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Jamaican-Born Karen Nelson Named One Of Top 25 Women In Biotechnology In 2022



Dr. Karen Nelson

By Stephanie Korney

Microbial genomics and metagenomics expert, Jamaican Karen Nelson, chief scientific officer of Thermo Fisher Scientific, has been listed as one of the Top 25 Women Leaders in Biotechnology for 2022 by the Healthcare Technology Report.

Karen Nelson is a Jamaican-born pioneer in the field of the human microbiome and the author/co-author of over 220 peer-reviewed publications. She has a B.Sc. in agriculture and animal science from the University of the West Indies, an M.Sc. in animal science from the University of Florida, and earned her Ph.D. in animal science and microbiology from Cornell University.

Prior to joining Thermo Fisher in 2021, Nelson worked for some years with the nonprofit J. Craig Venter Institute and was its president from 2012 to 2021.

She was born in Jamaica where her interest in nature began when she was very young. She had planned to become a veterinarian, but once she took human and animal nutrition classes in college, she became enamored of microbiology. Her interests brought her to study ruminant microbiology at Cornell and she learned that an animal's native microbial populations could be critical to its health and well-being. She became a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Genomic Research in 1996, researching archaea.

At the Institute, she was noted for her research on *Thermotoga maritima*. Since then, she has advanced in her profession to become a leader in microbial and metagenomics research. Nelson shared that she is interested in microbes because these "simple" organisms are actually much more complicated than originally thought.

Nelson is experienced in microbial ecology, microbial genomics, microbial physiology, and metagenomics. She has headed numerous efforts in genomics and metagenomics and led the first human metagenomics study, which was published in 2006.

Nelson has edited three books and serves as editor-in-chief of the Microbial Ecology journal and PNAS Nexus, a journal from the National Academy of Sciences. She was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences and is an American Academy of Microbiology Fellow. Nelson is also an honorary professor at the University of the West Indies and a Helmholtz International Fellow.

The Healthcare Technology Report selected the women on its list on the basis of a detailed analysis of hundreds of nominations, professional milestones achieved, demonstrated expertise in their respective domains, and how long they have worked in the field of biotechnology. The selection also considered input from colleagues, industry influence, and honors and recognition previously receive.

(Source: Jamaicans.com)

Photo: Thermo Fisher Scientific

Throp X Investment Conference Negril, Jamaica



Mark Milward

The Throp X Investment conference was held at Travellers Beach Resort Hotel November 10-14, 2022 in Negril, Jamaica.

The inaugural event highlighted presentations aimed at investors interested in investment

opportunities in real estate, agriculture, general business start-up, home purchase information, and included presentations from Barita Investments, Sagcor Investments and National Commercial Bank (NCB) Capital Markets on investing in the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE).

The conference attracted participants that attended in-person and virtually from Diaspora locations in the US, UK, and Canada. It also provided a wealth of information for those particularly interested in relocating to Westmoreland.

The conference was very comprehensive in its offerings. It provided information for investors, those seeking to start businesses who were current residents in Jamaica in addition to those seeking to relocate. The overall attendance was approximately one hun-

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Throp X Conference 2022, Travellers Beach Resort Hotel, Negril, Jamaica. Panel discussion on investing in the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE). From left: Amashika Lorne (host/moderator), Cleopatra Beharie (NCB Wealth Mgt), Melicia Jones (Sagcor Investments), Lennox Irving (Sagcor Investments),

Throp X Investment Conference



Participants at Throp X Conference 2022

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dred participants who were very much engaged with the offerings of the program.

Bloomberg as the number one stock exchange in the world has rated the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) for the past 4-5 years. Conference participants were able to open brokerage accounts on site and were provided with solid information on stock investments achieving greater than 20% returns.

An individual wanting to relocate to Jamaica would need to know how to secure a mortgage, purchase a home or vehicle, ship goods, or start a business. All of this information was provided and the representatives for these services were present.

The panel discussions

offered opportunities for participants to ask questions for both the in-person attendees as well as those who were attending virtually.

The 4-day event was hosted by Amashika Lorne (Amashika & Associates) and the president of the Negril Chamber of Commerce, Richard Wallace offered incentives for those seeking business start-up opportunities in the region.

The conference was unique in its coverage and will likely expand to a wider audience in the years to come. It is certainly an event that offers services the Diaspora community can appreciate given the fact that attendance can be virtual and accessible to those providing these services can be readily obtained.

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JN Money Store Expands Facility On Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at opening of the expanded JN Money Store facility on Albany Avenue



From left: Horace Hines, general manager of JN Money Services; Consul General Alson Wilson, who returned to Hartford for her second visit in two weeks for the occasion; Sandra Rhone manages the services offered by the JN Money Store at the Albany Ave. facility; Harry Bhoorasingh, senior country manager, JN Money Services, USA

Mark Milward

JN Money held its grand opening of its expanded store facility on Albany Ave with fanfare and a visit from Consul General Alison Wilson. The opening was held on October 1, 2022 in Hartford, Connecticut.

JN Money is an international remittance brand owned and operated by JN Money Services Limited (JNMS), a subsidiary of The Jamaica National Group. The brand adheres to international stan-

dards in its facilitation of money transfers between several countries offering customers services through a network of over 8,000 branch locations. JNMS was incorporated in December 2005 to manage the remittance operations of the group, and to provide a suite of services, that include money transfers and bill payment. The Hartford location opened in 2008 is located at 1164 Albany Avenue and enjoys a reputation of delivering excellent customer service.

Harry Bhoorasingh, senior country manager, commented: “Since opening of the branch fourteen years ago, we have enabled families in Connecticut, and Hartford in particular, to maintain connection with their loved ones back home. Our services allow them to send funds home to fulfill obligations in Jamaica, as well as to provide for family members, and have enabled many to achieve their dreams of home ownership, savings and investment and staying in touch

with family. We are very appreciative for the loyalty of our customers and the support from the Hartford community. The renovated and nicer looking branch will provide a more convenient and comfortable space for everyone to do business with us.”

JN Money is available in Antigua, Jamaica, Barbados, Canada, USA, UK, Cayman Island, Haiti, Phillipines, Dominica, Trinidad & Tobago, Ghana, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Donovan Longmore, Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) Connecticut representative stated “The expansion of the JN Money facility is an extreme plus for its members. It truly came at the right time, no more lines out into the cold weather. Individuals can now take care of business and loved ones back home much faster with the addition of added teller service. A job well done by the staff and management of JN, we truly appreciate the services offered.”