Moving Forward After Hurricane Irma

By Dr. Hugh Duckworth, Provost

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma ravaged the island of Anguilla, including the Saint James School of Medicine campus. The campus in The Quarter sustained some minor damages during the hurricane, but will be ready for classes in January 2018.

We are happy to report that more than 60 of our students and nearly 30 faculty and staff members, who were on the island during the hurricanes, are all safe. However, due to significant damage caused to the island’s infrastructure, the management of the school had to make the difficult choice to cancel classes on the Anguilla campus for the fall 2017 semester.

Many of the students and faculty from Anguilla have temporarily relocated to our campus in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Anguilla campus students that chose to go on leave will resume classes on Anguilla in January 2018.

SJSM is undergoing the academic portion of this hurricane make-up process with the full awareness and consent of CAAM-HP and ECFMG. Therefore, SJSM students affected by the hurricanes will not have their academic record negatively impacted.
Hurricane Irma: Crisis or Opportunity?

By Dr. Linda Banks, PHD, Associate Professor and Clinical Psychologist

Tuesday, September 5, dawned bright and clear, perhaps too bright and clear. There was stillness in the air which many Anguillians (homegrown meteorologists) usually interpret as a sign that the wind is being pulled elsewhere … literally the calm before the storm. It was a day that many Anguillians remembered bringing an unwelcome visit from Hurricane Luis some twenty-two years ago. Now a lady called Irma, though unwanted, had promised to come calling.

For the almost 70 new students of Saint James School of Medicine, Tuesday, September 5 was to be the first day of classes on their journey to join the time honored tradition of medicine. They would be the envy of their friends and family as they studied on a tropical island that has a worldwide notoriety for 5-star resorts and has become the home of a reputable medical school for the past seven years. But instead of the typical orientation session the day before, on Monday, September 4, Incident Commander Geordie Banks, Deans Claude Iliou and Page Edgar and the Chicago Administrative Office provided hurricane preparedness tips and advice to new and returning students and faculty. Everyone then went to their various residences to await the storm.

Hurricane Irma exceeded all expectations and has been listed as the most dangerous hurricane ever recorded. Many horrendous stories have been told of battles won and lost as people struggled with the ferocious winds to keep doors, windows and belongings from being blown away. It is to the credit of the talented builders of Anguilla’s houses and the caution of the students, that we survived a storm of such magnitude. The administrative office in Chicago, the Deans and the Incident Commander on the ground must also be commended for keeping in constant contact with students, faculty and staff, so when Hurricane Jose was announced for the Saturday following Irma, there was no widespread hysteria. Fortunately, Jose changed course and that provided an opportunity for an assessment to be made of the feasibility of continuing with the semester.

It is often touted that adversity can bring out the best or worst in people and organizations, and also provides opportunities to reassess and re-invent. The clear, decisive actions taken by the Saint James team to allow students and faculty to choose the St. Vincent option or take a semester off has demonstrated flexibility and compassion.

Story continued on next page.
A lot of new and creative things are also being done in Anguilla so, in January, students and faculty can return to a campus on an island that is not just recovering and restoring the status quo but is, in true Anguillian style, very innovatively improving and re-inventing itself. Students who have had a semester off, either in St Vincent or elsewhere, also had the gift of time and distance to see things from a different perspective and to move on more energized than ever. We must also applaud those students who have contributed of their time and resources, for example, James Gibson, to help their new found island home get back on its feet.

So although Hurricane Irma was uninvited and unwelcome, Anguilla is rising again. After the storm, trees were sprawled all over the island, uprooted and stripped of their leaves and branches, and roofs were brutally torn off, found as splintered debris. But now, we are seeing new leaves and flowers, cleanup crews have been removing the rubble and the electricity and communication companies are getting us reconnected.

Let us not overlook some important and fascinating symbolism: this year marked the 50th anniversary of our 1967 revolution ... an ideal time for new beginnings as we have attained half of a century in our island state.

