GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Pharmacists Recognised as Being the Guardians of Health

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Pharmacists across the Virgin Islands are being recognised for their invaluable role in protecting public health, ensuring safe access to medicines, and improving patient care.

Chief of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Services, **Mrs. Gracia Wheatley-Smith**, described pharmacists as the often unsung heroes of healthcare as the Virgin Islands joins nations across the globe in observing **World Pharmacist Day** today September 25.

A special ceremony will be held on **Saturday, September 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital lobby** to mark the occasion, where pharmacists from across the Territory will be honored for their dedication and service.

The event will be highlighted by the premiere of the Pharmacists: Guardians of Life Documentary that features many of the Territory's pharmacists and a pharmacy technician capturing their passion, resilience, and commitment to patient care, while reminding the community that pharmacy is about far more than dispensing medicine.

Mrs. Wheatley-Smith said, "Pharmacists are more than dispensers of medicine," she said. "They are educators, advocates, and protectors who ensure that every prescription meets the highest standards of safety and care."

This year's celebration is held under the theme, "Think Health, Think Pharmacists", and highlights the profession's vital contribution to advancing healthcare, promoting safety, and offering trusted advice to patients and communities.

The celebration of World Pharmacist Day in the Virgin Islands underscores the Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare systems, promote safe medication use, and inspire young people to pursue careers in pharmacy.

World Pharmacist Day is observed to honor the vital role pharmacists play in improving health worldwide. Show appreciation to your pharmacist today as we celebrate World Pharmacist Day.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to improving the health of the people of the Virgin Islands.

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