

BEAN EXCEN

N. SABGA

ANTHO

2023

ANTHONY N. SABGA AWARDS Caribbean Excellence

> Hilton Trinidad June 3, 2023

Programme

National Anthems: Antigua and Barbuda Guyana Trinidad and Tobago.

Master of Ceremonies: Mr Wendell Constantine

Prayer: Mrs Linda Sabga Hadeed ANSA McAL Foundation Director

Opening Remarks:

Professor Compton Bourne, OE Chairman, Regional Eminent Persons Panel

> **Remarks:** Mr Andrew N Sabga,

Chairman of the ANSA McAL Foundation

Musical Interlude

Marie-Angelique Carter

Presentations to Laureates:

Mr A Norman Sabga, LLD Hon (UWI) (hc) UTT Professor Compton Bourne, OE, Chairman, Regional Eminent Persons Panel Mr Andrew N Sabga, Chairman, The ANSA McAL Foundation

Laureate Acceptance Remarks:

Ms Joanne C Hillhouse, Laureate, Arts & Letters (Antigua & Barbuda) Dr Adesh Sirjusingh, Laureate, Public & Civic Contributions (Trinidad and Tobago) Dr Mahendra Persaud, Laureate, Science & Technology (Guyana)

Closing Remarks:

Ms Maria Superville-Neilson Secretary, The ANSA McAL Foundation and Programme Director, The Anthony N Sabga Awards, Caribbean Excellence

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Foreword

His Excellency

Sir Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KSt.J, DSc, PhD(hc), MBBS, FCAMA Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda



A Call to Fully Embrace Excellence in Our Caribbean Culture

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this commemorative booklet that celebrates the spirit of excellence in the Caribbean. Our region is a unique blend of diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, and it's time for us to fully embrace the potential that lies within us.

We face many challenges such as poverty, climate change, and intra-regional travel, but we can overcome them by striving for excellence. Excellence is not just about being the best; it's about setting high standards, pushing beyond our limits, and achieving greatness in whatever we do.

To embrace excellence in our Caribbean society, we need to invest in education. Education is the foundation of progress and development, and by providing access to quality education, we can equip our people with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life.

Innovation and creativity are also vital in driving progress, and we must leverage our rich cultural heritage to promote Caribbean-centred arts, music, literature, and other creative industries. By doing so, we can encourage our people to think outside the box, push boundaries, and come up with innovative solutions to the challenges we face. Accountability and transparency are essential in creating a more just and equitable society, and we must prioritise health and wellness to reduce the incidence of preventable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

Embracing excellence also requires us to prioritise personal growth and development, valuing honesty, integrity, and hard work. By doing so, we can inspire others to do the same and create a culture of excellence that can drive progress and development in our society.

In this commemorative booklet, we celebrate the exceptional achievements of Antigua and Barbuda's Joanne C. Hillhouse, **T&T**'s Dr. Adesh Sirjusingh and Guyana's Dr. Mahendra Persaud. Their journeys are a testament to the talent, resilience, and determination of a Caribbean people who have overcome a challenging history and are looking forward to a brighter future.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Anthony N Sabga Awards, Caribbean Excellence institution for its continued commitment to recognising and celebrating the achievements of Caribbean people. Through its efforts, it has helped to elevate the profile of Caribbean excellence and inspire future generations to strive for greatness.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the pages of this booklet and to celebrate with us the exceptional individuals who have made the Caribbean proud through their achievements and contributions. Let us embrace excellence and work together to create a more prosperous, just and equitable society for all.

Sincerely,

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda



2023 Laureates Joanne C Hillhouse Arts & Letters Antigua and Barbuda

Joanne C Hillhouse is one of Antigua and Barbuda's foremost contemporary writers, with a wide range of work ranging from journalistic feature writing to adult contemporary novels.

Based in Antigua, her books have been celebrated at regional and international levels. She was the first runner-up for the coveted Burt Prize for Young Adult Fiction administered by the Bocas Literary Festival in Trinidad. She has also been awarded an International Fellowship to the prestigious Bread Loaf Writer's Conference in Vermont, USA.

Hillhouse has published seven books to date. They include two novellas-The Boy from Willow Bend, a bildungsroman, and Dancing Nude in the Moonlight, a romance; the adult contemporary novel Oh Gad!; a teen/young adult novel titled Musical Youth, and three illustrated children's books: Lost! A Caribbean Sea Adventure, With Grace, and The Jungle Outside. A fourth picture book, To Be a Cheetah, is set for release in July.

What has been remarkable about Hillhouse is her work in service of the literary arts. She has encouraged self-expression and Caribbean storytelling by Antiguans and Barbudans through writing challenges and workshops open to students and adults alike.

Her efforts to promote, nurture, and facilitate the literary arts in Antigua and Barbuda include the Wadadli Youth Pen Prize, initially launched in 2004 as an annual writing prize, now a full non-profit named Wadadli Pen Inc. Since 2013, she has mentored writers, younger and older, through her Jhohadli Summer Youth Writing Project/Jhohadli Writing Project.

Her efforts to maintain the literary culture also take other forms such as her blogging at both jhohadli.wordpress.com and wadadlipen.wordpress.com, her newspaper art and culture column "Creative Space", and her longtime participation in reading for children at the Cushion Club.

Her writing has been anthologised in Pepperpot: Best New Stories from the Caribbean, and the landmark publication by renowned publisher, editor, writer and broadcaster Margaret Busby, New Daughters of Africa. She has been published in Adda, Interviewing the Caribbean, Moko: Caribbean Arts and Letters, Bim: Arts for the 21st Century, POUI, The Caribbean Writer, Columbia Review, and PEN America, among others.

It can safely be said that in her genre-spanning writing and in her literary activism, Hillhouse participates in all spheres of literary life. Much of the literary culture of Antigua and Barbuda rests on her shoulders.



