REGIONAL AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF CHILD HEALTH

The World Health Organisation’s definition of health encompasses more than just the absence of disease and includes physical, social and emotional health and development. The health and well being of a nation and therefore a region, is determined by the health of its children. Internationally, perinatal, infant and under five mortality rates are recognised indicators of national health.

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Child and Adolescent Health is one of the Departments within the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The main focus of the Department is to improve the health and welfare of families through clinical service, research, intellectual leadership, advisory and community services and training of undergraduate students and postgraduate doctors.
Our clinical services are delivered through two medical wards, a paediatric casualty and a newborn special care unit which incorporates a neonatal intensive care unit. The main subspecialties offered are infectious diseases, development and behavioural paediatrics, cardiology, neonatology, nephrology, neurology, endocrinology and pulmonology. There is also collaboration with other surgical and medical subspecialties.

The Department has been involved in collaborative research with other faculties of the University of the West Indies and several overseas institutions such as Vanderbilt University Global Health Program, University of Texas and the Children’s Nutrition Research Centre (CNRC), Baylor College of Medicine, Texas and Yale University. Several members of the Department were involved in health promotion activities such as media presentations both print and electronic. Members also demonstrated intellectual leadership through their involvement with several advisory boards and active participation in community service. The scope of this involvement encompassed early childhood development, mental health, elimination of infectious diseases and parenting and perinatal and infant nutrition.

The need for a cadre of professionals trained in the field of Child and Adolescent Health has led to the Department’s continued development of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. As curriculum development, teaching and learning methods are continuously being revised, both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Child and Adolescent Health have been the subject of frequent reviews. The Department currently offers two undergraduate courses as part of the MBBS programme and a postgraduate programme in Paediatrics (Doctor of Medicine in Paediatrics). Additionally, staff of the Department teach courses in child and adolescent health related areas and provide research and clinical supervision to students enrolled in undergraduate programmes in Nursing and Midwifery and postgraduate programmes in Clinical Psychology, Education, Nutrition, Epidemiology and Public Health.

There were 280 junior students and 250 senior students who completed the Child and Adolescent Health rotations over the last year. The final MBBS assessment of the Child and Adolescent Health programme is
done together with the Department of Medicine in the November/December examination 2014 and of the 39 candidates who were examined, 9 were unsuccessful, while in May/June 2015, of 257 candidates who were examined, 10% of the candidates were unsuccessful. There were 56 elective students who rotated through Child and Adolescent Health during this period. Forty-six were from UWI; ten were from overseas Universities: UK (6), Canada (2), and Caribbean (2).

There was a total of 51 postgraduate students registered in the DM Paediatric programme of which 36 candidates are in Jamaica and 15 candidates are in the Bahamas. Seven candidates sat DM Part 2 final examination and 7 (100%) were successful while 15 candidates sat the DM Part 1 examinations and all 15 (100%) were successful. Thirteen candidates started the program 1st July 2015 of which 3 were in the Bahamas.

PERINATAL AUDIT, SYMPOSIUM AND CONFERENCES

This year was the fourteenth year of the Perinatal Audit and Symposium. This annual conference was held on the 21st and the 22nd February 2015 and was coordinated by Dr. Blondel Crosdale. This is a joint effort between the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Child and Adolescent Health with external review of perinatal statistics by practitioners from outside units. The theme this year was “Hot Topics in Perinatology”

The Department held its 6th Biennial Child and Adolescent Health Conference 5th and 6th April 2014. The theme was “Code Red” – Critical Care Issues in Paediatrics. The guest speaker was Dr. Michael Gayle, a consultant paediatric intensivist from the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida.

