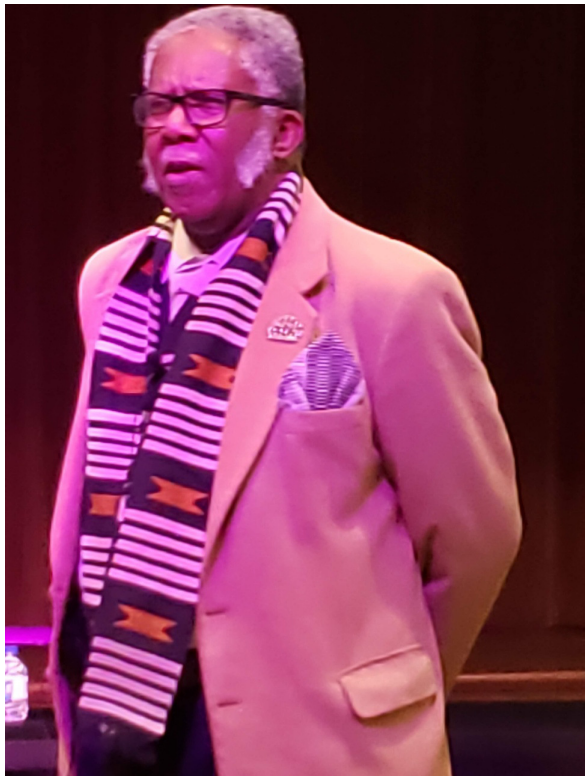
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DAMANI A. PIGGOTT, MD, PhD, MS, MPhil
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Dr. Piggott is Assistant Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Piggott received his B.S. degree in Biology and Spanish from Morehouse College. He subsequently attained his M.D. and Ph.D. in Immunology from Yale. He received board certification in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases, having completed residency training at Yale and fellowship training in Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Piggott has worked on clinical and research projects in urban and rural communities in the Caribbean, the United States, Mali and South Africa. He is actively engaged in the clinical care of patients with HIV and other infectious disease conditions. His current research program centers on understanding the biological, behavioral, and social pathways that impact survival for persons aging with chronic infection.

DR. PATRICK GRIFFITH NEUROLOGY



ABOUT TODAY'S PRESENTER



PATRICK A. GRIFFITH, MD, FAAN

Dr. Patrick A Griffith earned his Bachelor's degree from McGill University in Canada and his medical degree from Howard University, College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. in 1971. He was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha, Honor Medical Society as an alumnus of Howard University in 2012. Dr. Griffith also completed his residency in the Longwood Neurology Training Program through the Harvard-affiliated hospitals in Boston, Massachusetts in June 1975. He served as neurologist at Ehrling Berquist Hospital, Offutt Air Force Base and Omaha, Nebraska until 1977. Dr. Griffith was appointed Assistant Professor of Neurology at Emory School of Medicine and Deputy Chief of Neurology at Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta GA from July 1977 to June 1979. He spent the majority of his career on the faculty of Morehouse School of Medicine. At Morehouse, he served as the chief of Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine and later Adjunct Professor of Clinical Medicine until June 2013. During this time, he was the Atlanta site PI for both the NIH funded Stroke Prevention and Intervention Research Program (SPIRP) and the African American Anti-Platelet Stroke Prevention Study (AAASPS). Dr. Griffith also had three other academic appointments: (a) Professor of Neurology and Medical Director of the Clinical Research Center at Meharry Medical College in Nashville Tennessee from July 2005 to September 2008; (b) Professor of Clinical Medicine at Saba University School of Medicine | Saba, Dutch Caribbean from March 2015 to April 2016; and (c) Adjunct Professor of Neurology

DR. DOUGLAS COLLINS HEMATOLOGY



Dr. Collins has practiced hematology-oncology in the Atlanta area for greater than 36 years. He graduated from the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington. He followed with a residency at Grady Memorial Hospital and a fellowship in hematology-oncology at Emory University. He currently practices in downtown Atlanta utilizing two teaching hospitals Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center and Emory University Midtown.

Dr. Collins was the medical director for the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery program Atlanta Medical Center and throughout the Wellstar medical system. He currently practices general oncology as well as benign and malignant hematology. He was a recipient of Atlanta Medical Association's Physician of the year for 2007. He was also a recipient of the first Ragsbert Phillips Award for the Contribution of the Healthcare of Women. He was recently voted outstanding clinical instructor by the residency program at Atlanta Medical Center-Wellstar. His other interest includes Sickle Cell Anemia, he manages the largest private Sickle Cell practice in the country with more than 450 patients specializing in transition from childhood to adult care. He is a member of the Atlanta Medical Association, the Georgia State Medical Association, and the National Medical Association.

DR. YANICK VIBERT

NEONATOLOGY



Yanick M. Vibert, DO, MPH, FAAP is an Attending Neonatologist whose passion for and involvement with global health spans nearly two decades. Dr. Vibert is a first generation American of Haitian descent. Her Grandmother launched her public health career in childhood by teaching her to “not forget to speak for those who are unable to do so for themselves.”

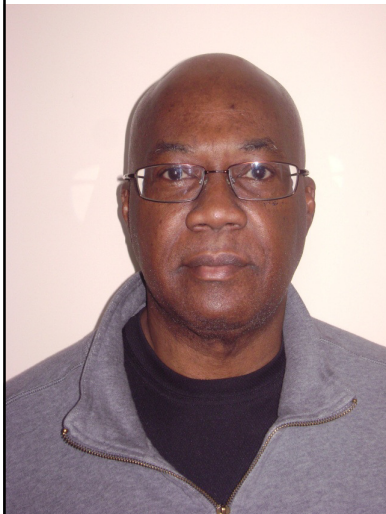
Dr. Vibert earned her BS in Natural Sciences with a Biology concentration at Spelman College and her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed a rotating internship at St. Clare’s Hospital and Medical Center, her pediatric residency at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital and neonatology fellowship at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. Inspired by the public health catastrophe that unfolded with the Haitian earthquake in 2010, Dr. Vibert went on to earn her Master of Public Health (MPH) with a Maternal Child Health concentration from Harvard School of Public Health.