2023 Laureates Dr Adesh Sirjusingh Public and Civic Contributions

Trinidad and Tobago

Many doctors in Trinidad and Tobago leave behind the often-frustrating public health system for the safer, more controlled, and financially rewarding world of private practice as soon as they have built a solid reputation. Dr Adesh Sirjusingh is the exception. He went into the public system in 1990, saw the problems, and stayed to solve them and transform the system, making sea-level improvements to maternal mortality.

Dr Sirjusingh is a highly accomplished obstetrician and gynaecologist who has delivered thousands of babies in Trinidad and Tobago and the UK. As an administrator, he is noted for the originality of his achievements particularly in public healthcare system management. A major regional accomplishment has been his contribution as the Trinidad and Tobago Lead on the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Ministry of Health initiative to implement the PAHO Perinatal Information System (SIP) which has been successfully adapted to local needs and is currently in use.

He is responsible for vastly improved systems for the management of pregnant women, including high-risk cases, and new-born children. This includes the reduction of the maternal and neonatal mortality rates to the targets set by the United Nations Sustainable Development goals for four consecutive years, despite the COVID-19 pandemic disruption of the health care system.

One of his greatest achievements so far has been the complete overhaul of women's obstetric and reproductive health both in the public and private sectors. He is currently the Director of Women's Health at the Ministry of Health, the first to be appointed to that position, in 2017, and which has seen many notable achievements since then. His in-depth knowledge gained from the years working in the public system has allowed him to identify needs and to devise creative ways and documented guidelines to solve problems that include failure of supervision and communication, lack of staff and failing infrastructure.

His career pathway took him to the humblest of hospitals in Trinidad and Tobago: the Sangre Grande Hospital in north-eastern Trinidad. It was there that his maternal grandmother had become a maternal mortality statistic shortly after childbirth, many years before. As Medical Chief of Staff, he used administrative and technical skill to transform the hospital into a thriving, modern training hospital that offers quality care to patients.

At 55, Dr Sirjusingh has been a mentor and inspiration to a generation of doctors, teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate medical students in the field. He has also published many academic texts and research papers in medical literature as well as numerous public education pamphlets and FAQs which are available on the MoH's website.

Apart from his major contributions to the health and wellbeing of mothers and babies, and his astonishing accomplishments in the areas of public health and policymaking, he also finds time to hold free clinics.



2023 Laureates Dr Mahendra Persaud, A.A. Science & Technology Guyana

Agri-scientist Dr Mahendra Persaud is a leading figure in the region's food security for his ground-breaking work in rice research. He has developed several high-yield, disease-resistant strains of rice that emerge excellently under flooded conditions, with superior grain qualities well suited to global markets. He is also leading the development of new varieties, including zinc-fortified and aromatic rice.

His journey in rice breeding and development began in 1997 when he was appointed Research Assistant at the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB). In 2006, after completing his PhD studies, he was appointed Plant Breeder at the Rice Research Station (RRS) at Burma, Mahaicony and in 2008 he was appointed Chief Scientist there. He retains both positions and is the country's leading plant breeder, credited with transforming the fortunes of Guyana's rice farmers and ensuring Guyana a place on the competitive international rice market.

Under his leadership, rice yields have gone from a national average of 4 tonnes per hectare to 6 tonnes per hectare. One variety, GRDB 16, developed in 2020, produces as much as 9 tonnes per hectare. The GRDB has released 16 varieties of rice thus far and Dr Persaud and his team have been responsible for 13, using conventional breeding techniques.

Though not a top global rice producer, Guyana's yield of rice per hectare is comparable to the top producer China (which averages 6.5 tonnes per hectare) and higher than the 2nd highest producer, India (which yielded 2.7 tonnes per hectare in 2021). Given its production, Guyana is able to export 75% of the rice it grows. 42 countries belonging to CARICOM, Latin America, the European Union and North America were supplied with rice from Guyana.

In October 2022, Guyana's first national Rice Gene Bank was commissioned at the Rice Research Station. A vital component of Guyanese and Caribbean food security, it is the result of Dr Persaud's initiative and pioneering work of 16 years.

Dr Persaud also works with the CARICOM Biofortification Network (CBN) and shares his knowledge throughout the region. He contributes to regional food security initiatives such as research into the feasibility of growing wheat in the region. Apart from his field work, he is a highly respected academic, widely published in his field.

In 2016, he received the fourth-highest Guyanese national award in the Order of Service, the Golden Arrow of Achievement: "For outstanding research as a scientist in the rice industry resulting in high yielding varieties with consequential increased rice production."

The Selection Process

The nominees for the Anthony N Sabga Awards – Caribbean Excellence are chosen in five territories: Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and Trinidad & Tobago.

Each territory is covered by a Country Nominating Committee (CNC) - the members of which are themselves models of excellence in various spheres of public life.

The CNCs are mandated to select candidates with the following characteristics:

• A track record of consistently superior work that has demonstrated excellence, leadership and pioneering ability. The work must be a benchmark and positively referenced by others in the field.

• The capacity for and likeliness of significant future achievement, being at the stage of life and career where this award could help them realise their promise and potential. They are therefore between the ages of 35 and 55.

- Their work has had, or is likely to have, a positive impact in the Caribbean region.
- They are likely to be a worthy exemplar and must be willing to serve as a Caribbean model of excellence, to inspire hope and emulation by the people of the region.

The procedures by which candidates are assessed and vetted remain unchanged from previous years.

As before, each CNC is responsible for nominating suitable candidates. The CNCs combine their selections with those gleaned from the public calls. Once the best candidates are identified, rigorous research is done to ensure candidates' suitability.

