

Dr. Robert A. Clarke On Frontline, Fighting Against COVID-19

By Mark D. Milward

Dr. Robert A. Clarke, New Jersey internist at East Orange General Hospital and president of HELP Jamaica Medical Mission has been on the frontline treating patients infected with COVID-19 since mid-March. Taking time from his 16-hour day schedule, Clarke shared some of his insights with *The West Indian American*.

Traveling between East Orange General and nursing homes in the area, Dr. Clarke has treated more than one hundred patients ranging in ages 19 to 91 years old. "Patients are treated with various medications including vitamins to boost their immune systems as well as medications that fight infectious disease, Clarke said.

He further adds, "This is something we always see in the movies and never expected to see in real life. We got it wrong from the onset, and by that I mean, the government and health experts. We had

the chance of staying ahead of the game had the government moved more swiftly in taking the actions of shutting down borders, social distancing, wearing masks, and practicing other vital precautions.

If warnings given by the World Health Organization (WHO) such as procuring enough life-saving equipment like ventilators, and PPE to protect frontline healthcare workers, many more lives could have been saved."

As the immediate past president of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive (NAJASO), Dr. Clarke continues as a leader in healthcare home and abroad, serving on medical missions to Jamaica, the Caribbean and Africa.

NAJASO recently donated \$10,000US to Jamaica in the fight against COVID-19. The West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc., which is a founding member organization of NAJASO honored Dr.

Clarke at its 69th Anniversary Ball for his outstanding services in health care to communities in the US Northeast.

When asked what further steps needed to be undertaken as we continue to fight through this pandemic, Clarke said: "We need to check thoroughly those who have recovered from the disease to see if they built some kind of immunity or if they can become re-infected." The blood of recovered patients has the potential from which a serum can be made to develop antibodies and perhaps immunity against COVID-19."

Clarke, who is the cousin of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, D-NY, has been conducting medical missions to Jamaica for the past 15 years, also serves as the chief medical advisor for the Northeast Health Sector's healthcare consortium. This is a group recently established by Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC). According to the Northeast representative Karren Dunkley, PhD, the goal is to address healthcare con-



Dr. Robert A. Clarke

New CURET Virtual Summer Program

By Carol Johnson

CURET Distant Learning Summer Program, starting July 6, 2020, shifts gear to help address academic gaps or summer learning loss. Now it is a good creative time for students to catch up with the academics.

In the midst of the fierceness of COVID-19, CURET's virtual teaching and learning approach is the answer for K-12 students. CURET has a 'stay-at-home' curriculum.

The switch from traditional pedagogical practices to novel models of distance teaching—teleteaching—a new tool in the educational toolbox of many schools, particularly those in resource-poor urban centers with limited resources.

Besides, teaching homebound students impacts not only the students, but their parents and families, and a host of several interconnected systems—social services, children with special needs, childcare, transportation, meal distributions for families depending on schools for this service—just to name a few of the challenges and networks that must be synchronized.

In addition, parents face dilemmas with dual roles—dealing with on-the-job demands of their workplaces while at-home schooling their children who are at different levels of the education ladder. This is a rather challenging task for many parents who are neither

trained nor skilled to deliver instruction at the various levels the instructions demand.

Many households have children in kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school grades, plus the fact of schools using varied social media applications for virtual teaching and learning. What a conundrum!

Above and beyond the novelty of innovative teaching-learning experiences and home-schooling is the unfamiliarity with the social media applications schools are using, and loss of learning and regression are real.

It is not atypical for parents to spend chunks of time trying to debug fickle and pesky social media issues. Many parents consider teaching their children a monumental undertaking as they comply with the new "required normal" dubbed 'stay-at-home.' In fact, tasked with working from home in addition to teaching their children are new-fangled challenges.

For parents who are not trained as educational instructors this can be a nerve-racking experience. Nevertheless, many parents (some give up) give it their all for the sake of their children's success.

Another element for consideration: The longer students are out of school and their physical classrooms, they are missing out on social and emotional learning and development opportuni-

ties, and learning to work with others outside their home environment. So what to do? Many parents are asking! Don't give up; help is on the way.

For the past 26 years, the Center for Urban Research, Education, and Training (CURET) has been offering solid educational summer programs, and kept students at all levels engaged in and outside the classroom, making learning both work and fun. In doing so, CURET has helped to reduce summer learning slide; enhanced the academics with Tutoring, Enrichment, and Recreational Programs via field trips.

This year, in keeping with the social-distancing and stay-at-home mandates, CURET is retrofitting its programs, adapting and switching gear to a virtual project-based teaching and learning experience for students in all grades, starting July 6 with the same quality program that students, parents and families have grown to love, expected and enjoyed over the years.