The Department under the guidance of Dr. Melbourne-Chambers organized a Gastroenterology Symposium entitled “Managing Stool Incontinence in Children.” The visiting lecturer from the USA, Dr. Kirk Thame, a previous lecturer in the Department conducted the Symposium.
RESEARCH GRANTS

Bailey K – Principal Investigator

- Source: Principal New Initiative Grant $1, 500,000
  Title: A longitudinal study of respiratory morbidity in a Jamaican Birth Cohort
  Funds: J$1, 500,000

Christie CDC

- Source: Minister of Health (July, 2015) and National Health
  Title: Elimination of Vertical (Mother-to-child) Transmission of HIV/AIDS and Congenital Syphilis in Jamaica,
  Grant Period: 2015 to 2016
  Funds: J$25,000,000

- Source: UNICEF & UNAIDS
  Title: Elimination of Vertical (Mother-to-child) Transmission of HIV/AIDS and Congenital Syphilis in Jamaica,
  Grant Period: 2015
  Funds: $4,250 USD

Harrison A – Principal Investigator

- Source: UNICEF
  Title: Chronic illness in Jamaican Adolescents – A review of asthma, diabetes mellitus, HIV and sickle cell disease
  Grant Period: (2014–2015)
  Funds: USD 34,950.00
Pierre RB     Co-Principal Investigators
Christie CDC.

• Source: ViiV Healthcare in collaboration with Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and other international sites (South Africa, Brazil, Ireland, United Kingdom, Romania, and Thailand)

Title: “The Passages Project – Mapping Transition, Charting Futures Global Research into Specialty Care and Transition for Adolescents Living with HIV”,

Grant Period: September 1, 2014 to June 26, 2016
Funds: US$ 17,086.95 (€ 15,000.00) [Phase 1]

Pottinger A     Principal Investigator

• Source: Principal New Initiative Grant $1, 500,000

Title:
Funds: J$1, 500,000

Samms-Vaughan – Principal Investigation

• Source: Inter-Americaan Development Bank

Title: Evaluation of Early Childhood Learning Environments

Grant Period: 14/08/2014-13/08/2016
Funds: US $1, 000,000.00 (Counterpart funding additional US200, 000.00)

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCIES

Christie CDC.

• Inaugural International AIDS Society and Industry High-level Leadership Consultations, Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI), Chairperson – Boston, Mar 3 International AIDS Society Bi-Annual Conference, Chairperson – Melbourne Australia, 2014
PUBLICATIONS

Peer Review Journals


Screening Questionnaire was equivalent to clinical assessment in identifying children with epilepsy. *J ClinEpidemiol.* 2015: S0895-4356(15)00124-9.


• Ellie Adler, Dr. Cheryl Alexis, Prof. Zulaika Ali, Dr. Upton Allen, Dr. Ute Bartels, Cassandra Bick, Dr. Jacqueline Bird-Compton, Dr. Curt Bodkyn, Dr. Rosemary Boyle, Stephanie De Young, Bonnie Flemingcarroll, Dr. Sumit Gupta, Patricia Ingram-Martin, Dr. Meredith Irwin, Dr. Melanie Kirby-Allen, Dr. Sharon Mclean-Salmon, Paul Mihelcic, Dr. Michelle Ann Richards-Dawson, Dr. Michelle Reece-Mills, Dr. Furqan Shaikh, Dr. Corrine Sinquee-Brown, Dr. Minerva Thame, Dr. Sheila Weitzman, Dr. Gilian Wharfe And Dr. Victor Blanchette. Bridging the Distance in the Caribbean: Telemedicine as a means to build capacity for care in paediatric cancer and blood disorders. Global Telehealth 2015: Integrating Technology and Information for Better Healthcare G. Gillis et al. (Eds.) Stud Health Technol Inform. 2015;209:1-8.

- Richardson C, Trotman H. Risk factors for the delivery of macrosomic infants at the University Hospital of the West Indies. Am J Perinatol. 2014 Nov;31(11):927-32

ABSTRACTS

- A five year review of acute accidental poisoning in children at the Bustamante Hospital for Children: 2007–2011 TT Thomas, KA Bailey, M Antoine P0 - (02) WIMJ


- Hall-Parkinson D, Tapper J, Melbourne-Chambers R. Parent And Caregiver Knowledge, Beliefs And Responses To Convulsive Seizures In Children In Kingston, Jamaica – A Hospital Survey. W.I. Med J, 2015; 64(Suppl.2):10


INVITED PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Christie CD. Transition of HIV infected children from pediatrics into adult care. IWHOD symposium, 27 March, 2015, San Servelo Island, Italy.

- Christie CD. HIV in a resource challenged country – Jamaica. Invited Plenary Speaker at the Symposium to honor Professor Robert S. Baltimore, May 9, 2015; Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

Harrison A.