Resumés are thoroughly investigated and verified, as are candidate backgrounds. Once the CNCs are satisfied that candidates have met the criteria, one candidate is selected in each category. Each CNC chairman then presents their committees' recommendations to the regional Eminent Persons Panel for final selection.

Once the laureates are selected, the Programmed Director confirms their willingness to accept the awards. The 2023 Laureates were announced at a press conference at ANSA McAL Headquarters on March 1, 2023.

Categories for Nomination

Arts & Letters include the visual, literary and performing arts. Visual and plastic arts include painting, photography, drawing, film, fashion, graphic arts, illustration, architectural design, sculpture, costume-making, ceramics, metalworking, woodwork, couture and the textile arts.

Performing arts include music, dance, drama, comedy, theatre, motion pictures, opera, magic, steel bands and other marching bands.

Letters include biographies, fiction, non-fiction, history, poetry, plays, choreography, design and musical compositions, conductors, directors, producers, stage and lighting designers, curators and publishers.

Entrepreneurship (introduced in 2015) is a term now commonly applied outside the domains of business and commerce where it originated. In that spirit, the committees will be open to any reasonable adjustment of definitions and criteria if applications and nominees warrant it.

In the most fundamental sense, an entrepreneur is someone able to bring some new, innovative and necessary product to the market – therefore transforming the market, field or area in which the product is embedded, and creating a model for replication.

Entrepreneurship is often associated with very big, paradigm-changing products like the cell phone or personal computer, but the entrepreneurs we expect to find in the Caribbean are innovators on a smaller scale, given the relative dearth of facilities available to undertake such projects.

Public & Civic Contributions include the activities of those who work directly to improve communities and the lives of Caribbean people. The category includes those who have pioneered NGOs and people-centred organisations that benefit their community, country and region, and better the quality of life for Caribbean people.

The award recognises outstanding work in recreation, youth activities, social welfare, educational issues, domestic violence, drug and substance abuse rehabilitation, health, HIV/AIDS, environmental protection, employment creation, poverty alleviation, service and outstanding contribution to the cause of good governance or civic betterment.

Science & Technology includes research and experimental scientific work in the natural, physical, mathematical, earth, life and biological sciences, as well as applied science to address practical human and community needs. These activities include the science of non-living matter and energy and their interactions including physics, chemistry, geology, and astronomy.

Earth Science includes geology, paleontology, oceanography, meteorology and soil sciences.

Life Science includes the field of bioscience and all branches of natural science dealing with the structure and behaviour of living organisms such as plants, animals and humans – including botany, zoology, genetics and medicine.

Technology and Applied Science includes work that uses the outputs of science to create technology that may include the practical application of scientific knowledge to commerce, industry, and practical human and community problems. It includes the fields of industrial arts, engineering, agriculture, and environmental sciences.

College Of Laureates

Since 2006, Awards have been presented to 57 exceptional Caribbean nationals, including our three inductions today. COLLEGE OF LAUREATES

2006 Mr Robert Yao Ramesar (Arts & Letters), The Very Rev Monsignor Gregory Ramkissoon (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Terrence Forrester (Science & Technology)

2008 Prof David Dabydeen (Arts & Letters), Mrs Claudette Richardson-Pious (Public & Civic Contributions, Joint), Mrs Annette Arjoon-Martins (Public & Civic Contributions, Joint), Dr James Husbands (Science & Technology)

2010 Dr Adrian Augier (Arts & Letters), Mr Sydney Allicock, MS (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Kathleen Coard, CBE (Science & Technology)

2011 Dr Kim Johnson (Arts & Letters), Dr Lennox Honychurch (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Surujpal Teelucksingh (Science & Technology)

2012 George Simon (Arts & Letters), Dr Paula Lucie-Smith, HBM (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Leonard O'Garro (Science & Technology)

2013 Prof Caryl Phillips (Arts & Letters), Dr Rhonda Maingot (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Dave Chadee, CMT (Science & Technology, Joint), Prof Anselm Hennis (Science & Technology, Joint)

2014 Prof Liam Teague (Arts & Letters), Ms Karen de Souza (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Richard Robertson (Science & Technology)

2015 Prof Paloma Mohamed Martin, AA (Arts & Letters), Mr Herbert Samuel (Entrepreneurship), Prof Suresh Narine (Science & Technology, Joint), Prof Patrick Hosein (Science & Technology, Joint)

2017 Mr Kwame Ryan (Arts & Letters, Joint), Mr Winslow Craig, AA (Arts & Letters, Joint); Ms Shadel Nyack Compton (Entrepreneurship), Dr Christopher Arif Bulkan (Public & Civic Contributions)

2018 Prof Kei Miller (Arts & Letters), Mr Andrew Boyle (Entrepreneurship), Mrs Chevaughn and Mr Noel Joseph (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Adesh Ramsubhag (Science & Technology).

2019 Ms Danielle Dieffenthaller (Arts & Letters); Ms Kimala Bennett (Entrepreneurship); Mr Corey Lane (Public & Civic Contributions, 2019); Prof Michael Taylor (Science & Technology)

2020 Mr Jallim Eudovic (Arts & Letters), Mr Andrew Mendes (Entrepreneurship), Dr Olivene Burke (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Shirin Haque (Science & Technology)

2021 Ms Maria Nunes (Arts & Letters, Joint), Mr Sean Sutherland (Arts & Letters, Joint), Dr Guna Muppuri (Entrepreneurship), Dr Floyd Morris (Public & Civic Contributions), Prof Rupika Delgoda (Science & Technology, Joint), Dr Ayanna Carla Phillips-Savage (Science & Technology, Joint)

2022 Mr Marlon James (Arts & Letters), Mr Shyam Nokta (Entrepreneurship), Ms Anuskha Sonai (Public & Civic Contributions, Joint), Dr Kim Jebodhsingh (Public & Civic Contributions, Joint), Prof Christine Carrington (Science & Technology)

The Regional Eminent Persons Panel



Professor Compton Bourne, OE (Chairman)

Professor Bourne is Professor Emeritus of Economics at UWI and has been a Visiting Professor and Adjunct Professor at the Ohio State University. He is a Fellow of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences, past President of the Caribbean Studies Association and past Vice-President of the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society. He was President of the Caribbean Development Bank, Principal of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Development of the University of the West Indies and Vice-Chairman, UNESCO Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Professor Bourne is the author or editor of 11 books, 60 scholarly papers and more than 50 research report and advisory memoranda for Caribbean governments, foreign governments and international development organisations and financial institutions. He is a Member of the Order of Excellence of Guyana, recipient of the Caribbean Studies Distinguished Service Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Higher Education from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago.