Her Neonatology career converged with her long-time public health service when she became a master trainer with the Helping Babies Breathe Neonatal Resuscitation Program in May 2010.

Helping Babies Survive (Helping Babies Breathe, Essential Care for Every Newborn, Essential Care for Small Babies) an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and World Health Organization (WHO) is an evidence based educational program geared towards reducing neonatal mortality by teaching resuscitation techniques to providers in resource limited settings. Over the last decade, she has trained over 200 health care providers across three continents. Since 2002, Dr. Vibert has been involved with and continues to work to support community based Maternal Child Health capacity building projects in Haiti, Guyana, Cuba, Uganda, and The Gambia. She has also developed educational sessions geared towards the medical providers in these countries. She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics with Drexel University College of Medicine, adjunct faculty with Dornsife School of Public Health Global Studies Department, and an Attending Neonatologist at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children and Hahnemann University Hospital. Dr. Vibert is the recipient of the March of Dimes Roosevelt Award for Service to Humanity (2014). She has also been featured in Philadelphia Magazine Top Doctors Edition, ‘The Global Health Warriors’.

DR. KELWYN THOMAS

MICROBIOLOGY



Dr. Kelwyn Thomas received his BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Alberta, Edmonton in 1971 and his PhD in Biology from the University of California, San Diego in 1989. He completed postdoctoral studies in Immunology (1989-1991) at CALTECH in the laboratory of Dr. Leroy Hood. Dr. Thomas was recruited to the Morehouse School of Medicine in 1991 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience under the sponsorship of the National Institutes of Health Research In Minority Institutions (NIH/RCMI) program to provide lecture and research expertise at MSM in Molecular Biology, Genomics and Bioinformatics. During his tenure at MSM he established the RCMI Molecular Genetics Core Facility to provide MSM faculty with state-of-the-art access to molecular techniques such as DNA sequence analysis and real-time PCR analysis. He was a founding faculty member of the MSM Neuroscience Institute and the MSM Co-operative Reproductive Science Research Center.

He is actively involved in teaching in both the Medical and Graduate curriculum and has had active NIH funded research programs in circadian biology in the Neuroscience Institute and male and female Reproductive biology in the Co-operative Reproductive Science Research Center. Dr. Thomas is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurobiology. He has continued to maintain active research and teaching activities in the Medical and Graduate Research programs at MSM and has published his research in a number of peer reviewed journals.

Dr. Thomas is a member of a number of Professional Societies including the Developmental Biology Society, Society for Biological Rhythms, Society for Neuroscience, Society for the Study of Reproduction, the Society of Andrology and Sigma Xi. He has served as a reviewer for the Journal of Reproductive Biology, Journal of Andrology, Journal of Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology. Dr. Thomas has actively served on a number of NIH grant review study Sections, the Department of Defense (DOD) Breast Cancer grant review study sections and the Ford Foundation Scientific Review Panels.

Dr. Thomas has presented his research findings and has acted as Session chair at several National and International Conferences including the Annual Conference on Isoenzymes and Gene Families, the International Conference of Caribbean Brain Research, Gordon Research Conferences on Chronobiology and Mammalian Gametogenesis and the Cold Spring Harbor symposium on Developmental Regulation of Gene Expression. He has recently been a member of the Jamaican University Accreditation Council site visit team.

Dr. Thomas is an active member of the Atlanta All Saints Episcopal Church, the Guyana Association of Georgia, the Caribbean Heritage Association, the Linden Fund USA that has sponsored STEM and teacher Education workshop over the last ten years in Guyana, and the Breezes Global Medical Mission group that has provided patient medical care, supplies and equipment to several of the regions and hospitals in Guyana over the last eight years.

DR. DONALD WALLERSON

CARDIOLOGY



Dr. Donald C. Wallerson received his undergraduate degree from City University of New York / Hunter College Medical College in New York, New York.

Dr. Wallerson's internal medicine training was completed at Montefiore Hospital Medical Center / Albert Einstein University. Cardiology training was initially at Montefiore Hospital Medical Center / Albert Einstein University with a concentration in echocardiography completed at the New York Hospital, Cornell University. Dr. Wallerson then joined the medical staff at the New York Hospital, rising to the level of associate professor of medicine & cardiology and director of the echocardiographic laboratory at the then affiliated North Shore University Hospital.

Armed with board certifications in internal medicine and cardiology, Dr. Wallerson started a consultative cardiology practice that has grown over the last 25 years into a vibrant service to his community.

Dr. Wallerson continues his specialization in echocardiography, emphasizing its use in preventative management of patients with risk factors for coronary artery disease, focused on Diabetes, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia. A well-trained staff of assistants expedites timely appointments and interacts with patients in a friendly and professional manner that reflects the personal relationship Dr. Wallerson establishes with all of his patients.

Dr. Donald C. Wallerson is a member of The Association of Black Cardiologists, The American Society of Echocardiography, The American Medical Association and has had the honor of being inducted as a fellow of The American College of Physicians. He continues to lecture at the Cornell Medical School summer program and has for the last 10 years hosted community health fairs organized by his practice.