This year also marks the 7th anniversary of the Saint James School of Medicine in Anguilla. Much has been written, across faiths and cultures, about the symbolism of seven ... from music to the human body. Perhaps there is a message here for all of us at Saint James School of Medicine. Here in Rainbow City, as Anguilla is affectionately called, the seven colors of the rainbow represent hope and a promise for a respite from the droughts that our island has been historically plagued with, almost threatening the evacuation of our island in the 1800’s.

So what does the rainbow represent for the Saint James Anguilla campus? After seven years, we now have an opportunity to take a step back and evaluate our successes and make them greater, while we note the areas we will improve on. We will move forward stronger than ever, with increased enrollment, improved academics, committed faculty, management and staff, and improved facilities. In the words of our national song, we will be “proud, strong and free.”
Where Everything Stands One Month Later

By Joseph Chavez, Manager Finance and Operations

A lot has changed since September 6, and the island is well on its way to a full recovery. Below is a short status report of key news and developments.

- Internet connection was reestablished on campus on October 5.
- Electricity was restored to campus on October 9.
- Some central parts of Anguilla now have power. The power company is reestablishing connection from the center of the island and heading outwards.
- Most banks, grocery stores and gas stations are open until at least 7:00 pm daily.
- The ferry to and from St. Maarten has been running since the first week of October, but you need to go through the Anguilla police department to the Dutch side of St. Maarten (because Blowing Point (AXA) & Marigot (SXM) were damaged by Irma).
- Cargo ships are slowly docking in Anguilla, but there is a backlog of shipments.
- Seaborne is once again flying into Anguilla through San Juan.
- The anatomy cadavers on campus made it through the Hurricane and will be available for MD1’s in January.
- Computers and projectors are functional. Some air conditioning units were destroyed in the storm but are being repaired and replaced as needed.
- SJSM has a list of hotels, businesses and restaurants that are open for business.

Recognizing Faculty and Staff

By Dan Cuckovic, VP of Administration

In the aftermath of the hurricanes that hit Anguilla and everything that our students, faculty and staff on the island had to endure, I would like to recognize a few of our own who went above and beyond to ensure the safety of our people and our assets as well as assisted with the transition out of Anguilla and into St. Vincent.

The following individuals deserve special recognition for their efforts:

- Geordie Banks, our IT Network Administrator in Anguilla - in his 8th month as an Incident Commander, he was tested by the most devastating hurricane SJSM has faced in its history. Geordie took his role of Incident Commander to heart and was on campus within hours of the hurricane to ensure our campus was safe. Since then, he has been instrumental in ensuring communication between students, faculty and staff, as well as in the process of restoring our facilities to a working condition.
- Sindie Harrigan, Senior Admin Assistant, and Albert Issac, Maintenance, have been instrumental in restoring the campus back to life.
- Natasha Jackson, SVG Campus Manager, has made the process of accepting Anguilla faculty and students into SVG flawless.
- Our Deans, led by Dr. Duckworth and Dr. Kenue, as well as Dr. Davidson who returned from his home in Belize and went to SVG to run the make-up program, have been instrumental in ensuring continuity in academia.
- In our Chicago office, Raj Mitra, Joe Chavez and Jennifer VanDeCarr, as well as our front desk personnel Stephanie and Michelle, have been working tirelessly communicating with students and their families and trying to come up with the best methods of assisting all of our students.
- Alicia and her team, despite the fact that they are in the middle of the MSPE season, did a great job at tracking students’ records and grades.

Thank you everyone for your efforts!
How Hurricane Irma Affected Anguilla (and How You Can Help)

By Kate Maplethorp, SJSM Student

Hurricane Irma didn’t go easy on the small island of Anguilla when it hit land on September 6, 2017. But this tiny island in the Caribbean was prepared after experiencing the strength of Hurricane Luis 22 years earlier. It had built its homes and community to withstand the strength of winds around 200mph.