The Honourable Justice Christopher Blackman, GCM

Mr. Justice Christopher Blackman has served as Chair of the Barbados Republican Constitution Review Commission. He was appointed Chairman of the CARICOM Competition Commission and Chairman of the Employment Rights Tribunal of Barbados in July 2018. He is a former non-resident Justice of Appeal of the Belize Court of Appeal, having been appointed to that post on October 1, 2014 for a period of three years. Prior to that, he was a Justice of the Court of Appeal of The Bahamas, serving from March 1, 2008 to December 5, 2014. He served as High Court Judge of Barbados (2003-2008) and Belize (2001-2003).

Justice Blackman qualified as a Solicitor in 1970, practised privately and became Managing Partner of Carrington & Sealy. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1987, served as President of the Barbados Bar Association (1983-86) and as an Independent Senator (1986-90) in the Barbados Parliament. He was a former Deputy Chairman of Barbados Shipping & Trading, and Chairman of Nation Publishing.

A member of the Eminent Persons Panel from inception, he was awarded the Gold Crown of Merit for Law and Public Service in Barbados in 2000.



Mr. Christopher Bovell, CD

Admitted to the Bar in England, Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad & Tobago, Mr Bovell is a former Senior Partner, now Consultant, with DunnCox, Jamaica; Director of Hardware & Lumber Ltd, and a former Director of GraceKennedy Limited, and First Caribbean International Bank (Jamaica).

He served as a Government Senator (1983-89) and was the Treasurer of the Jamaican Labour Party between 1993 and 2012. He is the Secretary of the Incorporated Lay Body of the Anglican Church in Jamaica.



Professor Bridget Brereton

Professor Brereton is Professor Emerita in History at UWI, St Augustine, where she held several posts, including head of its History Department, and Deputy Principal and Interim Principal of the St Augustine campus. She has also sat on various government and advisory boards including Trinidad's National Library and Information System (NALIS), of which she was chair.

As an academic, Professor Brereton has published several groundbreaking works of Trinidadian and Caribbean history including A History of Modern Trinidad 1783-1962, Race Relations in Colonial Trinidad (1870-1900), and Law, Justice and Empire: The Colonial Career of Justice John Gorrie. She also edited Volume V of the UNESCO General History of the Caribbean, on the 20th Century Caribbean.



Dr Charmaine Gardner, SLMH

Dr Charmaine Gardner is the former chair of the OECS Nominating Committee. She is the former Managing Director of Carasco and Son Limited, a fourth-generation 100-year-old family company. She has served as President of the St Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, and the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce.

She is past President of the 1st National Bank, St Lucia Ltd, and former Chairperson of the Bank's Board of Directors, where she served for 26 years. In 2020, Dr Gardner retired as Chair of the Cave Hill School of Business of UWI's Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

Dr Gardner is the recipient of the Saint Lucia Medal of Honour. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, LLD (Honoris Causa) was conferred upon her by UWI in 2006. She continues her voluntary service mainly in the areas of Education, Church and Women's Affairs. She is a member of the Girl Guides of Saint Lucia, the Saint Lucia Crisis Centre (from inception), and is now Chair of the Archdiocesan Finance Council of Castries. She is currently the Honorary Consul for Israel in Saint Lucia.



The Most Honourable Professor Sir Kenneth O Hall, ON, GCMG, OJ

Sir Kenneth has had a distinguished career in public service and academia. He was appointed Governor-General of Jamaica in February 2006. He is the fifth person, and fourth Jamaican, to hold the position since independence in 1962.

Prior to this, Professor Hall was Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. During his decade at UWI (1996-2006) he implemented policies that resulted in significant transformation of academic programmes, physical infrastructure and student relations. He was zealous in his efforts to establish an environment conducive to learning and on that was supported heavily by information and communication technologies.

He is also a productive and prolific academic and writer who has published several books, articles and reviews on issues relating to History and International Relations. He is also renowned for his contribution to advancement of the regional integration process, during his tenure at the CARICOM Secretariat from 1975-77 and 1994-96.



Professor E Nigel Harris, MPhil, DM, CCH

Professor Harris is internationally known for his work as a rheumatologist and has been co-awarded the Ciba-Geigy Prize for helping to define an immune system disorder and develop a diagnostic test to identify it. He has published over 150 papers, editorials, reviews and chapters on rheumatology, cited in several thousand publications. For his contributions to the field, he was made a Master of the American College of Rheumatology in October 2014.

During his tenure as Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, he advocated for a university presence in the 12 Caribbean countries that contribute to UWI but have no campuses. This led to the creation of the "Open Campus", which delivers distance education to students in all 16 contributing countries. Professor Harris is presently Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Guyana (UG).



Ambassador Irwin LaRocque

Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, a national of Dominica, was the seventh Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the second Secretary-General of the Caribbean Forum of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM). He held both offices for ten years commencing in August 2011. Prior to that, he served with distinction at senior management levels in the Public Service of Dominica for over 18 years.

As Secretary-General of CARICOM, he was instrumental in strengthening the vCommunity's Security Architecture, ensuring the completion and signing of the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty and the Agreement on the Return and Sharing of Recovered Assets.

