



Message from Dr. Tyrone Smith President, Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica

"Pharmacists Advancing Health Care Through Innovation, Policy and Practice"

It is with profound gratitude, pride, and optimism that I welcome you to the 41st Annual Pharmaceutical Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (PSJ). This gathering represents far more than a professional conference; it is a celebration of our collective commitment to advancing healthcare, strengthening our profession, and improving the lives of the people we serve.

This year's theme, **"Pharmacists Advancing Health Care Through Innovation, Policy and Practice,"** perfectly captures the evolving role of pharmacists as leaders, advocates, innovators, and trusted healthcare professionals. It also reflects the journey of our Society as we continue to shape the future of pharmacy and healthcare in Jamaica.

This conference is particularly significant as we join with the **Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP)** in celebrating its **50th Anniversary**. For half a century, CAP has been a driving force for professional excellence and regional collaboration, and we are honoured to share in this historic milestone. As Caribbean pharmacists, we are united by a common purpose and an unwavering belief in the power of our profession to transform healthcare across the region.

As I participate in my final conference as President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica, I do so with a deep sense of appreciation for the privilege of serving and representing this noble profession. The trust placed in me by our members has been both humbling and inspiring. Together, we have demonstrated that pharmacists are not merely participants in healthcare—they are architects of its future.

Over the past several years, the Society has taken meaningful steps to advance all three pillars of this year's theme. We are leading discussions with the Ministry of Health and Wellness on the development of national policy for electronic prescribing and electronic dispensing, helping to lay the foundation for a more integrated, efficient, and patient-centred healthcare system. We have championed professional advocacy through engagement with the Jamaican Association of Private Pharmacy Owners to establish greater structure and standardization in pharmacists' compensation and benefits. We have strengthened the ethical foundations of our profession through the revision of the Society's Professional Code of Ethics and by advocating for the recognition of ethics-focused continuing education as a component of pharmacists' annual re-registration requirements. Equally important has been our commitment to professional development. Through our annual conferences and educational programmes, the Society has facilitated more than **400 continuing education credits**, empowering pharmacists to remain competent, relevant, and prepared for an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

Beyond the walls of our pharmacies, pharmacists have also answered the call to national service. Following the passage of Hurricane Melissa, members of the Society played a leading role in relief and recovery efforts, demonstrating compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of our fellow colleagues and citizens.

As we gather this week, I encourage each participant to embrace every opportunity to learn, engage, and be inspired. The knowledge shared, the conversations held, and the relationships forged during this conference have the potential to influence practice, shape policy, and spark innovations that will benefit generations to come.

On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica, I extend sincere appreciation to our sponsors, exhibitors, partners, and speakers. Your support and investment in pharmacy education, professional development, and healthcare advancement have made this event possible. We are truly grateful for your continued partnership and confidence in our profession. I particularly want to thank the conference committee who have pulled out all the stops and raised the bar to execute yet another brilliant display of excellence.

The future of healthcare will belong to those who are prepared to innovate boldly, advocate courageously, and practice with excellence. As pharmacists, we are uniquely positioned to lead that transformation. Let this conference renew our sense of purpose and strengthen our resolve to be agents of progress within our profession and our healthcare systems. Together, let us continue **advancing healthcare through innovation, policy, and practice**—not merely as a conference theme, but as a call to action. Let us be the generation of pharmacy professionals that embraces change, influences policy, elevates practice, and leaves a legacy of healthier communities and stronger healthcare systems for Jamaica, the Caribbean, and beyond.

I wish you a rewarding, enlightening, and memorable conference.

Dr. Tyrone G. Smith
President
Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica