



Kaniga,
lymphoma survivor,
and her dad

SickKids[®]

SickKids-Caribbean Initiative

Enhancing Capacity for Care in Paediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders

For children with cancer, where you live plays a major role in determining your likelihood of survival.

In the Caribbean, paediatric cancers and serious blood disorders are often fatal because of a shortage of resources to diagnose and treat children. SickKids Global Child Health staff and physicians are working with six Caribbean countries to build capacity and improve outcomes for affected children.



JAMAICA

The Challenge

Unlike in Canada, countries across the Caribbean do not have a health-care system in place to support optimal management of paediatric cancer—from proactive screening to early diagnosis and fast intervention. This means that some children are not diagnosed until it is too late to save them. Those who are diagnosed early often have difficulty accessing the treatment they need.

The Vision

Working with our Caribbean partners, the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health has developed a five-year plan for addressing the region's gaps in research, care, and education in order to advance the diagnosis and management of paediatric cancer across the Caribbean. The plan includes the following:



BARBADOS

Through a new Global Child Health outreach initiative, SickKids has visited the participating countries to begin developing a strategy to address these limitations. Health experts in the Caribbean have completed a needs assessment, identifying gaps in their ability to accurately diagnose paediatric cancer types, participate in clinical research, and optimize outcomes. These gaps include:

Education | Through Telemedicine, physician envoys, and the International Learner Programme focused on nursing and pharmacy education, the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health will provide customized, hands-on training to local individuals who understand the Caribbean context, increasing the region's in-country health-care capacity.



THE BAHAMAS

- a lack of physicians with specialized training in paediatric cancer care
- limited technological resources, such as the resources required for diagnosing leukemia
- a lack of front-line health-care providers, including nurses and pharmacists
- limited data on the effectiveness of treatments and the epidemiology of paediatric cancer in the region.

Patient Registry | Establishing and maintaining a paediatric oncology patient registry is crucial to tracking patient progress and outcomes. This information will provide clinicians with high-quality data and key outcome measures, which will help them design and evaluate future improvements in care.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Review Board | Establishing paediatric haematology/oncology patient review rounds through a multi-disciplinary cadre of SickKids physicians will support case reviews and expert diagnostics.

Diagnostic Services | Establishing laboratories with the ability to do immunophenotyping of leukemias will enable improvements in diagnosis and early intervention. The program will also update diagnostic services for cancer cases to ensure they are consistent with international standards and best practices.

Sickle Cell Anemia Programs | Promotion of newborn screening and other programs for sickle cell anemia in partnership with the Caribbean islands will ensure more children affected by this disease receive treatment.

Service Delivery | The program will create a new service delivery model for pharmacy, diagnostics, nursing, and laboratory services to improve cancer care access. This stage will involve increasing the knowledge base of primary care practitioners and pharmacists in the region.

Research | Once the Patient Registry has been populated and sufficient data has accumulated, clinician-scientists and researchers will be able to begin studying specific paediatric cancer and blood disorder issues in the Caribbean.

At the helm of this initiative are two world-leading experts in blood disorders, paediatric cancer, and infectious diseases—Drs. Upton Allen and Victor Blanchette—both of whom are based at SickKids. They will collaborate with health experts in the Caribbean, gathering information and developing strategy specific to this region.

Impact

The inequality between outcomes for children with cancer and serious blood disorders in Canada compared with those in the Caribbean is heartbreaking. From SickKids in Toronto, it is only a four-hour trip to the Central Caribbean area, but the disparity between health prognoses in these two regions is profound.

By building capacity in the Caribbean to deal with the fundamental challenges of paediatric cancer and serious blood disorders, this initiative will immediately improve the outlook and outcome for children living on all of the islands in this chain.

The skills, resources, knowledge, and desire to reduce child mortality are at our disposal. Together we will build collaborative solutions and make a difference in the lives of children.



**ST. VINCENT
AND THE GRENADINES**



ST. LUCIA



Our Funding Goals

The Centre for Global Child Health is committed to working with SickKids Foundation to raise \$8 million over five years in support of this project. Gifts for the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative will have a tremendous impact on our ability to advance children's health for a better world.

We are seeking support for this project from donors of all giving levels. Naming opportunities are available for gifts of between \$25,000 and \$2.5 million.

Please consider an investment in support of this initiative, which aims to facilitate improved screening, early diagnosis, and fast intervention for children with cancer and serious blood disorders in the Caribbean.

“As a Jamaican-Canadian, I believe that children who suffer from cancer in the Caribbean should have the same access to diagnostics and therapeutics as children in Canada. An investment in this project will decrease the mortality rate of these children so more of them can live happier and healthier lives. This is why I am proud to champion this partnership.”

– Paul Lee-Chin

*Member, International Committee
SickKids Foundation*

SickKids®

Centre for Global Child Health
555 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X8

PHONE 416.813.7654
FAX 416.813.5024