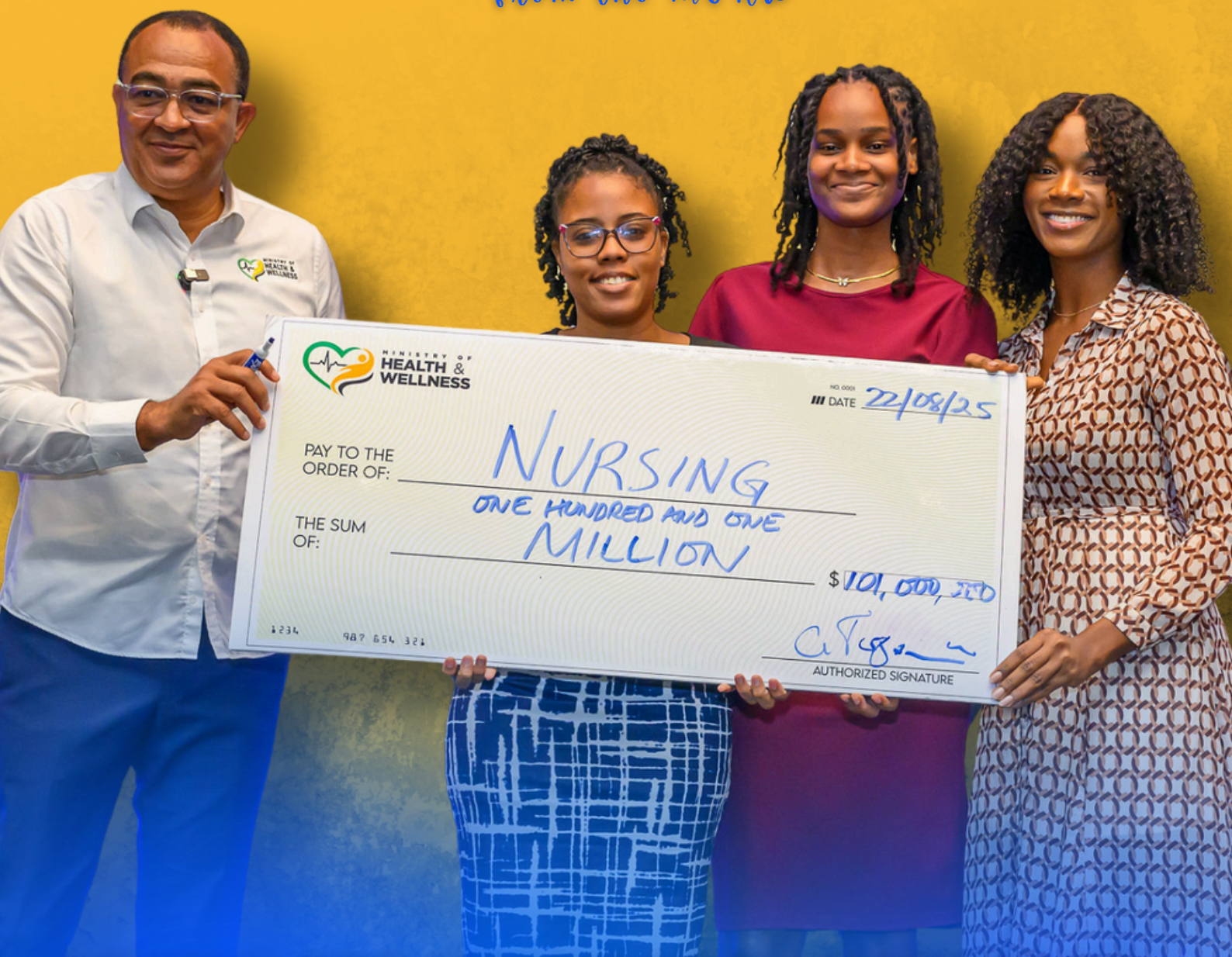


HEALTH HERALD

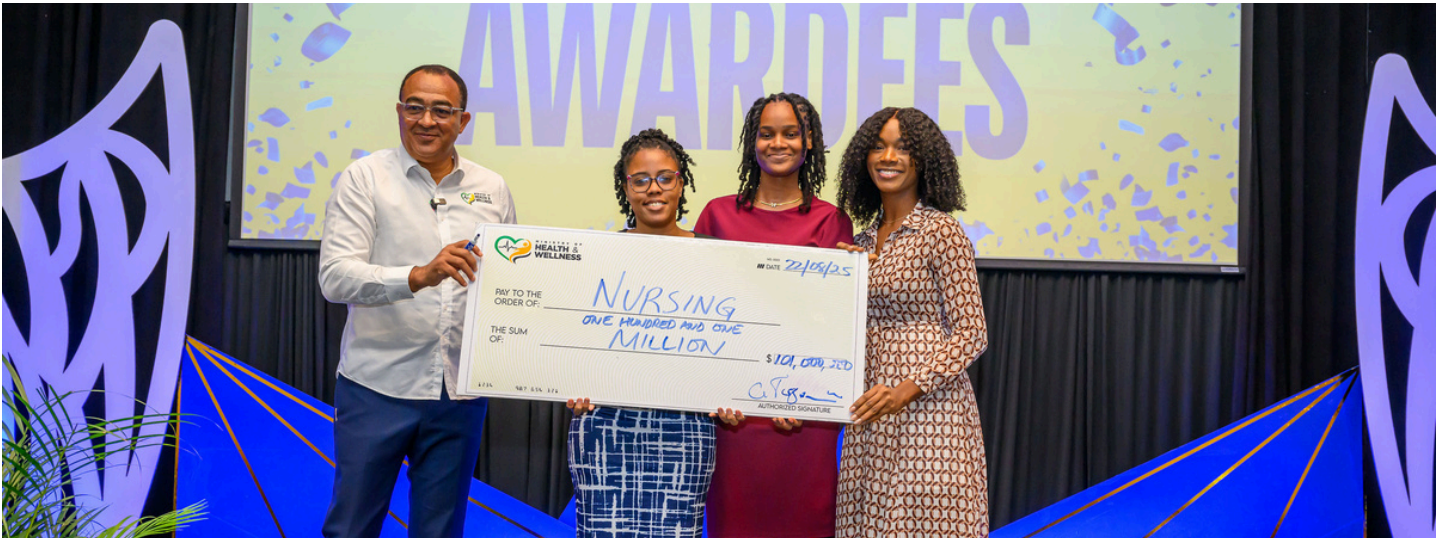
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NEARLY 200 JAMAICANS AWARDED DR. BARRY WINT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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Nearly 200 Jamaicans Awarded Dr. Barry Wint Memorial Scholarship