As a medical student studying in Anguilla for the past year, this small island had become my new home. I was hesitant to leave the island when there were warnings about the arrival of Hurricane Irma, and it was my decision to stay. I’m currently still living on the island and have seen the changes daily, as well as the incredible resilience of the locals.

Hurricane Irma

As it was nearing Anguilla, Hurricane Irma flirted with meteorologists and those keeping a close track on the NOAA database. It jumped in and out of strength from a category 3 to a category 4 and then category 5. By the time the hurricane reached Anguilla, it had winds at around 225mph – making scientists want to declare a new category 6 level hurricane.

The entire storm lasted approximately 7 hours, beginning at 5:54 am on September 6th and lasting until 1:13 pm on the same day. The apartment I stayed in during the storm had boarded the windows, along with all of the other businesses and homes in the island save for one looking out to the northwestern side of the island. It was there that I was able to see the effect of the storm while it was happening. Trees were bent horizontally; loose building materials were ripped off like a stray thread pulled from a piece of clothing. Water seeped into the apartment through the caulking of the windows and collected on the floor to reach a total height of approximately 2 inches. The air felt heavy and smelled like the ocean and the winds banging against the cement buildings were as loud as a truck driver’s horn.

Damage Inflicted to Anguilla

Luckily, the majority of the damage to the island was mostly to the foliage and the telephone poles. As mentioned above, the homes that took damage were not built to withstand winds to the strength of Hurricane Irma. There was sand and debris blown into the villages of the island near the beaches, and fallen trees and telephone poles plaguing the streets immediately after the storm.

What still cracks me up is the still standing 300-year-old building in The Valley. It is the oldest standing building on the island, and it took barely any damage in comparison to other buildings and homes built with similar material.

Cleaning Up the Island

Initially, the island was under the impression that a second hurricane, Jose, was scheduled to arrive at our doorstep just a few days after Hurricane Irma made its debut. Locals were concerned for the now loose debris and made quick efforts to pick up and stabilize the island where they could.

The Flow building’s tower was still working after Irma, and people would flock to its doorsteps to get access to limited wifi and data. They would contact family members and stay updated on the news of Hurricane Jose.

The ferry system and airport were down for the initial few days after Hurricane Irma. So if people were looking to get off the island, they needed to pay for private charters to take them only as far as Antigua or St. Kitts in order to find international flights back to their homes.

Since we were blessed to have been missed by Hurricane Jose, the island of Anguilla has taken many steps over the past few weeks to pick up the island, piece by piece. Workers at Angelec (the local electricity company), Flow and Digicel have been working tirelessly to repair damaged telephone poles and power supplies. Locals have been cleaning the debris collected in their yards and in public areas. The island has been springing back to life day by day, hour by hour and minute by minute.
How You Can Help
Restore Anguilla

Crowd Funding Campaigns

APANY is the official hurricane relief charitable organization designated by the government of Anguilla. Donations are tax-deductible.

Anguilla Relief Fund has raised $40K of its $200K goal since September 18, 2017. The donations are put towards sending supplies to the locals in Anguilla.

Anguilla Hurricane Relief Fund has raised $45K of its $75K goal since September 18, 2017. The donations are put towards sending supplies to the locals in Anguilla.

English Rose Irma Relief Fund has raised $2K of its $20K goal since September 18, 2017. The owner’s daughter is a student at Saint James School of Medicine. Funds go towards the repair of the popular food spot in The Valley.

Pumphouse Relief Fund has raised approximately $4800 of its $18K goal (donations are made in CHF, which converts to USD $1.04 for every CHF 1). Help support the regrowth of the popular watering hole in Sandy Ground.

Elvis’ Beach Bar Rebuild has raised $18K of its $35K goal since September 18, 2017. Funds go towards the rebuild of the popular bar and grill located on the beautiful Sandy Ground sand.

Spread the Word!

Share this on any of your social media, so that this island can get the help it needs to get back on its feet. Anguilla’s major source of income is its tourism industry, which is normally during November to February. Anything we can do to help, from sharing to donating to organizing reliefs, will help bring the island of Anguilla back to its full glory.

