

Professor. Christine Carrington: ICGEB's Board of Governor Representative for Trinidad and Tobago (2017 – Present) and Recipient of ICGEB Award to host the 20th International Bioinformatics Workshop on Virus Evolution and Molecular Epidemiology (VEME) in 2015



Prof. Christine Carrington is a professor of Molecular Genetics and the current departmental head of Preclinical Sciences at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. With an educational background in Biotechnology (BSc.) and Molecular Virology (PhD.) from the University of London, King's College and the Institute of Cancer Research respectively, Prof. Carrington has been involved in disease research since 1990 with primary interests in understanding the evolutionary and ecological factors that are involved in the emergence, spread and maintenance of viruses, especially merging vector-borne RNA viruses such as zika, chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever and rabies virus. Prof. Carrington has over 200 publications being referenced more than 2400 times. As the Board of Governor representative for Trinidad and Tobago, Prof. Carrington functions include determining the general policies and principles governing the activities of the

Centre, admitting new members to the Centre, approving the work programme and budget, taking into account the recommendations of the Council of Scientific Advisers, adopting the financial regulations of the Centre and deciding on any other financial matters. Additionally, on a local level, she is responsible for advising on matters relating to ICGEB opportunities for T&T nationals, including leading the panel of experts for review and endorsement of applications submitted.

Prof. Carrington was a recipient of the ICGEB Meeting and Courses Award. The award allowed funding, organisation and promotion of participation in the 20th International Bioinformatics Workshop on Virus Evolution and Molecular Epidemiology (VEME) from 9 – 14th August, 2015 at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). The workshop provided virologists and bioinformaticians with intensive training in mathematical principles and computer applications used in the study of virus evolution and for conducting detailed molecular epidemiological investigations. Among the 9 Trinidad and Tobago nationals trained were one (1) individual from CARPHA and four (4) from UWI who have been directly and heavily involved in SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics and genomic surveillance. They are the people in the lab doing the diagnostic, genome sequencing work and/ or leading the activities that allows Trinidad and Tobago and 16 other Caribbean islands to identify and track SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern. In November 2019, the ICGEB conducted a workshop in Italy, on genome editing that provides the practical skills for scientists to address a wide range of human health issues. This workshop assisted Trinidad and the Caribbean at large, as Prof. Carrington was able to conducted research on genome sequencing as an option to determine the source of the COVID-19 variant. The project commenced in December involved the extraction and sequencing genomes of severe acute respiratory coronavirus2 (sars-cov-2) from patient samples for Trinidad and Tobago and 16 other Caribbean territories. Prof. Carrington stated that this research will enhance Trinidad and Tobago's capacity to identify different lineages of the virus and monitor mutations in order to track the virus's spread, distinguish between

local and newly imported cases as well as to better understand the virus and the immune system's response to it.

Her work with battling COVID-19 has not gone unrecognized as she was recently awarded the Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Award for excellence in Science and Technology on June 14. Professor Carrington has many notable awards and accolades under belt, such as the UWI Research Award for Outstanding Research Mentorship in 2012, the UWI's "60 under 60" leader in academics in 2008 and the Commonwealth Research Fellowship in 2004.



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Google Scholar: [Christine Carrington - Google Scholar](#)

The University of the West Indies Profiles: [Professor Christine Carrington | Tropical Medicine Cluster: Infectious Diseases \(uwi.edu\)](#)

Links for images used:

1. [Icons \(niherst.gov.tt\)](http://icons.niherst.gov.tt)
2. [Regional Award for The UWI's virologist hero Professor Christine Carrington | The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica](#)
3. [Professor Christine Carrington | Tropical Medicine Cluster: Infectious Diseases \(uwi.edu\)](#)