Ambassador LaRocque has managed diplomatic negotiations with third countries and international development partners. He has a wealth of experience in management, public administration, economic development, trade, foreign affairs and diplomacy.



The Honourable Justice Rolston Nelson, CMT

The Honourable Justice Rolston Nelson served as a Judge at the Caribbean Court of Justice from 2005 to 2017. Prior to that he was a judge of the Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal, to which he was elevated directly from the Inner Bar. He has taught Law at the Law Schools in Jamaica and Trinidad since 1974.

He is the author of several articles and case notes appearing in legal journals, including the British Tax Review and the Jamaica Law Journal. From 1987-1999, Justice Nelson was Editor of The Lawyer, the journal of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago. He is an Honorary Distinguished Fellow of the University of the West Indies and a former Chairman of the Trinidad & Tobago Unit Trust Corporation.

Justice Nelson was selected from senior Commonwealth judges as the Inns of Court Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies for 2010-11. He was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Gold) by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in 2020.



Mrs Diana Mahabir Wyatt, MDW, Hon LLD (UWI)

Mrs Diana Mahabir-Wyatt joined the EPP as the representative of the ANSA McAL Foundation. She has been one of the most active personalities in the public and civic spheres in Trinidad and Tobago for decades.

She has served in the Senate (1991-2000) and has been heavily involved in NGOs and other community-based organisations dedicated to women's and children's rights. She is also a Human Resources professional and has served as a founding member of the National Training Board of Trinidad and Tobago, the Registration Recognition and Certification Board, and the National Insurance Board.

Other committees and commissions on which she served include the Workman's Compensation Employment Injury Committee, Severance Pay Legislation Committee, Freedom of Association Committee, National Flexi-Time Committee, National Productivity Council, the National Training Board, the Self-Help Commission, and the Family Court Committee.

In 2011 she was awarded the Trinity (Gold) for Community Service in the field of Human Rights, specifically for work with women. In 2012, she was awarded a Doctor of Laws Degree (Honoris Causa) from the University of the West Indies.



Major General (Retired) Joseph G Singh, MSS, MSc, FCMI, FRGS, RCDS

General Singh is the Special Assistant to the President of Guyana and served in the same capacity (2010-2017) under three previous presidents. He is the recipient of Guyana's highest military award – the Military Service Star, as well as national and military awards from Brazil, France, Cuba, and the Netherlands.

He was Pro-Chancellor of the University of Guyana from March 2018 to March 2021, acting as Chancellor for a period. He has chaired several state and autonomous boards including the National Agriculture, Research and Extension Institute, and the National Protected Areas Trust. He was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Natural Resource Fund in 2022.

He is a published author and has contributed peer-reviewed articles on a wide range of topics for local, regional and international publications. He chaired the Guyana CNC in 2006 and has been a member of the Eminent Persons Panel since 2007.

Country Nominating Committees



Dr. Angela Alleyne

Dr Angela T. Alleyne is a Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. She has led the M.Sc./Diploma in Biosafety at the UWI Cave Hill Campus since 2014 and in 2023 was appointed to the International Society of Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC) as a Regional Councillor the Caribbean.

Dr Alleyne uses Biotechnology to investigate plant pathogens and their genetic populations in Barbados and the wider Caribbean, in the major tropical roots and tubers, to boost food security. She is the author of more than thirty (30) articles and book chapters in Biotechnology and Plant Pathology. She is recognised by the British Society for Plant Pathology, and the American Phytopathology association and also the Royal Society for Biology. Her work supports organisations in agriculture such as CARDI and IICA and her extensive public service and scientific expertise resulted in her being awarded the Cave Hill Campus Principal's Award of Excellence for outstanding work in teaching and public service in 2018.

The Barbados CNC: Dr Angela Alleyne (Chair), Mr Stetson Babb, Ms Susan Boyea, Mrs Ayodele Burrowes, The Hon Tony Gibbs, ChB, FREng, Ms Fiona Hinds, KC, Mr Hilford Murrell, Dr Basil Springer, GCM.



Guyana Alim Hosein, A.A.

Mr. Alim Hosein is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies, University of Guyana. He has served as Coordinator, Head of Department, Assistant Dean and Dean at this university. A linguist, he researches and writes on creole languages, especially Guyanese Creole, Guyanese Literature, Culture, and Art. He has been Chair of the Board of Management of the National Art Gallery, Director of the Guyana Visual Arts Competition and Exhibition, member of the Management Committee of the Guyana Prize for Literature, and member of the Board of Studies of the ER Burrowes School of Art. In 2018, he received the national award, the Golden Arrow of Achievement, for his contribution to Linguistics, Education, Arts and Culture.

The Guyana CNC: Mr Alim Hosein, AA (Chair), Mr Vincent Alexander, Dr Marlene Cox, Mr Al Creighton, Mr Philip Da Silva, Dr Seeta Terry Shah Roath, Dr David Singh.



Jamaica Prof Ishenkumba Kahwa

Prof Ishenkumba Kahwa received his BSc (Ed) (Hons) and an MSc (Inorganic Chemistry) from the University of Dar es Salaam in 1976 and 1980 respectively, and a PhD (Inorganic Chemistry) from Louisiana State University (USA) in 1986.

He has served at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica as Professor of Supramolecular Chemistry 2000-2018, Head of the Department of Chemistry (2002-2008), Dean Faculty of Science and Technology (formerly Faculty of Pure and Applied sciences) (2008-2013) and Deputy Principal 2013-2018. He has received several awards for his accomplishments including Order of Distinction Commander Class (Jamaica, 2016); CARICOM Science Award (2011); Gleaner Award for Science and Technology (2003); Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Public Services (2004); Fellow of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences; and Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences, TWAS, (formerly, the Third World Academy of Sciences). He also served as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) 1978-1987.

