



Ministerial Statement

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SENIORS,
THE HON. PATRICIA GORDON-PAMPLIN JP, MP
ON: Update on the Pink Conference on Breast Cancer**

**12th July, 2013 at the
House of Assembly**

Mr. Speaker,

I rise this morning to update this Honourable House on the conclusion of the Pink Conference on Breast Cancer which was held at the Earl Cameron Theatre of City Hall earlier this week.

A welcome ceremony was held at City Hall on the evening of July 8, hosted by the Mayor and Council of the Corporation of Hamilton.

On July 9, 2013, the conference opened with a welcome by the Mayor of Hamilton, the Wor. Graham Outerbridge, who, along with his Deputy Mayor, Donal Smith, was instrumental in encouraging this conference to relocate to Bermuda.

The format of the conference was an interactive discussion by an esteemed panel of seven cancer specialists, who shared with a public audience of over 200 participants who were able to attend free of charge. Specialists presented their information on both a clinical level and in laymen's terms.

Mr. Speaker,

I was in awe of the quality of panelists, and I will set out brief resumes for each:

- **Moderator: Dr. Francis Arena** - Medical Oncologist who is a product of Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and currently holds appointments at North Shore University Hospital and the Long Island Jewish Medical Centre, and assistant editor for the journal Oncology;

- **Dr. Maria Theodoulo** - Oncologist at Memorial Sloane Kettering, and Professor of Medicine at Weil-Cornell University;
- **Dr. Freya Schnabel**- Director of Breast Surgery at NYU Langone Medical Centre, Professor of Surgery at the NYU School of Medicine;
- **Dr. John Lovecchio** - Chief of Gynecologic Oncology (Cervical and Ovarian) at North Shore University Hospital, and Professor of Obstetrics at Hofstra North Shore LIJ School of Medicine;
- **Dr. Marc Citron** - Medical Oncologist - Clinical Professor of Medicine at LIJ Hofstra, and Director of Cancer Services at ProHealth Care Associates;
- **Dr. David Silberman** - Plastic Surgeon with concentration on reconstructive surgery following mastectomy, Plastic Surgery Associates, Doylestown, Pennsylvania; and
- **Dr. Kevin Hughes** - Surgical Oncology team at Massachusetts General, and Medical Director, Bda Cancer Genetics and Risk Assessment Clinic.

While many of the doctors were enjoying their first visit to Bermuda, Dr. Hughes is no stranger. He has worked with the Bermuda Cancer and Health in researching from our population patients who may possess the BRCA 1 and 2 genes, and identifying susceptibility to the mutation of such genes based on family history.

Many would have heard of the very public exposure to the Angelina Jolie elective double mastectomy and subsequent reconstruction, and the similarities in our local population for the genes which led to that decision being taken were amazingly striking. The research being conducted at Bermuda Cancer and Health has been able to drill down on our population, and to identify those for whom there is a greater likelihood of developing breast cancer.

The good news from this conference is that our cancer screening produces results of 90% coverage of the female population in the appropriate recommended age and clinical history range, which surpasses the screening, conducted in the United States and most developed nations.

On July 10, the panel of doctors conducted a CME session for doctors at the hospital. These hospital doctors were able to hear of some of the approaches to oncology, and were able to have their questions answered. Specific case studies were discussed, and information shared on a variety of challenges.

These visiting doctors offered their advice free of charge, and whatever expenses they incurred for travel and hotel did not cost the Ministry any money. There were some local sponsors, Freisenbruch, Meyer and Colonial, who assisted in the success of the conference. The Department of Tourism also hosted a dinner for the doctors, and the office of the Premier provided appreciation plaques for each participant doctor, Bermuda Cancer and Health were able to inform their clients of the event, and the BHB assisted with ground transportation.

This conference is one in the series of conferences that the organizers, Mr. Bill Keegan and Mr. Victor Webb of Innovative Medical Conferences LLC have committed to bringing to Bermuda over the next two years.

The Ministry expresses its appreciation to Innovative Medical Conferences LLC, and to the doctors who contributed selflessly to the success of the conference and the further education opportunity for our local doctors.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.