Reprinted and edited with permission from her personal blog.

Staff & Students Response to Hurricane Irma

By Dr. Claude Iliou, Dean of Basic Sciences

Certain experiences are unforgettable, either because the experience changes you or because the experience rejuvenates your faith in others.

My experience these last few weeks in seeing how the staff and faculty of Saint James School of Medicine have come together and helped each other and the students has warmed my heart and given me hope for the future.

In the last few weeks, I have seen the staff and faculty persevere and grow closer as a result of the extraordinary circumstances in which they were thrown.

I want to thank all of the professors and staff who have worked tirelessly to improve the conditions and anticipate future challenges. I have been humbled by the efforts put forth and the sacrifices each and every one has endured, without a whimper or an excuse.

Sometimes, such an event as this series of hurricanes brings out the worst in individuals, but I am proud to say that I have seen the best come out in everyone. I have also seen this positive response throughout the island of Anguilla, and I find that the character of the individuals living here is so strong and resilient. I have seen so many people come together to rebuild Anguilla.

Throughout the aftermath of the hurricanes, the smiles on everyone’s faces have not faded. It brings a smile to my face seeing school children doing their homework at a long table at Best Buy because they provide internet, an older gentleman playing reggae songs nearby for the patrons, truck drivers stopping to help someone who has a flat tire and people of all colors and backgrounds meeting at Roy’s or Johnno’s for music and a bite to eat.

Because of the tireless work of the employees of Anglec and the Cable providers, the school and the Valley have internet and electricity. The remaining reparations to the school will be completed by the end of this month. I expect that Anguilla is anxiously awaiting the return of the students and faculty and will greet them with open arms.
As Hurricane Irma forms and intensifies, the Administration holds an emergency meeting to begin planning for the storm. Most importantly, with the hurricane expected to hit during the first week of classes, many students were at home on break. The first week of classes was pushed back to the following week, and, instead of orientation, a meeting was scheduled on campus for Monday the 4th to take a headcount of how many students were present on Anguilla and go over hurricane preparedness tips for those who planned to weather out the storm.

Campus is ready for the hurricane, with windows boarded and electronics locked down and covered in plastic. Provisions like water and food were brought in and stored to distribute to students after the storm.

Hurricane Irma arrives. It batters Anguilla from the very early morning hours to mid-afternoon. While Anguilla loses power and cellular communication, St. Maarten, the island nearest Anguilla, faces very serious damage and flooding. As a much more populous island, St. Maarten supports much of Anguilla’s power and cellular infrastructure, as well as the easiest methods of travel in and out of Anguilla.

Campus Staff are able to check campus and it is found in good condition, with mostly minor cosmetic damage and some damage to one of the student lounges. All faculty and staff begin using whatever methods are available to start checking in with every student on Anguilla. SJSM Administration is in contact with the Anguilla Ministry and the State Departments of the United States and Canada to arrange evacuations.

Despite the storm, many grocery stores have reopened to serve the community, and SJSM confirms all faculty and staff are located and safe. Emergency charter flights resume at the Anguilla airport, and the British Navy arrives to assist with hurricane relief.

The SJSM campus has a generator providing power, and showers have been installed on campus for the comfort of students. While campus was functional, the infrastructure on Anguilla wasn’t yet prepared to support the students comfortably, so the decision was made to postpone the Fall semester on Anguilla until Spring 2017. Students were given the option of moving to the SJSM-St. Vincent campus for the semester or taking a leave of absence and returning in January. Tuition credits were provided for either option for the inconvenience.

Both the US and Canada are able to arrange evacuation flights for their citizens. Over the next few days, there are multiple evacuations to Puerto Rico and Barbados. All students who wished to leave Anguilla and return home or on to the St. Vincent campus for classes are able to leave.