The Ministry of Health & Wellness continues to invest in building a stronger health workforce, as part of its commitment to transforming Jamaica's healthcare system.

From strengthening primary healthcare to addressing shortages in specialist services, the Ministry's focus remains on ensuring that people are at the centre of health delivery.

As part of this effort, nearly 200 Jamaicans have been awarded the Dr. Barry Wint Memorial Scholarship for 2025. Valued at over J\$281 million, the awards support studies in critical areas such as biomedical engineering, radiology, counselling therapy, medical physics, dental nurse therapy, and advanced nursing and medical education.

The scholarship, established in honour of former Chief Medical Officer Dr. Barry Wint, is designed to help train and retain skilled professionals within Jamaica's health system.

Since its introduction, 38 graduates from the first cohort of 536 recipients have already joined the public health workforce.

Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton CD, MP, commended the recipients, noting that the programme represents a timely investment: "The need for a robust, compassionate and well-trained healthcare workforce has never been greater. We stand at a critical moment where the health workforce across the globe, including here in Jamaica, faces extraordinary challenges especially due to mass migration among staff."

Looking ahead, the programme is expected to steadily increase the number of trained professionals across multiple disciplines, adding hundreds of doctors, nurses, dentists, midwives, and social workers to Jamaica's healthcare system by 2029.

Celebrating Leadership in Public Health

The Ministry of Health & Wellness joins the nation in celebrating two of our own, who have been recognised among Jamaica's 2025 National Honours and Awards recipients.

Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, MP, Minister of Health & Wellness, and Dr. Karen Webster-Kerr, Principal Medical Officer & National Epidemiologist have each been conferred the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) for their outstanding service to public health.

The honour is not only theirs, it is a reflection of what Jamaica can achieve when vision and expertise meet national purpose.

For nearly a decade, Dr. Tufton has steered the Ministry with a steady hand, pressing forward reforms to strengthen primary care, improve health infrastructure, and expand access to services that touch every community. His leadership has reminded us that health is not only about treating illness but about creating environments where people can live well.



Dr. Webster-Kerr has been one of the Ministry's quiet but commanding forces. From guiding Jamaica back to malaria elimination to shaping data-driven responses during the COVID-19 pandemic, her work has safeguarded lives and strengthened our national capacity to respond to public health threats. Her leadership embodies the discipline, precision, and compassion required of modern epidemiology.

The Ministry's success is built on such leadership. Awards like the Order of Distinction are symbolic reminders that service in public health is not invisible, nor is it without impact.

These honours stand as recognition of the thousands of hours of dedication, the difficult decisions made in the nation's best interest, and the sacrifices that public service often demands.

As an institution, we pause not only to congratulate Dr. Tufton and Dr. Webster-Kerr, but also to thank them. Their contributions have shaped a Ministry that is bolder, more resilient, and more responsive to the health needs of Jamaicans.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS: DR. BARRY WINT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY



Staff Spotlight

Monique Robinson

#PeopleInHealth

NAME: Monique Robinson

JOB TITLE/POSITION: Secretary OPS/SS1.

DIVISION/DEPARTMENT/UNIT: HSPI/HSSM (Health Systems Support and Monitoring).

WHAT IS YOUR CORE FUNCTION: My core function is to schedule and process the appointments of officers in the government service.

MY VISION FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS IS: My vision is to help create a healthier and happier Jamaica where wellness is not just a goal, but a lifestyle and everyone would feel empowered to live their best life.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB: What I enjoy about my job is keeping documents organized, meeting new people and knowing what I do, supports the smooth running of the Ministry.

WHICH HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU ATTEND: Jonathan Grant High School.

FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: My favourite childhood memory would be family gatherings filled with laughter, food, music and games that would go late into the night.

FAVOURITE COLOUR: Blush pink.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM VACATION: My dream vacation would be exploring the streets of Paris for the culture and food, then unwinding on a beach in Maldives where the only decision I have to make is 'sunset swim or sunset nap?'



CREDITS:

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