His research, business interests and over 70 publications cover: (i) coordination chemistry, spectroscopy and electronic interactions in lanthanide (III), 3-d and P-block ions; (ii) management of hazardous materials; and (iii) science/technology – development dynamics. He has mentored 13 PhD and 5 MPhil students and led the conception and establishment of new programmes of study in environmental and occupational safety and health. He chairs/sits on several public and private sector Boards.

The Jamaica CNC: Prof Ishenkumba Kahwa (Chair), Dr Brian Heap, Ms Minna Israel, Miss Petrona Morrison, Mr Milton J Samuda, Mr Morin Seymour, Dr Kimberly Anne Robinson-Walcott



The OECS Hazel Simmons-McDonald, OBE, SLC

Hazel Simmons-McDonald is Professor Emerita of Applied Linguistics, University of the West Indies.

She retired from the post of Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal, UWI Open Campus in 2014. Earlier UWI appointments in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Cave Hill were as Department Head of Linguistics; of the merged Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature; as Deputy Dean of Outreach; of Planning; and Dean. She was also Co-Chair of the UWI Cultural Studies Initiative.

Her publications include book chapters on second language acquisition, literacy and language learning by Creole and Vernacular speakers; articles on language education policy, language and culture; open and distance learning, and co-edited books on Creole influenced vernaculars, and English language texts for secondary and tertiary levels. She has served as Chief Examiner, English A (CXC); Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President & President, Society for Caribbean Linguistics; UWI representative, International Council - Distance Education Standing Conference of Presidents (ICDE-SCOP); Honorary Advisor - Commonwealth of Learning.

Honours include: Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE); World Education Congress Global Distance Learning Award; Institute for Gender and Development Studies Award for Outstanding Contribution to Linguistics & Multidisciplinary Studies, The Saint Lucia Cross (SLC) under the Order of Saint Lucia (2022); Elected member, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2023).

The OECS CNC: Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, OBE (St Lucia) - Chair, Sir Errol Allen (St Vincent), Mr Richard Duncan, OBE (Grenada), Mr J Emile Ferdinand, KC (St Kitts & Nevis), Ms E Ann Henry, KC, (Antigua & Barbuda), Laureate Dr Lennox Honychurch (Dominica), Mr Marius St Rose (St Lucia), Mr Lyston E Skerritt (Montserrat).



Trinidad & Tobago Laureate Prof Paul Teelucksingh

Laureate Prof Paul Teelucksingh is Professor of Medicine at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine. He was honoured as our 2011 Science & Technology Laureate. His research has focused on diagnosis, prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and obesity. He has chaired a Cabinet-appointed Technical Advisory Committee to report on strategies to combat chronic disease.

He was instrumental in the growth and evolution of the Medical School at Mt Hope in Trinidad and his concern with training that produces better doctors resulted in the introduction of the Objective Structured Clinical Examination as a test of clinical competence. It is the concluding exam at UWI's Faculty of Medical Sciences. He has published in various medical journals including The Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine and Caribbean Health. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in the UK.

The Trinidad & Tobago CNC: Laureate Prof Paul Teelucksingh (Chair), Mrs Helen Drayton, Mr Gabriel Faria, Dr Linda Hadeed, Prof Patricia Mohammed, Mr Vincent Pereira, Prof Brinsley Samaroo.



Dr Anthony N Sabga, ORTT

The Founder of the Anthony N Sabga Awards – Caribbean Excellence, Dr Anthony N Sabga began his business life at the tender age of 12 after his father took ill.

From there, he founded his own agency business, selling a range of brands from milk powder to refrigerators. In 1948, he registered furniture and appliance retailer, Standard Distributors, which became the cornerstone of his empire. In 1986, he greatly expanded his business footprint, acquiring the ailing McAL conglomerate through an innovative share purchase.

In retrospect, his journey may seem certain and inevitable. This was far from the case. He faced many more failures than he ever did successes. But when he succeeded, he did so extravagantly.

It was after his retirement in the early 2000s that he turned his attention to a problem many people spoke of, but few knew how to address: regional unity. He believed many stories of achievement and excellence exist in the region but were not being told because of the nature of regional politics and society. His answer to this, after consulting with many friends and associates, was the Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence, launched in 2005. The programme's first laureates were named in 2006.

The Awards has since named a college of 57 laureates and provided a unique regional platform for cooperation, unity, and fraternity. At the convocation in Guyana in 2017, Mr A Norman Sabga, patron of these awards, promised they would continue. This is as his father would have wanted.

Dr Sabga, ORTT, passed away on May 3, 2017, days before the Awards' first ceremony to be held outside of Trinidad & Tobago. During his lifetime, he was recognised as a giant of Caribbean achievement and foresight. He was part of the last wave of immigrants who make up the mosaic that is 21st Century Trinidad and Tobago.

Some of Dr Sabga's Awards and Achievements include:

Posthumous Lifetime Achievement from the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association Hall of Fame, 2018

Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business and Contribution towards the Growth and Development of Chaguanas, 2017

Keys to the City of Port of Spain, 2015

National Icon of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for outstanding contribution to Trinidad and Tobago in the field of Entrepreneurship, 2013

Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (ORTT), 2011

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce Business Hall of Fame, 2008

The American Foundation for the UWI for Outstanding Contribution to the Caribbean, 2004

Prime Minister's Award for Innovation and Invention, Lifetime Achievement Award, Manufacturing Sector, 2004

Trinidad and Tobago Icons of the Nation in the Category - "Thinkers, Movers and Shapers," 2002

Ernst & Young Master Entrepreneur of the Year, 1998

The Chaconia Medal, Gold, 1998

UWI Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, 1998

Prime Minister's Export Award, 1968



Mr A Norman Sabga, Hon. LLD (UWI and UTT)

Chairman of the ANSA McAL Group of Companies

Mr A Norman Sabga is Patron of the Anthony N Sabga Awards - Caribbean Excellence, and Executive Chairman of the ANSA McAL Group of Companies.