The components of the summer program are in the final stages of development with fine-tuning, and to be announced in a couple of weeks.

Stay tuned for more information! Contact CURET at 860-985-5172, email: info@curetinc.org.

cerns in the New England region, especially the heightened concerns surrounding health disparities brought to light as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

In the fight against this pandemic Dr. Clarke has suffered the loss of colleagues who have succumb to this deadly virus. Yet he continues to put his life at risk

to save the lives of others.

Our prayers go out for his safekeeping and well being as he continues the fight to save lives.

Much gratitude is extended to Dr. Robert Clarke and all frontline workers fighting this pandemic.

Consumer Protection Urges Businesses To Be Wary Of Money Order Fraud

HARTFORD, CT: The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) is warning businesses about check and money order fraud. While this is not a new type of scam- bad actors are often more likely to take advantage of businesses in times like these, when they are already facing hardship.

DCP recently received a complaint from a business about money order fraud that works like this:

- A business that provides services, and requires a deposit, receives an inquiry from a poten-

tial customer.

- That customer agrees to use their services, signs a contract, and sends a check or money order for their deposit, but the check is for two or three times the amount that was agreed upon.

- The customer then asks the business owner to return the overpayment amount. *Remember, it can take a couple of days for a check to clear the bank.*

- After the business owner has paid the customer back, they find that the check has bounced, or the money order is fraudulent – and that business

Continued on Page 2

Money Order Fraud

Continued from Page 1

Here's what you can do to protect yourself:

- If a check or money order looks fraudulent, or you receive it under suspect circumstances, call the issuing institution to verify its legitimacy.
- If you ever receive an overpayment for services, and a customer requests a refund, be suspicious, and always wait until their check clears to issue a refund.
- Be wary of doing business with someone who commits immediately, without asking questions.

“Small businesses are unfortunately often the target of scam artists – especially when they’re already facing challenges and may be more likely to act quickly,” said Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull, “We want to remind businesses to be diligent, and vet their customers carefully, especially when someone seems almost too eager to do business. If anyone feels they have fallen victim to a scam

– we want to hear from them.”

“Small businesses are facing unprecedented challenges right now due to COVID-19, and scammers are looking to exploit those hardship for personal gain. If you receive an overpayment via check or money order, wait until the check clears to process the refund,” said Attorney General Tong.

“Many people don’t realize that money orders and cashier’s checks can be fraudulent too,” said BBB Connecticut Spokesperson Luke Frey, “Small business owners need to be especially cautious and should never cash a check from a customer who is knowingly overpaying and requesting to be reimbursed.”

Anyone who feels they have been targeted by fraud – whether or not they have fallen victim – is encouraged to file a complaint with DCP by visiting

Caribbean American Legislative To Address US-Caribbean Strategic Engagement

WASHINGTON, DC: Plans are underway for this year’s observance of National Caribbean American Heritage Month (NCAHM) in June, which will mark the 14th anniversary of this designation. Fourteen years ago, U.S. President George Bush signed the Proclamation designating June as Caribbean American Heritage month.

The designation recognizes contributions of Caribbean nationals to the social and economic developments of the United States.

It also acknowledges the longstanding good relations that exist between the Caribbean region and the United States of America.

Celebrations are held in cities across the United States where there are significant Caribbean American communities. Each year in June Caribbean American Heritage Month is celebrated with varied activities.

In Washington, DC, the Caribbean American Legislative Week addresses key issues affecting Caribbean Americans as well as US/Caribbean relations. Members of

Congress and the U.S. administration including the White House and U.S. State Department will participate in a series of meetings and briefings. Representatives of the Organization of American States, the CARICOM Diplomatic Caucus, the International Financial Institutions (IFI’s) including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and World Bank also participate in the deliberations.

This year, Caribbean American Legislative Week will be held June 2–8 under the auspices of the Washington-based Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), which spearheaded the lobby for the designation of June as Caribbean Heritage Month and the annual celebrations. The patrons of the week’s activities are members of Congress Hon. Barbara Lee and Hon. Yvette Clarke

Co-Chairs of the Planning Committee for this year’s Legislative Week activities are former Guyanese diplomat Wesley Kirton, and Eric Walcott, ICS director of Strategic Partnerships. This is the sixth year that Kirton, chair of the Private Sector Council of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) and president of the Guyanese American Chamber of Commerce (GACC), co-chairs the planning committee.