Classes officially begin for the displaced Anguilla students in St. Vincent. A special schedule with make-up courses was created by the experienced faculty to make sure that no lesson is missed. Anguilla faculty also moved to St. Vincent to assist.
SJSM Raises Money for Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma Relief

SJSM would like to thank everyone; students, faculty, staff and others who donated to either of our two fundraisers in the past months! In late August, SJSM organized a GoFundMe on behalf of the American Red Cross, to raise money for those in Texas who were affected by the flooding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. In five days, we were able to raise $1,000!

Little did we know that in just a few days, we would be dealing with the effects of another devastating storm, Hurricane Irma. SJSM staff quickly set up another GoFundMe for the Anguilla Red Cross – with the help of our students, staff and others online, we were able to raise $1,905, which SJSM happily matched for a total of $3,810 donated!

Every dollar counts when it comes to rebuilding Anguilla in the wake of Hurricane Irma, and our students and faculty are truly members of the Anguilla community. We would like to thank everyone again who participated in our fundraisers!

St. Vincent Students Hold Hurricane Relief Fundraiser for Dominica

By Gavin Randhawa, MD4 GIVE Coordinator SJS SVG

On September 18, Hurricane Irma devastated Saint Vincent’s sister island, Dominica. The powerful storm left people without shelter, water, electricity and food. GIVE, a club at Saint James School of Medicine-Saint Vincent that serves the Vincentian community through community service, decided to put their efforts together to find a way to help those affected.

GIVE members Katie Aliaga, Edward Akinyemi, Arielle Freeman, Michelle Kruger, Gavin Randhawa and Jatia Sylvester reached out to local community members in search of someone who could help with their goal. A young lady by the name of Kimya Glasgow was put in touch with GIVE and was willing to help deliver any donated goods for the next shipment to Dominica on Saint James School of Medicine’s behalf.

GIVE quickly set up a three-day hurricane relief effort for Dominica and asked the student body at the Saint Vincent campus for anything from perishable foods, toiletries and water, to monetary donations.

The response from the student body was extraordinary. Donations poured in immediately, and monetary donations collected totaled over 300EC. On the last day of collections, GIVE members used the monetary donations to buy more goods that Dominica was in need of. This consisted of canned foods, candles, matches, toiletries, baby products and much more. Ms. Glasgow then met with some GIVE members who loaded the donations onto her transport vehicle and ensured that the student body’s donations would make the shipment headed for Dominica in the following week.

GIVE thanks the student body at Saint James School of Medicine-St. Vincent for their generosity. All goods were collected and donated as promised.
CAMPUS UPDATES

Remembering Dr. Jay K. Pandit, Dean Emeritus of Saint James School of Medicine

We are sad to report that Dr. Jay K. Pandit, Dean Emeritus of Saint James School of Medicine, passed away earlier this week at the age of 89. Dr. Pandit has been a part of SJSM almost since its inception and has been an integral part of the school’s success, particularly in regards to the Clinical Program.

Before becoming the Dean of Clinical Affairs at SJSM, Dr. Pandit was Chief of Surgery and the Medical Director of Thorek Hospital, as well as a trustee of Thorek Foundation.

Dr. Pandit retired less than a year ago and still took time to visit the Chicago administrative office regularly. He will certainly be missed. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

SJSM Welcomes New Faculty

The Saint James School of Medicine has recently welcomed new faculty members in Anguilla. Dr. Pawan Kumar Lal Das (M.D. Physiology) and Dr. Maxy Anderson Odike (MBBS) joined the Anguilla campus in June and August, respectively. Dr Das is teaching Physiology and Dr Odike is teaching Pathology.

Effective September 2017, Dr. Alexey Pryakhin was appointed as Acting Dean of Basic Sciences at SJSM St. Vincent Campus. Additionally, Dr. Pryakhin will continue to do his duties as the Dean of Student Affairs.

All of our new faculty members come to us with several years of teaching, clinical practice and/or research experience. Warm greetings to them all!

