



Gynae-oncologist Dr. Vikash Chatrani (right), who serves as Globe-athon Country Captain for Barbados and Clinical Director of the Barbados Cancer Society, along with Patricia Brathwaite-Marshall (left), Vice President, Group Insurance at Sagicor Life Inc., examine a Globe-athon T-Shirt with Dr. Dorothy Cooke-Johnson, President of the Barbados Cancer Society, at the launch of the 2015 Globe-athon Walk & Run to End Women's Cancers.

Greater focus being put on below-the-belt women's cancer

By Regina Selman Moore

WHILE it is true that breast cancer is the number one women's cancer in the Caribbean, the mortality rate is higher for women afflicted by below-the-belt cancers, than for those who develop breast cancer.

Pointing this out recently was gynae-oncologist, Dr. Vikash Chatrani, who serves as Globe-athon Country Captain for Barbados and Clinical Director

of the Barbados Cancer Society. His remarks came while speaking at the official media launch of The Barbados Cancer Society's Globe-athon 2015 Walk and 5k Run, which was held yesterday in the Executive Board Room, at Sagicor's Wildey Office. Sagicor Life Inc. is the title sponsor once again for the event, which will come off next month.

Dr. Chatrani indicated that five below-the-belt or gynaecological cancers – cervical, ovar-

ian, uterine, vaginal and vulval – account for 19 per cent of the 5.1 million estimated new cancer cases and result in 2.9 million cancer deaths worldwide. Dr. Chatrani added that while less than 25 per cent of the women diagnosed with breast cancer will die as a result of the disease, over 50 per cent of women with cervical cancer and 60 per cent of women with ovarian cancer, will lose their lives to those diseases.

“So we need this to stop. We

need more effort to be focused below-the-belt,” Dr. Chatrani stressed, while noting that the youngest female treated was 15 years old and the eldest, 95 years old.

Reflecting on the Globe-athon 2013 event, Dr. Chatrani noted that over \$50,000 was raised, while in 2014, the figure stood at over \$60,000 and the event keeps getting bigger and bigger. In 2013, the target was 300 walkers, but 1200 turned out, while in 2014, the target was 1500 and close to 2000 persons came out for the Walk and the 5K Run, which was later added.

The funds gathered have been used to improve women's cancer services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and this year will be no different, he

said.

“The funds are already being used at the Colposcopy Unit. As we speak, renovations are ongoing. It's a phased by phased approach. The Colposcopy Clinic was relocated in July. The renovations are going to include streamlined cancer care. Our patients will now be seen in more intimate environs, with the advanced diagnostic equipment at their disposal and this equipment will not only benefit cancer patients, but patients with pre-cancer and other benign conditions,” Dr. Chatrani revealed.

The 2015 Globe-athon Walk & Run will take place on September 13th at 4:00 p.m., starting from the Bay Street Esplanade and looping through Bridgetown.

Early detection and effective treatment key in reducing cancers in females

EARLY detection and effective treatment are a must, if cases of below-the-belt cancers are to be reduced.

This point was made by Vice President, Group Insurance at Sagicor Life Inc., Patricia Brathwaite-Marshall, at the launch of the 2015 Globe-athon Walk & Run to End Women's Cancers, which was held yesterday in then Executive Board Room of Sagicor's Wildey Office.

The 2015 Globe-athon Walk & Run will take place on September 13th at 4:00 p.m., starting from the Bay Street Esplanade and looping through Bridgetown and Sagicor is once again the title sponsor.

Brathwaite-Marshall, noted that since its inception, Sagicor has pledged its support to the Globe-athon Walk & Run, not only through funding, but also by encouraging staff to participate,

since those at the helm of the company believe that positive change and development can be achieved through support of initiatives in the areas of health, education, sport and youth.

Brathwaite-Marshall, meanwhile stressed the need for early detection and effective treatment where below-the-belt women's cancers (cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal and vulval) are concerned. “Pointing out that “conditions below-the-belt should not be taboo”, Brathwaite-Marshall said, “we want to bring these cancers to the forefront, so that no woman will be shy about being tested or talking to her gynaecologist”.

“On September 13th, we are walking in unity, in support of women from all walks of life, because any woman can be affected by cancer. The disease does not discriminate. The funds raised when you register for the

Globe-athon Walk & Run, will be of immense help to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital,” Brathwaite-Marshall said as she reached out to Barbadians to encourage them to participate in the event.

“However, we also want to educate the Barbadian public on the real threat of these diseases. Early detection and effective treatment are a must, if we are to reduce cases of below-the-belt cancer,” she stressed.

“Globe-athon Barbados is sharing information and tips about the below-the-belt cancers through their Facebook and Instagram account. We encourage you to follow them to learn more,” she continued.

The Sagicor VP is also encouraging women to consult with their doctors and ask as many questions as they can, at the first sign of any health issues, so below-the-belt cancers can be reduced. (RSM)

Make sure children occupy their time wisely

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different shootings and killings that we are having.”

This discipline must also involve making sure that your children spend the majority of their time in school and when they are at home, keeping a close eye on them, keeping them in the house and not letting them wander on the streets unsupervised as well as getting them involved in extra-curricular activities such as sports that would occupy their attention and time.

“Make sure that you play an

active role in ensuring that your children go to school, come home on time, that they do their homework and keep them off the streets from just running around. Let them play and get involved in sports and do things with their parents. Do not just leave them there because if they are not looked after, they would get wayward. So it is important that they play an active role even if it is a single parent. You are monitoring them all the time to keep them off the streets and keep them away from the drugs.” (PJT)