



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TRANSLATING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE TO COMMUNITY: TEAM SCIENCE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

A PUBLIC LECTURE: ROBERT DOTTIN, PHD

Translational research aims to improve human health by developing practical applications from scientific discoveries. Translational research requires team science -- engaging basic scientists, medical doctors, epidemiologists, nanotechnologists, IT specialists, social workers and other health professionals, in novel interdisciplinary collaborations. Its focus on rapid deployment of practical health solutions requires transformative discoveries/approaches to understand, cure or prevent diseases such as diabetes, cancer and hypertension. Trinidad-born Prof. Robert Dottin, a molecular geneticist and Director of the Center for Study of Gene Structure and Function (Gene Center) at Hunter College of The City University of New York, describes his involvement in this exciting new research paradigm of team science. Examples of translational research breakthroughs at his Gene Center include:

1. Harnessing the Power of Light and Sound to Examine the Eye – improving ultrasound details by 10 fold.
2. Detecting cancer early with Nanotechnology.
3. Video collaborating over internet2 for:
 - Interactive team research and education.
 - Interactive community outreach focused on prevention of diseases -- diabetes, cancer, autism, influenza and others.

The breakthroughs with video collaboration are particularly relevant to his work as a visiting professor at The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).



Robert Dottin graduated in Trinidad from Fatima College (O' levels) and St Mary's College (A levels). He graduated from the University of Toronto (1st class honors), winning the Silver Medal of the Governor General of Canada for first place at the university. He earned his Masters in Medical Biophysics and doctorate in Medical Genetics at the same university. He received the Centennial Fellowship awarded to the top 5 doctorates in Canada and pursued post-doctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a professor at the Johns Hopkins University, and is a professor at Hunter College of The City University of New York. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Copenhagen, Pasteur Institute (Paris), Karlova University (Prague) and Oxford University. He has taught bioinformatics, genetics and developmental biology, all using internet technologies to promote interactive learning. He has developed many strategies for including under-represented

groups in science research and addressing health disparities. He is the founder of the JustGarciaHill website – a virtual community for 4,000 minorities in Science – years before Facebook appeared. His presentation will focus on capacity development strategies that have potential impact on education, research and health in his two beloved countries, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA.

DATE: WEDNESDAY 12TH MAY, 2010

TIME: 7:00 PM

VENUE: FUNCTIONAL THEATRE, UTT CAMPUS AT NAPA
KEATE STREET, PORT OF SPAIN

CALL TO REGISTER: KEIRONNE BANFIELD-NATHANIEL AT 622-7880 EMAIL: kbanfield-nathaniel@niherst.gov.tt