Among the major achievements of the work of ICS and its Legislative Week activities is the advocacy for the introduction and passage of a Bill in the U.S. Congress,

Continued on Page 3



Congresswoman Barbara Lee

5G Radiation And The Coronavirus



Mark Millard

In the mist of the global pandemic of Coronavirus and the resulting COVID-19 disease, the question is being asked whether there is any connection between the emissions of 5G radiation from wireless communication towers as being the cause of the Coronavirus? The answer to that question is “no.” There is no scientific evidence or peer reviewed studies that show any correlation between 5G radiation and COVID-19.

Continued on Page 3



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Continued from Page 2

The fact that 248 scientists from 42 nations signed a letter that was sent to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) warning against the dangers of 4G/5G radiation as a health risk, does not establish any finding that supports a connection between 5G radiation and COVID-19.

This warning letter was sent to the UNEP in a letter dated July 22, 2019 by the EMF Scientist.org organization. To date, no response to the warning letter has ever been received.

As the spread of radio frequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMF) is expanding worldwide, the risks to health and its adverse effects on human health is still being examined.

The World Health Organization (WHO) classified RF-EMF as "possible carcinogenic to humans." Other preliminary observations have shown that the millimeter waves (MMW) generated by 5G networks "increase skin temperature, alter gene expression, promote cellular proliferation and synthesis of proteins linked with oxidative stress, inflammatory and metabolic processes, could generate ocular damages, and affect neuro-muscular dynamics."

Doctors and psychotherapists in Germany oriented in the field of environmental medicine sent an open letter to the German Chancellor. The letter announced that they "see a connection between radio interference, immunodeficiency, and global epidemic. Man is a bioelectromagnetic being, the living cells have electrical potentials (in the millivolt range) on the cell membranes. Their function can be disturbed by low-frequency electrical fields and radio."

The radiofrequency radiation emitted from 5G networks has also been linked to cancer in scientific studies. Many in the global Jamaican Diaspora continue to speculate on whether or not 5G radiation is the cause for the Coronavirus. 5G towers already installed are being burned down and destroyed at locations in Europe and in Africa.

The Nigerian government has called for a moratorium and a halt to the deployment of 5G radiation antenna installations in Nigeria. The Nigerian Senate has officially suspended deployment of 5G pending the outcome of an investigation into the potential adverse health effects caused by electromagnetic frequency radiation (EMF).

U.S Senator Richard Blumenthal, D-CT, a recognized champion in Congress and leading the inquiry on what efforts are being undertaken in the wireless communications industry to conduct studies on the harmful effects of EMF.

There are currently 5G antennas in the Greater Hartford area and the other regions in Connecticut. The inquiry regarding the safety of EMF continues in Congress and is still being examined by Senator Blumenthal.

With over 500 scientific studies done that have proven a link between electromagnetic frequency radiation and cancer, there is no current investigation or research being conducted within the telecommuni-

5G Radiation

cations industry to investigate or address the concern of the adverse health effects of 5G radiation to plants, animals, and humans.

The current effort within the scientific and health communities is to stop the dominance of the mobile radio and wireless communications lobby whose intent is on expanding the technology and making money, instead of a focus on

promoting safe practices that ensure the health, safety, and prosperity for all citizens of the world.

For more information and discussion, visit: <https://stop5ginternational.org/international-stop-5g-global-protest-day-webinar-panel-presentation/?fbclid=IwAR2Qwp3XAiU3WE9cU9Py6SAdSpk0VOjkEqdKzatQfqvVfDGMGAMWQZSryKs>.



A Historical Perspective: Celebrating 70 years of the Founders and Members of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc. (Thursday, June 11, 2020 @ 7pm EST)

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Caribbean Americans own the unique distinction of having participated in every US National and International conflict beginning with the American Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783); American Civil War (1861-1865); World War I (1917-1918); World War II (1941-1945); Korean War (1950-1953); and the Viet Nam War (1955-1975) (africanamericans.com; Ward, 2012)

Hartford, Connecticut Caribbean Migration During World War II
US Naval vessel USS David C. Shanks departed Kingston Harbor May 7, 1943 with 4000 Jamaican farm workers and landed in New Orleans, Louisiana May 10, 1943. US Naval ship records that details the day-by-day incidents these men experienced on the voyages of the USS Shanks and the USS George Washington t America will be covered. "The Jamaica Diaspora Show" / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1i19hoL4PII&t=320s>.

'The Long Arc of Caribbean Mobility and Migration'



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US-Caribbean Engagement

Continued from Page 2

entitled The U.S. Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (HR 4939), which was signed into law by the US President Barack Obama in December 2016.