- Harrison A “Special needs of the adolescent patient: Understanding the adolescent”. Faculty for Ministry of Health’s Regional training ‘Adolescent Health Standards and Criteria training events’- July 2015

Melbourne Chambers R.


Pierre R

- Evans-Gilbert, T; Reid, G; Pierre, R. “Perinatally HIV infected adolescents and early transition to adult care”. JAIDS 11/2014; 67. DOI: 10.1097/01.qai.0000456166.66149.ce. Platform presentation at the 16th Annual International Meeting of the Institute of Human Virology, Wednesday afternoon, September 17, 2014, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Pottinger AM.


- “Psychological support for assisted fertility” 14th Annual Perinatal Conference, Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Main Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical Sciences, February 21–22, 2015

- “Neonatal end of life care” (panel discussion). Paediatric Association of Jamaica Annual Ethics Seminar, Paediatric Association of Jamaica, Knutsford Court Hotel, September 25 2014.

Samms-Vaughan, ME.


- Rahbar, M. H., Samms-Vaughan, M., Ma, J., Bressler, J., Dickerson,

- KD Rocke, TS Ferguson, NO Younger-Coleman, MK Tulloch-Reid, JM Knight-Madden, M Samms-Vaughan, D Ashley, A McCaw-Binns, RJ Wilks The Relationship Between Birth Weight and Renal Function in Afro-Caribbean Young Adults: Analysis from the 1986 Jamaica Birth Cohort Study. FMS Research Day, November 2014.

Thame M.


PUBLIC SERVICE

Christie CDC

- Member, Governing Council of the International AIDS Society
- Member, Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric Education and Research (CIPHER), Governing Council, International AIDS Society
- Member, Research Grant Working Group, Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric Education and Research (CIPHER), Governing Council, International AIDS Society
- Chair, “Rethinking the Pharmaceutical Industry Liaison Forum (ILF)” of the International AIDS Society (IAS)
- Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America,
- Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Founding Member, HIV Medicine Association of America
- Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
- Member, International Society for Infectious Diseases
- Vice Chancellor’s Representative, UWI, to the Executive, Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Training (CHART)

- Director, Jamaica’s National Program for the Elimination of Congenital HIV/AIDS and Syphilis and JaPPAAIDS, at the invitation of Jamaica’s Minister of Health, Dr Fenton Ferguson

- Senior Member, Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (eMTCT) of HIV and Syphilis, Oversight Committee and its many Subcommittees, eg., Database, Cascade for pMTCT Syphilis,

- Chair, Clinical Trials Advisory Committee, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, UWI Mona

- UWI representative, Centre for HIV/AIDS Research and Training (CHART)

- Member, West Indian Medical Journal, Editorial Board

- Chair, Principal’s Research Awards Committee, Faculty of Medicine, UWI

- Chair, Clinical Trials Oversight Committee, UWI – Mona

- Special Project Lead – Collaboration between UWI and Yale University School of Medicine.

Harrison A

- Chairman, Board of Visitors, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre

- Vice-President Caribbean region Executive council,– International Association for Adolescent Health

- Member, Adolescent Policy Working group – Ministry of Health, Jamaica

- Member, Steering Committee, ‘All-in project”. Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

- Reviewer for PLOS One and West Indian Medical Journal

Pierre R.

- World Health Organization (WHO) Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MCA) and the Department

– Team Chair, and Member of Accreditation Team selected by Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) for site visit to St. James School Ross University School of Medicine and Clinical Affiliates, January 18–25, 2014


– Chairman / Chief Examiner of the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC) Examination Committee

– Member, National HIV Quantification Technical Sub Committee, Ministry of Health, Jamaica; June 2013 to date

Pottinger AM

– Coordinator, Counselling services, Eden Garden Service Center, outreach programme of Webster Memorial United Church, responsible for supervising volunteer counselors, and monitoring and evaluating counselling service to the public

– Member, Steering Committee, Psychology and Counselling Standards, University Council of Jamaica

Samms-Vaughan M.

– Chairman, Early Childhood Commission

– Member, IADB Early Childhood Advisory Group

– Director, Usain Bolt Foundation

– Director, Family Life Ministries

– Director, Vaz Preparatory School Board

– Director, Promise Learning Centre Board