

Biography of Dr. Juliet Daniel
Recipient of the GOLD CROWN OF MERIT
2009 Barbados Independence Honours



Dr. Juliet M. Daniel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Dr. Daniel received her primary and secondary education in Barbados at St. Paul's Primary School and Queen's College respectively. She then obtained a B.Sc. in Life Sciences from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and her Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. Upon completion of her Ph.D., Dr. Daniel spent six years as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. It was there that she honed her research skills and gained invaluable experience for the future establishment of her own independent research laboratory at McMaster University.

Dr. Daniel's research is focused on understanding the fundamentals of cell proliferation and cell adhesion, and elucidating how malfunction of these processes contributes to cancer. Dr. Daniel's work in the cancer research field led to her discovery and naming of a new gene "Kaiso", coined from the popular Caribbean music "calypso". With this discovery Dr. Daniel introduced 'calypso' into science. Kaiso regulates the expression of genes that control cell proliferation and adhesion. Consequently Kaiso's misexpression in a variety of human tumors (e.g. breast, ovarian, colon) may contribute to tumor progression.

Throughout her career, Dr. Daniel has published in several top scientific journals (e.g. *Nature Cell Biology*, *Molecular Cell Biology*, *Journal of Cell Biology*, *Journal of Cell Science*), and her research has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the US Army Dept. of Defense Breast Cancer IDEA Award Program. Dr. Daniel has also been the recipient of several awards including the Ontario Premier's Research Excellence Award, the American Association for Cancer Research Minority Scholar Travel Award, the Hamilton

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Black History Month John C. Holland Professional Achievement Award, the Barbados American Cancer Association Scientific Achievement Award, the African Canadian Achievement Award of Excellence, and the NABO Collaborative Conference Community Service Award. She has also been featured in “Millennium Minds: 100 Black Canadians” and “Who’s Who in Black Canada”.

Over the years Dr. Daniel has volunteered for a number of non-profit and charitable organizations. In Hamilton she is actively involved in the Afro-Caribbean Canadian community. Since 2003, she has been an active member of Awards Committee of The African Caribbean Canadian Potpourri Inc. (ACCPI), an organization that annually awards scholarships to minority students entering university or institutions of higher learning. Dr. Daniel also actively supports the National Let’s Talk Science Program that promotes and encourages elementary and middle-school youth to pursue careers in science.

In 2007, along with three other minority professional women from the GTA, Dr. Daniel co-founded the Canadian Multicultural LEAD Organization. The L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Empowerment, Achievement, Determination) Program is a high school student-transitioning program for Grade 11-12 students as they consider their future education and employment options. The program is designed to nurture confidence and hope within our minority youth and empower them on a path to productive lifestyle successes.

Dr. Daniel is also a Board Member at large of the Young Barbadian Professional Society (YBPS)-Canada.

Dr. Daniel is an avid Latin and Ballroom Dancer and her other hobbies include reading, biking and tennis.