

The following is a press release from the management of Dental Care Clinic, Stapleton Lane, St. John's, Antigua dated September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## **Medical Breakthrough in Antigua**

Imagine for an instance, that in the prime of your life you were struck by a motor vehicle that left you in a debilitating state which rendered you unable to open your mouth more than 2-4 mm for over a decade. Imagine that such a severe restriction made you unable to take a bite into a mango, an apple or fruit of any kind; unable to bite into a sandwich, a "bun and cheese" or even a Kentucky Fried Chicken drumstick for that same period. Such was the case of a young man from Willikies by the name of Kelly Tuitt

At age seven, Kelly had been the victim of a motor vehicle accident, which severely fractured the right side of his jaw. Soon after this, Kelly's jaw had healed in an unusual manner, which left him unable to open his mouth. A bony obstruction that had grown in the area where his temporomandibular joint (TMJ) was originally located had inadvertently grown during his childhood and literally fused his jaw to the base of his skull.

On September 11<sup>th</sup> 2008, an Oral maxillo-facial team led by reconstructive oral surgeon Dr. Edward Zebovitz from Annapolis Maryland & assisted by Dr. Horace Griffith & Dr. Derek Marshall (Oral surgeon & General dentist respectively of Dental Care Clinic, Stapleton Lane, performed for the first time in Antigua & Barbuda and probably the region, the first documented case of the complete replacement of a temporomandibular joint of a patient. After approximately eleven (11) hours of intense surgery, young Kelly Tuitt's temporomandibular joint was re-sectioned and he was subsequently fitted with a state of the art TMJ prosthesis.

Today, young Kelly is able to open his mouth within normal limits and it doesn't take much to suggest that the notion of sitting down to a hearty meal was foremost on his mind, following his quick recovery.

Though the surgery of September 11<sup>th</sup> is a resounding success young Kelly is still expected to go through continuous therapy to ensure that no oral restrictions re-occur. Dr. Zebovitz is renowned for performing similar reconstructive surgeries in the U.S.A, Africa and The Philippines on a humanitarian basis.

As in most complex surgeries, many individuals are usually involved in working behind the scenes, which requires much planning, arranging which helped to enable the oral surgery team to perform to the highest standards and expectations possible. In this regards, on behalf of Dr. Zebovitz & the surgical team I would like to extend a heartfelt gratification to the following:

The Ministry of Health; The theatre nurses at the Holberton Hospital; The Verandah Hotel & Spa; The staff of Dental Care Clinic, Stapleton Lane; Dr. George Roberts; Dr. Sen; Dr. Gregson Williams; Dr. Christenson CEO of TMJ Implants Inc; Demetrious Swann (surgical assistant-U.S) & The Help the Children Foundation.