

Lenford Blagrove - Soraya Amy Jackson

My name is Lenford Blagrove. I am 19 years of age and it has been my lifelong dream to become a Scientist. It has always been my passion from a very young age to want to understand the nature of the many aspects of this phenomenon called life and the substantial universe; it inspires my instinct to unearth new principles and develop useful inventions. As I started secondary school, the distinguished York Castle High School, my love for science grew and I excelled academically, particularly in the science subjects Biology and Chemistry, in which I earned distinctions at the C.X.C. examinations. I have been accepted to the University of the West Indies Bachelor of Science program. This program of studies will further increase my knowledge and hone my skills. Upon completion of University, it is my objective to give back to my country upon becoming a scientist.

For example, there has been much talk in recent times about the lifestyles of our people, the attendant diseases they suffer and the impact these have been having on our embattled health care system. One such disease is Hypertension. Currently, all the oral medicines on the market worldwide that are used to treat hypertension are made from inorganic materials. Scientific research has indicated that flavanols, flavonoids and antioxidants have a direct effect on hypertension by attacking Free Radicals in areas such as the blood vessels, clearing plaque that builds up in the lumen of the blood vessel, causing smoother blood flow and lowered blood pressure. Indigenous Caribbean plants such as apples, sorrel and guava contain high levels of flavanols, flavonoids and antioxidants. My idea is to manufacture a certified, organic ingestible with extracts from these indigenous plants which could be used to treat high blood pressure. The purpose of this invention is to provide a healthier substitute to the conventional modalities of treatment using only indigenous plants found in the Caribbean. Using a plant as a derivative for treatment of hypertension can have a many-fold effect as these very treatments (presenting no side effects, as in the case of inorganic modes) will simultaneously promote a more holistic approach to wellness, fight Free Radicals that cause cancer and open up an economic opportunity for Jamaica in this market. In addition, plant derived modalities are known to promote psychological health as people feel safer taking treatments from sources that they know or can relate to.

This represents a microcosm of the focus I shall be bringing to Bio-Chemistry and in particular, the field of medical research. I am profoundly excited about the possibilities that exist, as I am confident that through these possibilities, will come a new reality for a large sector of our population along with corollary benefits to the socio-economic standing of our country.