Dr. Malwade Promoted to Associate Professor

The Saint James team would like to offer a special congratulations to Dr. Malwade for a recent promotion to Associate Professor.

It’s a pleasure to have you as part of our team, and we look forward to many more years together empowering students to achieve the medical careers of their dreams.

Congratulations, Dr. Malwade!
New African Student Association

African Student Association was initiated as a club at Saint James School of Medicine-St. Vincent in the Fall Semester of 2017. Our main goal as a school club is to bridge gaps between different cultures through educating and welcoming new students every semester. Thankfully, Saint James School of Medicine has given us a platform and support to do so.

Within the last eight months, we have donated to the mental health facility in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, put on several cultural nights and days for the school and recently held a quiz bowl competition. As a new club, we like to allow students to feel at home by encouraging them to wear their cultural wear, speak their native language and, from time to time, share a dish. Even though the name of our club is African Student Association, we welcome everyone who has an interest in another cultural or an urge to share their culture, no matter the country. We hope to inspire new and former students to take this new found cultural knowledge on with them into their lives and, more importantly, into their careers.

Various ASA members donating and volunteering their time at St. Vincent Mental Health Facility on the island. This was our very first meeting at the Mental Health facility and hopefully the beginning of a very long and beneficial partnership.

Our first annual Quiz Bowl Competition was a success, thanks to the faculty who created the various anatomy, physiology, microbiology, biochemistry and pathology questions to make this event great.

Our first annual Cultural Night held at SOV lounge in Villa Fountain. We were able to welcome new students from other medical schools and share our different clothing, food and music with them.
Saint James School of Medicine-Saint Vincent’s American Medical Student Association (AMSA) has a strong relationship with the local community leaders of the Dr. Hughes Dougan Foundation. Every second Saturday of the month, these two organizations collaborate together to host a community health fair. AMSA volunteers are able to put their knowledge and skills into practice while also providing a free and beneficial service to the community. The AMSA health fairs provide the following services to community members every month: blood pressure screening, BMI assessment, visual acuity assessment, mental health screening and blood glucose assessment. Community members are able to take control of their health as they return time and again to continuously evaluate their health status at the AMSA health fairs.

AMSA in Saint Vincent is proud to host one suture clinic a semester that allows students to learn four basic suturing techniques. Dr. Alexey Pryahkin, Dean of Student Affairs, generously donates his time after school to teach the students over two two-hour sessions. The students spend their time learning suture theory, in addition to performing skills on chicken specimens. This event proves to be a highlight of the semester as many students truly enjoy learning how to suture!

In Summer 2017, Saint James School of Medicine-Saint Vincent, hosted a community health fair at their campus. The Saint Vincent campus opened its doors to the community to allow them to receive a wide variety of free medical services. The health fair was coordinated by leaders from the Student Government Association, AMSA and G.I.V.E. In addition, outstanding contributions were provided by the SJSM Medical Fraternity, Phi Chi and other school organizations. Together, the student body was able to provide free preventative services to two hundred Vincentians. The student body looks forward to hosting the next SJSM Health Fair next summer!

AMSA in Saint Vincent is once again collaborating with the Dr. Hughes Dougan Foundation to provide free screening services to the neighboring island of Bequia. AMSA and the Dr. Hughes Dougan Foundation work alongside Bequia community leaders to host a health fair at the Anglican Primary School. In addition to many student volunteers from SJSM representing all student organizations, two additional medical schools in Saint Vincent participated in the large-scale health fair. In total, 80 medical student volunteers provided free preventative screening services to 200 Bequians! Our student volunteers will be returning in November to provide the same free preventative services!
St. Benedict's Children's Home

Near the end of every semester, GIVE organizes a trip to the St. Benedict’s Children’s Home in Georgetown, Saint Vincent. St. Benedict’s Children’s home is dedicated to providing care for underprivileged children of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Students joining GIVE on the trip have the opportunity to meet the children and provide them with an enhanced quality of life by bonding with those who have been left with no family. Students also discover the remarkable talents of the children in the home and encourage them to show their talents, such as playing instruments. GIVE has also begun to host a ‘GIVE Week’ before the major trip to collect needed donations that the children’s home is asking for. This ranges from clothes, toiletries, school supplies and more.

