

SCREENING WORKS

Caribbean Prevention Center 'Fundashon Prevenshon'

Changing-of-the-Guard

June 2022 marked an important changing-of-the-guard for the Caribbean Prevention Center when Professor Bob Pinedo passed the hammer to Professor Ashley Duits. For us, insiders at the Fundashon, Prevenshon as we are called in Papiamentu, it is hard to imagine work without our energetic and tireless co-founder and chairman Professor Pinedo at the helm, relentlessly pursuing higher standards for prevention in Curaçao and offering his empathic wisdom to those who turn to him for help. The impact of Professor Pinedo's work for prevention in Curaçao has left an indelible mark for which we can be grateful for as a community. We welcome Professor Duits with open arms. He has taken over the position with zest and candor, and we are looking forward to tackling challenges, growing testing numbers and seeing less cases of cancer mortality in Curaçao under his regime.



Prof. Dr. Ashley Duits



Prof. Dr. Bob Pinedo

Current Screening Programs

Breast Screening age 45-75
Every 2 years 

Cervical Screening age 25-65
Every 5 years 

Colon Screening
age 50-75
Every 2 years 

If you have symptoms, please contact your family doctor.

Want to stay connected to us?

Send us your first, last name, Whatsapp number and email address at news@fundashonprevenshon.com



Prevention and its Challenges

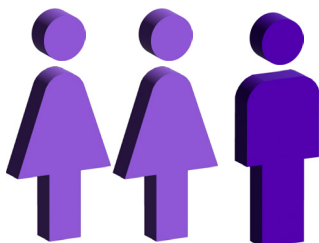
By Dr. Shacara Blake

The Caribbean Prevention Center has been on a mission since 2010 to reduce cancer related mortality on the island. The main goal is to find pre-cursors and early stages of breast cancer, cervical cancer and colorectal cancer so that they may be treated and overall survival can be increased. Although, when discribed like this it sounds like a simple and nobel cause, we have learned that the path to prevention is not free of obstacles.

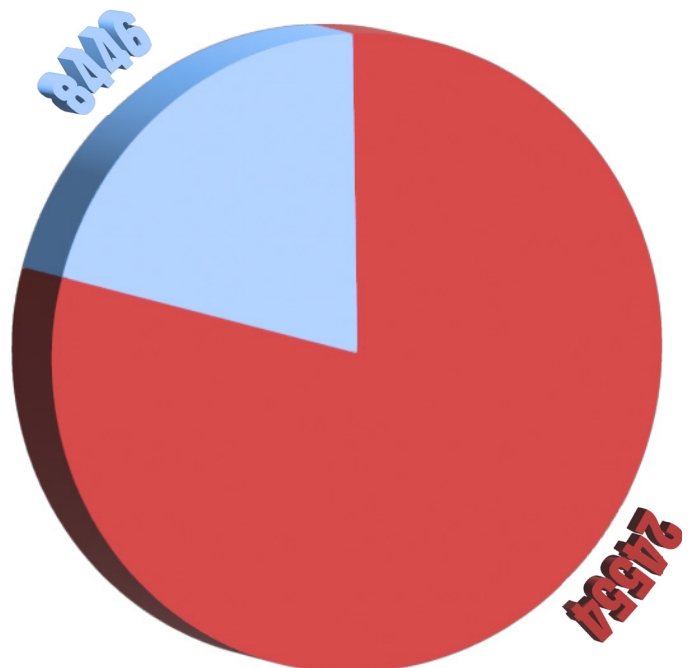
The population screening program for colorectal cancer was launched in 2020 for all men and women on the island between 50 and 75 years old. Since the commencement, we have sent out more than 33 000 invitation letters. The total participation to date is 8446, this translates to approximately 25%, meaning that 75% of the population we have yet to reach. An additional obstacle that we have observed is the fact that men participate half as often when compared to women. The possible explanation for this is subject to on-going scientific research.

These numeric cloves between program availability and actual participation by screening eligible individuals, is a matter that has our absolute attention. We strive daily to find new ways to engage the public. They say: “Necessity breeds innovation”. I am here to tell you that this is an absolute truth. We ‘need’ to have every single screening eligible person on the island walk through our doors and make use of the offered screening programs. That is why we will continue to find innovative ways to connect with the population, so that we may get closer to our goal with each passing day.

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Men get tested half as often as women



Continuously Improving

By Dr. Soraya Verstraeten

The Caribbean Prevention Center is delighted to have started a five-year quality project with the appointment of the Quality Manager, Dr. Soraya Verstraeten, in November 2021. The goal of the project is to implement internationally recognized standards that ensure that the services meet the needs of clients through an effective quality management system. The Caribbean Prevention Center's decision to work towards a quality management system demonstrates the commitment to continually improving their services. As part of the project, the CPC will undergo several extensive baseline assessments of each screening program, from the invitations to participate in the test to the diagnostics and referrals.

To guide the plan of action, dr. Verstraeten spoke to colleagues at the CPC, Ms. Freeja Reijntjes-Oldenburger (quality officer from the Netherlands) and Ms. Natasha Phelipa (manager quality, safety and innovation at the Curaçao Medical Center). Ms. Freeja Reijntjes-Oldenburger, who has extensive experience in auditing quality management systems for cancer screening programs in the Netherlands, will support dr. Verstraeten with the implementation of quality management system for colon cancer screening during the first year of the project. To this end, she conducted a baseline assessment of the colon cancer screening program in May 2022, which evaluated if certain aspects of this program attained Dutch implementation standards and criteria. The results contribute to knowing where the program is going well, and where there could be improvements. The aim of these assessments is to achieve quality improvement and to improve outcomes for patients.

The full implementation of the quality project is expected to take five years and is expected to result in a documented quality management system. The system is based on several quality management principles, such as a strong customer focus, involvement of the management, a process approach and ongoing improvement of the process, and will provide additional assurance to our clients that we are focused on continuous improvement of our services and client satisfaction.



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The Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride

It was a majestic sight to see a whole slew of riders on their Harleys cruising in front of our monumental building at the onset of the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride on May 21st, 2022. A great number of men showed up to support their fellow men and build awareness for male diseases and lower the threshold for men to openly talk about their health and take preventive measures such as screening. A highlight of the ride was the arrival of local comedian Jandino Asporaat, who successfully addressed the male crowd, driving home the message that toxic masculinity will stand in the way of preventing cancer lest they reframe their thoughts and start seeing taking care of themselves as manly.



We especially enjoyed seeing our own Professor Bob Pinedo and director Louise Elstak join the riders.



We Are In The Barrios

Why leave the house when screening can come to you? As of July 2022, our bus will return to the barrios on Monday and Wednesday mornings, bringing our nurses close to your home to make colon screening even easier for you. Now you can get your poop test (colon screening) at the bus, go do the test in the comfort of your home and deliver it same or next day at the bus. Cervix (ages 25-65) and Breast (ages 45-75) screeners can make an appointment or change their existing appointments. Please see a doctor if you have symptoms. Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates on where to find our bus.

Scan me for:
colon test instructions