As Executive Chairman of the ANSA McAL Group, he is responsible for overseeing the financial performance of over 75 companies throughout the Caribbean and the United States. He is also responsible for the livelihood and wellbeing of close to 6,000 employees in the region. The group's portfolio includes companies in Automotive, Beverage Manufacturing, Chemicals, Construction, Insurance and Financial Services, Media, Real Estate, Retail and Distribution, and Shipping.

Mr Sabga, the eldest son of Awards' founder Dr Anthony N Sabga, took control of the group as Managing Director in 1996, and was appointed Group Chairman when his father retired in 1999.

He was educated in Trinidad, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Upon his return to Trinidad, he joined the family business at Standard Distributors, where he built a reputation for fairness and a preference for fact-based business discussion. From there, he worked his way through the group, managing various business units and companies.

Mr Sabga is responsible for transforming the ANSA McAL Group, delivering exceptional returns to investors. Under his leadership, the group's share price increased more than 400 percent.

For his contributions to business in the region, he was awarded the University of the West Indies Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree (Honoris Causa) in 2015.

He also received an honorary doctorate (Doctor of Laws) from the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in 2019.



Mr Andrew N Sabga

Chairman of the ANSA McAL Foundation

Mr Andrew Sabga is the third son of our founder, Dr Anthony N Sabga. He assumed the chairmanship of the ANSA McAL Foundation in 2020.

Mr Sabga is Deputy Chairman of the ANSA McAL Group of Companies. He was the Group Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Parent Board and ANSA McAL Barbados from August 2017 to December 2019. A past President of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, he has over 33 years' experience in the Group's Manufacturing Sector, holding senior managerial positions at Carib Brewery, Carib Glassworks, and Caribbean Development Co.

He also chaired Alstons Marketing Company (AMCO) for several years. He holds an MBA in Marketing from the University of Miami, and a BSc in Business Administration (Marketing/Finance) from Boston University. Mr Sabga retired from the Group in 2020.

2022 Laureate Updates



Marlon James Arts & Letters Jamaica

When last we saw author Marlon James in Kingston in 2022, just before he received his Anthony N. Sabga Award at Jamaica House, he was the show-runner and executive producer of the upcoming TV series "Get Millie Black." A joint production of HBO and Channel 4 television, and written by James, Get Millie Black is a series about a Jamaican female detective whose investigation takes her from the streets of Kingston to the back alleys of London. All but two of the cast members were Jamaican and all scenes were shot on location in Kingston. For several members of the cast this was their first acting role.

The Booker Prize winner still lives in Brooklyn and is still getting into arguments about books with his longtime editor Jake Morrissey in the third season of their podcast, Marlon and Jake Read Dead People, where they banter about literary greats who torment, inspire and obsess them. He remains a vocal advocate for social justice in the United States, posting regularly about civil rights issues.

The third book in James's Dark Star Trilogy – the story of the search for a missing child set in a mythical African landscape – is expected to be released in 2026. The book will follow the first two in the series: Black Leopard, Red Wolf, which was a National Book Award finalist and selected by Time Magazine as one of the best fantasy novels of all time, and Moon Witch, Spider King, which he completed during the pandemic.



Shyam Nokta Entrepreneurship Guyana

An entrepreneur's work is never done. Is that how the saying goes? Since joining the Anthony N. Sabga Awards' College of Laureates, I have continued my work as Managing Director of Environmental Management Consultants (EMC) - the company that I founded in 2005 to navigate the ever-shifting landscape of environmental regulations for business and government clients.

It's no secret that I'm also passionate about Guyana's biodiversity and natural beauty. I have served as steward of Guyana's oldest national park – Kaieteur – and provided support for the establishment of Guyana's National Protected Areas System. Now, the kids are on my mind.

Guyana's next generation must be guided to an appreciation of our vast biodiversity, and the pressing need to protect the forest and savannahs where our flora and fauna live. This is why I established the EMC Foundation in 2022 – to promote environmental education and awareness.

With our many partners in the sector, the next generation of environmental stewards has celebrated World Biodiversity Day by expressing their love for the environment, on canvas in brilliant colours. Through our Facebook page, we've educated them about protecting native species like the stunning Blue Morpho Butterfly, which relies on our fragile rainforest ecosystem.

The Foundation has been spreading the word about opportunities in eco-tourism - for birding in places like the Mahaica River. We've also sent students on scavenger hunts in the Botanical Gardens, where, by some sort of environmental alchemy, they absorb the wonders of the ecosystem and become advocates for the animals who lived here long before us.

Interviewed after the 2022 Entrepreneurship Award was announced, I said that my immediate goal would be raising environmental awareness among my son's generation. The EMC Foundation is a stride in that direction.



Dr Kim Jebodhsingh Public & Civic Contributions - Joint Barbados

2022 was a landmark year for me. It marked the one-year anniversary of my new office, the Eye Clinic, which I personally designed and built, and 22 years since I graduated from medical school. I celebrated my 20th wedding anniversary with my husband, Mark; and our twin sons, Luke and Dominic, turned 16. Last but certainly not least, I won an Anthony N. Sagba Award – Caribbean Excellence.

Since receiving my award, I have spent a tremendous amount of time using novel ideas to structure my growing medical practice to facilitate my long-term goals of serving Barbados and the Caribbean. I have significantly increased my clinical and surgical patient services, and with this the pro bono arm of my practice.