GIVE’S Wellness Wednesday at Massy’s

During the first two weeks in the month, GIVE sends out two volunteers to the local supermarket, Massy’s, where students take blood pressure and blood glucose measurements of those in the Vincentian community. This provides the local community free screening that can be beneficial in the prevention of ailments and illness. GIVE’s volunteers also provide information to the those getting screened regarding what a normal blood pressure and blood glucose measurement is, to also help provide health education to the community in Saint Vincent & the Grenadines. In addition, the practice that students are able to experience during Wellness Wednesdays is beneficial for any volunteers who are helping in the health fairs that AMSA or Saint James School of Medicine hosts.
TropMed Update

Student Presentations
Every meeting, various students have the opportunity to present on a topic relevant to tropical medicine and hygiene. These presentations are preparation to sit for the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene C-TropMed Certification.

Microbiology Lab and Campus Activities
As a part of our curriculum in MD4, students get hands-on learning in the lab with microbiology lab techniques. Every semester, we host a campus wide activity to review topics covered in all MD semesters in a fun and relaxed setting.

Student Referral Program
Interested in saving on your semester tuition? If you know someone who is interested in Saint James School of Medicine, provide us with their basic contact information by completing this short referral form. If your referral enrolls at SJSM, you’ll get 25% off your next semester tuition, and he/she will receive $500 towards their first semester's tuition.

Now that’s a win-win!

Please fill out the referral form and send it back to info@mail.sjsm.org

Download the form here: SJSM email referral form

Review us!
Over the years, SJSM has built a reputation for delivering a quality medical education at an affordable cost. In fact, did you know that SJSM is the lowest-priced accredited medical school in the Caribbean?

And at SJSM, we value the opinions of our students and alumni. If you have a moment, would you consider giving us a Google review? It's quick and easy, and the best way to help us provide more opportunities to aspiring future doctors.

Thank you for being a part of our Saint James story.

Review SJSM Anguilla
Review SJSM St. Vincent
**New Direct Flights to St. Vincent**

**ST.VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**SUNWING FALL/WINTER/SPRING CHARTERS**

**TOMORO - ST.VINCENT**

**THANKSGIVING SPECIAL**

CDN$50 OFF BOOKINGS MADE FROM Tue. OCT. 10 – Fri. OCT. 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YYZ</th>
<th>SVD</th>
<th>YYZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCT 22</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>0215*1</td>
<td>0920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 09</td>
<td>0930</td>
<td>1545</td>
<td>2150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 23</td>
<td>0930</td>
<td>1545</td>
<td>2150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 16</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>0315*1</td>
<td>0920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 23</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>0315*1</td>
<td>0920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 06</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>0315*1</td>
<td>0920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 13</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>0315*1</td>
<td>0920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 25</td>
<td>0700</td>
<td>1215</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 09</td>
<td>0700</td>
<td>1215</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 23</td>
<td>0700</td>
<td>1215</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 06</td>
<td>0700</td>
<td>1215</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 20</td>
<td>0700</td>
<td>1215</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fares are subject to change without notice.**

Baggage allowance – 1 piece 50lbs included in fare

YYZ - Toronto Pearson International Airport
SVD - Argyle International Airport
+1 - Arrival day after departure

**Bookings available through G.G. Tours - Tel. 416 487 1146**
or travel agents in Canada and SVG
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Flight Time</th>
<th>Fare 1 Way</th>
<th>Fare Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YYZ (Toronto)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$349 CA</td>
<td>$699 CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVD</td>
<td>0215 +1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 22</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 09</td>
<td>0930</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 23</td>
<td>0930</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 16</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 23</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 06</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 13</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVD</td>
<td>0325 +1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 23</td>
<td>0325</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 09</td>
<td>1655</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 23</td>
<td>1655</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 17</td>
<td>0425</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 24</td>
<td>0425</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 07</td>
<td>0425</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 14</td>
<td>0425</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YYZ</td>
<td>0920</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVD</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVD</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVD</td>
<td>0950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVD</td>
<td>0950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVD</td>
<td>0950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YYZ - Toronto Pearson International Airport
SVD - Argyle International Airport
+1 - Arrival day after departure

