GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

# PRESS RELEASE

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# Ministry of Health Honors Pharmacists with Pinning Ceremony

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The Ministry of Health and Social Development led the Territory in a celebration of World Pharmacist Day 2025, shining a well-deserved spotlight on more than 27 pharmacists across the Virgin Islands.

Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent Wheatley, extended his congratulations in a recorded statement, expressing regret that he could not attend in person. The statement read, “Pharmacists are at the heart of patient safety and public health. Their expertise ensures that every treatment is safe, effective, and trusted. On this World Pharmacist Day, I extend the Government’s deepest gratitude to our pharmacists for their unwavering commitment to care.”

Junior Minister for Financial Services and Economic Development, Honourable Lorna Smith, OBE, described the pharmacists as true frontline guardians of health. She presented pins of recognition as a tangible symbol of the Territory’s respect and appreciation.

Interim Head of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Pooled Procurement Service (PPS), Mr. Francis Burnett, commended the Virgin Islands for leading the way in pharmacist recognition.

Mr. Burnett said, “The BVI is to be commended for hosting this ceremony, the only Member State to do so this year. Special praise must go to Chief of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Services, Mrs. Gracia Wheatley, and her team for their pioneering leadership in acknowledging the invaluable role of pharmacists in healthcare.”

The evening also featured the premiere of the Ministry of Health produced documentary *“Pharmacists: Guardians of Life”*, which allowed the community to hear directly from pharmacists and a pharmacy technician about their personal journeys, the triumphs, the challenges, and the lasting impact of their work.

Meanwhile, Chief of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Services, Mrs. Gracia Wheatley, expressed gratitude on behalf of her team. She said, “This ceremony is a tribute to every pharmacist who continues to serve with dedication and integrity. We remain committed to protecting the health of our community, one prescription and one patient at a time.”

The ceremony was held on Saturday, September 27 at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital lobby and was a moment for pharmacists to feel seen, valued, and celebrated for their unwavering commitment to patient care. Many pharmacists expressed their delight at being acknowledged, shared the appreciation they felt and what it meant for them to be present in that space.

Interested persons can view the documentary using the link below.
https://www.facebook.com/BVIGovernment/videos/1720146825338929

The Ministry of Health and Social Development reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening pharmacy services, enhancing the Territory's health system, and encouraging young people to pursue careers in the field of pharmacy.

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