

In Memory of Dr. Trona Bennett

Today we are challenged. We are grieving the loss of a dear colleague and friend. We are angry that any human being can perform such a brutal and senseless act. We are struggling with ambivalence as we try to control our emotions knowing that our anger and sympathy are directed towards members of the same family. There can be no excuse for the savage bludgeoning of a mother. We are angry at the perpetrator. But we must reach deep into our hearts to find ways to explain and I daresay forgive the act. And we have to grieve the loss and at the same time reach out with love, sympathy and support to a father who must be devastated. But we cannot submit to anger and allow it to supersede good judgment. We must pray for the strength and guidance to understand and forgive. We must pray for good health and mental stability of all those who are inflicted. We must pray that Dr. Richardson can be strengthened to survive this double tragedy.

I met Dr. Trona Bennett less than a year ago. Since then I have grown to know, respect and admire a true champion of women's health. She practiced gynecology guided by a relentless pursuit of excellence. She lived for her patients. Her patients loved her. Her colleagues loved her. The entire Tapion family loved her. Her mission was not to be contented with the standard but to go well beyond that. It was her cutting edge philosophy that brought advanced laparoscopy to Tapion. In an era when many are guided by the pursuit of selfish goals, she was selfless. While she sought to expand her understanding and expertise in advanced laparoscopy, her loftier goal was to establish the modality at Tapion for the purpose of training other gynecologists and general surgeons. She was determined to make the modality available and accessible to patients in St. Lucia and the Eastern Caribbean.

This is a sad day in Castries. This is a time of intense grief in St. Lucia and the entire Southeastern Caribbean. We mourn the untimely death of a hero. But as we celebrate her life, we must try to look beyond the grief to that which she would want us to accomplish in her name. No greater honor can be bestowed upon her than to pursue relentlessly that which was her passion. I challenge Dr. Leslie Bishop, gynecologist and Dr. Andrew Richardson, general surgeon to hoist higher the banner that Dr. Bennett has raised. I challenge the entire Tapion team, the Board, the administration and staff to give of their hearts, minds and resources to the memory of Dr. Bennett by completing that which she had the vision to begin but not the time to see to full fruition. I pledge full support of all those who would raise even higher the banner that Dr. Bennett erected.

May she forever rest in peace.

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Letter found at web site URL: www.lapscope.com.