I've expanded my virtual consultations to other Caribbean islands, allowing me to assist patients in St. Vincent, Antigua, Trinidad and Jamaica without having to travel. And I'm liaising with other Caribbean ophthalmologists to travel to their facilities to perform surgeries where Oculoplastic and Reconstructive services are limited. The Latest Updates in Ophthalmology Subspeciality Conference, which I initiated and organised, has been scheduled for February 2024, after a hiatus during the pandemic. It will bring the Caribbean and international ophthalmology fraternity together to discuss new developments in ophthalmology, academic training and research that will contribute to the progress and development of eye care in the region.

Oh, and finally, I continue to play a significant role in the development of squash and sports for youth. I was the manager for the Barbados National Junior Squash Team that won silver in the Caribbean Championships in Guyana in July 2022. I am also currently working on a new project: 'Girls in Sports.'

It continues to be an absolute honour to be part of the distinguished group of Laureates who have been recognized for their significant Caribbean and international achievements.



Anuskha Sonai Public & Civic Contributions - Joint Suriname

It is with immense gratitude that I share with you some of my professional accomplishments over the past year. The recognition of the Anthony N. Sabga Award has been a catalyst for my continued dedication to driving positive change in the technology sector.

I am thrilled to have been nominated and awarded the Women in Tech Global Leadership Award-LATAM and the Women in Tech Global Winner Award-International in Dubai. I was also nominated for the Women in Tech Global Leadership Award, among big names like Microsoft and Siemens. Finally, I am deeply humbled to have been decorated with the Honorary Order of the Yellow Star of the Republic of Suriname by the President of the Republic.

These honours validate the importance of my work in championing diversity, inclusion and women's empowerment in the tech industry.

As an advocate for change, I have had the privilege of delivering keynote speeches at various events, shining a spotlight on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the technology sector. In line with my commitment to diversity and women's empowerment, I have also proudly sponsored scholarships for women and youth in tech.

One of my proudest recent achievements is the design and launch of the MetaSkills Educational Program. Approved by Shell for vocational studies, the program equips students and teachers with essential, 21st-century STEM and digital skills. Furthermore, I am delighted to announce that my company, Creative Tech Hub Caribbean, has formed a partnership with the largest provider of internationally certified online training, Coursera. This partnership has enabled us to enhance and upscale all our academy programs.

Lastly, I was honoured to be chosen to serve as the President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Suriname. In this role, I am dedicated to fostering growth, innovation and collaboration within our business community.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Anthony N. Sabga Awards and all those who have supported and believed in my vision. It is through collective efforts and shared determination that we can create a brighter future for Suriname and the Caribbean.



Prof Christine Carrington, CMT Science & Technology Trinidad and Tobago

Receiving the Anthony N. Sabga Award in 2022 was a distinct honour that not only attracted attention to the work done by me and my team, but more importantly to issues related to viral emergence and the urgent need for capacity building and research that will allow us to better combat future pandemic threats.

Since receiving the award, the work of my research team has continued apace. We continue to provide support to the Ministry of Health by performing SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing required for monitoring variants in circulation, through grants and in-kind support I received from the AHF Global Public Health Institute, the Pan American Health Organisation, and the UK Health Security Agency.

In addition, I am Co-Principal Investigator on a £3.1 million Wellcome Trust-funded consortium project led by Dr. David Bauer of the Crick Institute in London that will link three studies - in West Africa, the West Indies, and West London - aimed at understanding why COVID-19 was milder in some parts of the world.

I am also very pleased to be co-investigator on a USDA project led by my UWI colleague Prof. Christopher Oura and William Wilson of the USDA which takes us back to the mosquito-borne viruses that were the main focus of my lab's work before our lives became COVID-19!

I have also been working with my team to extend our virus whole genomic sequencing capacity to other important viruses. Perhaps most importantly, we have implemented "metagenomic" sequencing protocols that are used to detect novel or unknown pathogens not detected by routinely used screening panels. Our preliminary work was presented at the CADDE Genomic Epidemiology Workshop held earlier this year in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where I was an invited speaker.

My team has also produced eight new peer-reviewed journal publications. Six are related to COVID-19 and genomic surveillance. The other two are long overdue publications on work completed before the pandemic that got set aside because of the demands of COVID-19.

To top off my 2022, I received a Trinidad and Tobago National Award – the Chaconia Medal Gold - in recognition of my leadership in the sphere of Molecular Genetics and Virology. It is another distinct honour for which I am very grateful.

About the ANSA McAL Foundation and its Board of Directors

The ANSA MCAL Foundation's major initiative is the funding and administration of the Anthony N Sabga Awards – Caribbean Excellence. Since the first laureates were awarded in 2006, it has supported and recognized 57 exceptional Caribbean laureates with awards of over TT\$28 million.

The Foundation has been committed to addressing a broad range of social needs since inception. It was created by the 1993 merger of the ANSA Foundation, formed in 1986 to assist charitable causes, and the McAL Foundation, formed with similar aims in 1981. In recent times, it has adopted a policy of concentrating on projects of national and regional significance.

Notable achievements include:

- Building the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre at UWI, St Augustine.
- Vitas House Hospice, five-year endowment (2012-2016).
- Benefactor of the ANSA McAL wing of the Diagnostic, Research, Education and Therapeutic Centre for the Hearing Impaired (DRETCHI) for the Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Deaf.
- Significant support for The Princess Elizabeth Home for Handicapped Children; SERVOL; the Jaya Lakshmi Children's Home; Junior Achievement of Trinidad and Tobago; The Living Water Community Food Assistance Relief (FAR) Project; the Blood Bank; Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society and the Lady Hochoy Vocational Centre.
- Founding member of the UWI Institute of Business.

From 1991 to 2003 the Foundation received 1 per cent of profit of the ANSA McAL Group. By investing this endowment, the Foundation is now self-financing, and able to undertake in perpetuity the significant commitment of the Anthony N Sabga Awards - Caribbean Excellence.

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