

HEALTH HERALD

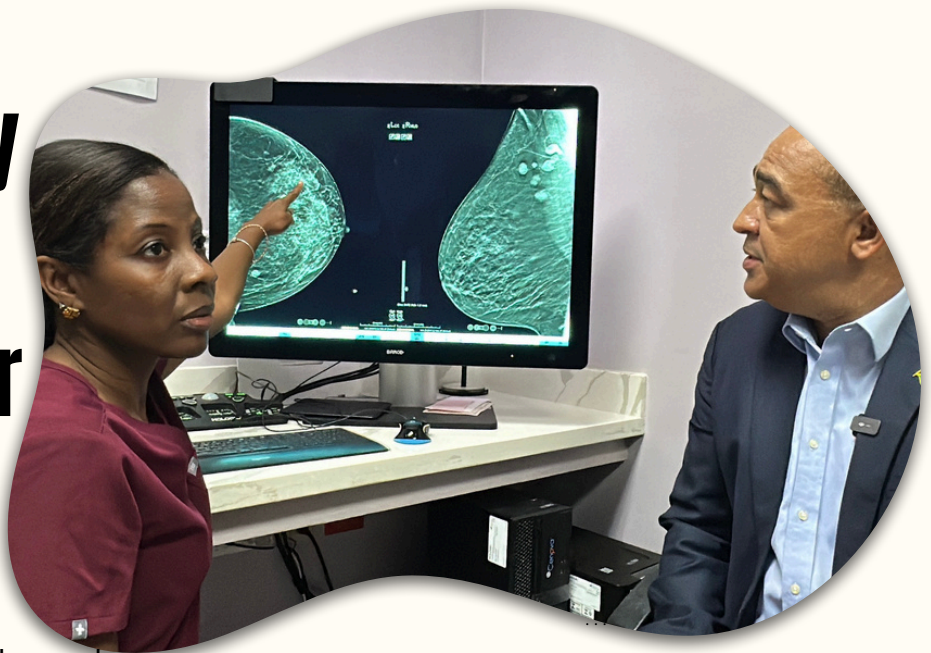
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IN SOLIDARITY WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS

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AI Technology to Enhance Breast Cancer Screening



An artificial intelligence (AI) enhanced breast health tool is set to be introduced to Jamaica as the Ministry of Health and Wellness prioritises breast cancer prevention and early detection efforts.

The proposal for the new technology to support cancer screening featured among the discussions on Monday (May 5) when Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, MP toured the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) with Medical Chief of Staff, Dr. Carl Bruce and members of the facility's clinical leadership.

"From a cancer perspective, we really have to do more in terms of the outreach," Minister Tufton said. "The UHWI has a lot of technology as it relates to breast cancer, but the truth is we have to make this more widescale across the country which is why we have to embrace new technologies which we're working with them on as it relates to getting more initial tests done which will qualify for further screening," the Minister added.

Designed for use in community settings, the radiation-free technology enables quick, non-invasive breast assessments, providing real-time decision support and helping healthcare workers detect those who need additional diagnostic evaluation.

Dr. Gilian Wharfe, Consultant Haematologist/Oncologist at UHWI, described a new diagnostic tool as a gamechanger that will support early breast cancer detection. She noted it will help reach patients in their communities, identify abnormalities sooner, and improve outcomes through earlier diagnosis and treatment.

The tool is being introduced through a partnership with Roche Caribbean, known for its cancer treatment innovations. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among Jamaican women, with over 1,300 new cases and nearly 700 deaths recorded in 2022. One in 21 Jamaican women is projected to be diagnosed with the disease.

Health Minister Condemns Assault on Nurse



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon Christopher Tufton, MP (center) alongside nurses demonstrating unified call for respect and protection for healthcare workers across the island.

Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, MP, has strongly condemned the physical assault of a nurse in an incident that was captured on video and posted to social media.

“This assault, whether on our healthcare workers or Jamaican must not be tolerated,” he added.

The Minister has called on the police to move swiftly to investigate this matter and to ensure that the full extent of the law is applied.

“I implore the public to be respectful and protective of our healthcare workers, as they move about their business in the society,” added the Minister.

The nurse has been treated at the University Hospital of the West Indies and released. The Ministry will continue to offer support to the healthcare worker and family as appropriate.

On Monday May 19, the Minister stood alongside nurses from the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) and the members of the Nurses Association of Jamaica at the UHWI and Heroes Circle demonstrating the unwavering support of our nurses and all Healthcare workers, on every frontline.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS PROTEST



Staff Spotlight

Londi-Ann Ottey

#PeopleInHealth

JOB TITLE/POSITION: Programme Officer, Quality Assurance, Monitoring and Evaluation.

DIVISION/DEPARTMENT/UNIT: HSPI, Family Health Unit

WHAT IS YOUR CORE FUNCTION? To monitor performances, assess adherence to standards of care, document and analyse quality assurance and improvement strategies, and assist with the evaluation of key programmes in the Family Health unit.

MY VISION FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS IS: I envision a data-driven healthcare system in Jamaica, focusing on innovation, collaboration, and evidence-based decision-making for healthier communities and resilient public health infrastructure.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB: I enjoy transforming raw data into valuable insights, transforming programs from discussion stages to direct impact on healthcare workers and patients, and collaborating with diverse teams.

WHICH HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU ATTEND: Merl Grove High School.

FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: One of my favourite childhood memory is the spontaneous weekend beach trips with my family. I especially recall one where I visited the Winnifred beach in Portland, that remains my favourite beach to this day.

FAVOURITE COLOUR: I don't have a favourite colour but I lean more to the neutral tones.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM VACATION: My dream vacation would be an adventurous escape to Australia—exploring the vibrant cities like Sydney or Melbourne, experiencing the natural wonders of the Great Barrier Reef, and the culture of the people.



CREDITS:

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