Bookings available through G.G. Tours - Tel. 416 487 1146 or travel agents in Canada and SVG
ENJOY A WARM WINTER
FLY AIR CANADA ROUGE

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO
ARGYLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines

WEEKLY SERVICE STARTING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2017
TO
THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2018

st Vincent
and The Grenadines
The Caribbean You’re Looking For

SAINT JAMES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Your Future. Our Promise*
For more information, call 800 542 1553 or email info@mail.sjsm.org
POLICY UPDATES

Change to Certification Process for First Time Step 1 Applicants

ECFMG has updated their identity verification process that students must go through before they can be approved for any USMLE step exam. The Certification of Identification Form (Form 186) must now be verified by a Notary Public, First Class Magistrate, Consular Official, or Commissioner of Oaths and sent directly to ECFMG. SJSM will no longer verify students’ identities on this form. Please visit https://iwa2.ecfmg.org/gradoverview.asp for more information.

In order to accommodate this change, SJSM has updated the certification process for first time Step 1 applicants. Instead of 30 days, first time applicants will now have 45 days to complete the certification process after receiving a passing score on the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam. However, we can no longer count the completion of the Form 186 for the certification date. We must receive the online verification request from ECFMG within the 45-day deadline. ECFMG takes three to five weeks to process the Form 186 before they send the online verification to us. This means a student must immediately complete the Form 186 and send it to ECFMG after receiving the passing NBME score.

Previous Certification Timeline: 30 Days (51-65 Days Overall)

1. Receive Passing NBME Score
2. Certification Date Within 30 Days: Complete Form 186 Within 3-5 Weeks
3. ECFMG Processes Form 186 Within 3-5 Weeks
4. SJSM Receives Online Verification Request

UPDATED Certification Timeline: 45 Days (45 Days Overall)

1. Receive Passing NBME Score
2. Have Form 186 Notarized and Send Directly to ECFMG
3. ECFMG Processes Form 186 Within 3-5 Weeks
4. Certification Date Within 45 Days: SJSM Receives Online Verification Request

The additional certification time is only applicable to first-time Step 1 applicants to allow additional time to process the Form 186. Students applying for Step 1 for the second, third or fourth time or anyone applying for the Step 2CK exam must complete the certification process within 30 days of receiving a passing NBME score.
Tuition and Fees Memo

Every September, Saint James School of Medicine’s management reviews the tuition levels. Considering that SJSM administration decided not to increase tuition last year, there was the expectation to raise tuition this year for the Spring 2018 semester. However, due to Hurricane Irma and the impact it had on our Anguilla campus, students, faculty and staff, SJSM officials have decided to temporarily freeze any increases until at least the Summer 2018 semester. By doing so, the school hopes to, in one more way, help its students recover from additional costs and inconvenience caused by Hurricane Irma.

The school will, however, make smaller changes in fees effective January 1st 2018:

1. SJSM will charge $10.00 for issuing an Unofficial Transcript
2. SJSM will introduce a $200.00 Graduation Application Fee

Additionally, effective immediately, the school will offer an expedited Transfer Request option, which will allow students to request a transcript to be issued within 48 hours of the completed request and sent via expedited shipping to the address requested. In addition to the regular $25 Transcript Request Fee, the following fees are introduced:

1. Expedited Transcript Processing Fee-domestic shipping ($50)
2. Expedited Transcript Processing Fee-international shipping ($75)

Should you have any questions, please email finance@mail.sjsm.org. We will continue to inform you regarding any further developments in this area.