ICS President Dr. Claire Nelson said that the Act, which covers a menu of sectors for collaboration between the US and the Caribbean including diplomacy, security, trade and investment, energy, education and health provides for enhanced U.S. support for the development of these sectors in the Caribbean region, will be an integral part of the deliberations this year along with the extension of the Caribbean

Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBREA).

"This year we will be crafting an agenda which speaks to the need for specific action, implementation of a range of initiatives. These are necessary to give more positive and impactful meaning to the instruments in place to enhance Caribbean-US relations and the quality of life of the people in the region. The issue of correspondent banking relations will also feature again on the agenda," Kirton said.

He pointed out that with the closure of Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA) at the end of 2018, the responsibility has fallen on ICS to "intensify our work" and to serve as an even "louder" voice in support of enhanced US/Caribbean relations.

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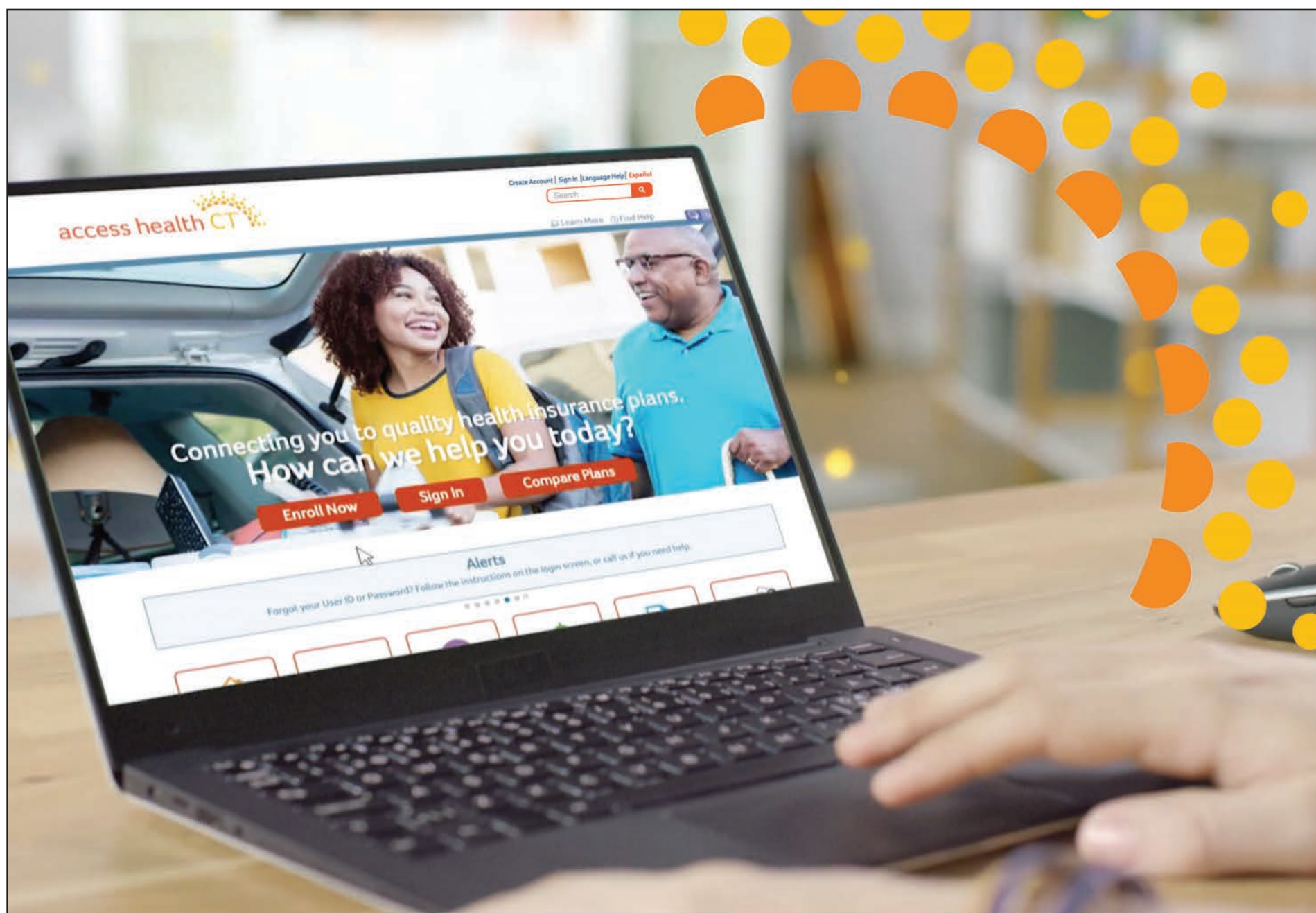
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