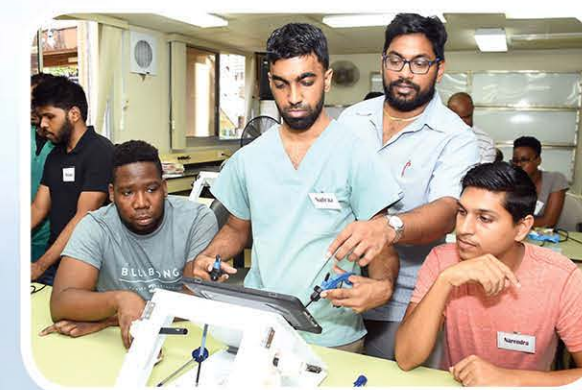
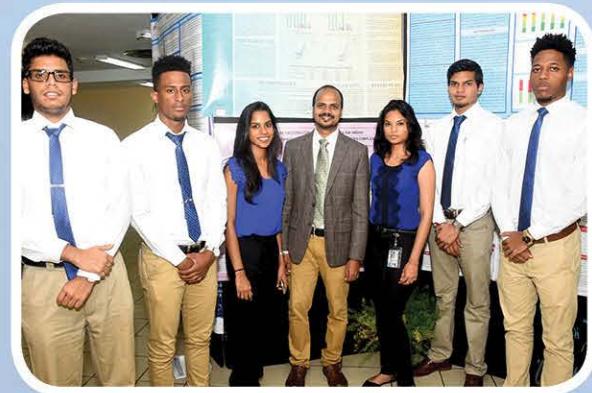




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ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2018



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### PRODUCED

December 2018 by the  
Faculty of Medical Sciences  
The University of the West Indies

**Cave Hill Campus  
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JAMAICA**

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# Letter from the Editor

Dr Bidyadhar Sa

Deputy Dean, Quality assurance and Accreditation  
Head, Centre for Medical Sciences, faculty of Medical Sciences  
The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago



We are pleased to present the third issue of MEDULINK, a cross campus collaboration Newsletter of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies (FMS, UWI). I express my thanks to our team who entrusted me to be the Editor for this issue and thankful to all who have contributed to its completion.

This issue of Medulink sees us still celebrating our 70th anniversary with lectures at Cave Hill by Chancellor Emeritus Sir George Alleyne and Former

Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Cave Hill, Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser. We celebrate the launch of a Faculty Museum at Mona, and the Principal's Award of Excellence at Cave Hill.

Professor J Michael Branday writes of the passion he still enjoys for a career that spans almost half a century; Dr Carla Phillips shows our community how to safeguard our marine environment while this issue's commentary wonders if we need to be training less doctors. Dr Rajendra Shepherd writes on how St. Augustine uses novel ways to teach professionalism while Dr Shamjeet Singh expounds on common diseases and their biochemical bases during World Pharmacy Day.

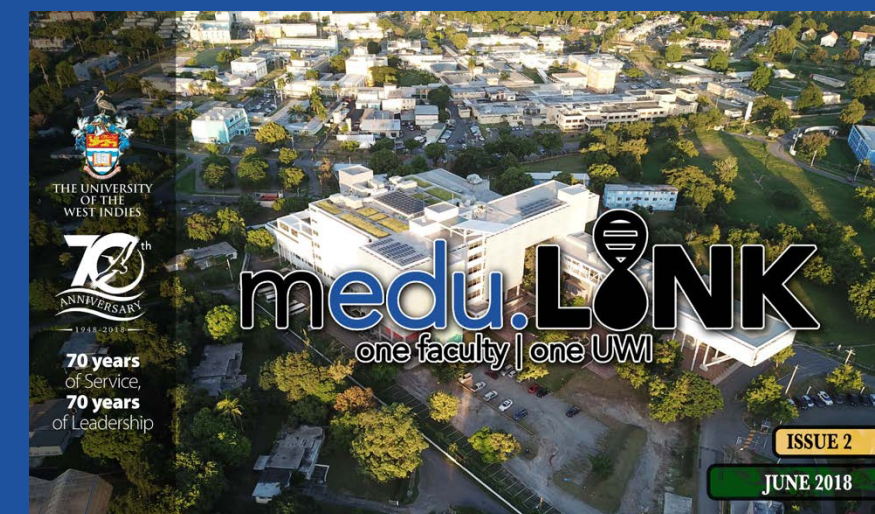
We read of an inter-professional collaboration between nursing and medicine at Mona, a Royal College of Surgeons Basic Surgical Skills course at St Augustine and the implementation and utilization of a live CME Management System in the Bahamas.

We are particularly encouraged by the editorial collaboration between the Centre for Medical Sciences Education (CMSE) and the Medical Education Units at each of the main Campus sites. Mr Michael Khan and Ms Allison Shepherd from the CMSE, St. Augustine has again provided excellent graphic design expertise and advice. Special thanks for the support by the editorial board comprising the leadership in Medical Education at Cave Hill (Dr. Azim Majumder and Dr. Peter Adams), and Mona (Professor Russel Pierre and Professor Joseph Branday) campuses. We look forward to your contributions, recommendations and suggestions for this issue of Medulink.

Please feel free to contact us: 



UWI



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# Commentary: Are We Training Too Many Doctors?

Dr Robin Roberts & Dr Corrine SinQuee-Brown

UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences, School of Clinical Medicine and Research, The Bahamas

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A total of 443 students have graduated from the [UWI School of Clinical Medicine and Research \(SCMR\)](#), The Bahamas as of the May/June 2018 final MBBS examinations, since its humble existence in 1997; 85% were Bahamian Nationals. This year (2018), adding those that passed the Nov/Dec 2017 examinations, a record 45 UWI MBBS graduates applied for the 40 available intern positions to commence their internship 1st July 2018.

An additional 7 graduates from the “Off-Shore” medical schools also applied the limited posts. A stark contrast to my graduating class of '80, which was a “record-breaking year” with a grand record of 6 Bahamian Nationals. This is the first time in the history of undergraduate medicine in the Bahamas that all nationals graduating from the UWI MBBS



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Programme could not secure an internship post at home.

The current numbers beg the question – are we training too many doctors? I am unaware that the university's admission criteria have changed any over the past 30 plus years; this remains true in spite of the increased numbers admitted to maintain economic viability. Hence lowering the standards and thus admitting weaker students is mute to this argument. The university has increased its teaching staff and physical resources, accordingly.

The data begs the question – Are we training too many Doctors?

We opine that we don't have an oversupply of doctors. We may just be producing enough to meet our needs.

The Bahamas' Physician Workforce Today and Tomorrow, a research publication of the Ministry of Health Planning Unit 2015, highlights the following:

With no aggressive physician strategy, The Bahamas will experience a 55% reduction in the Physician labor force by 2030, The public sector physician labor force is aging with 10% of all physicians 55 years or older Females are forming a greater portion of working doctors. That's the national level.

The issue at the local level is even more startling.

The ingredients mix a volatile and deadly brew: (i) No more 80-hours per week house staff physician: The research is without question. In the current environment of more critically ill patients, medicolegal medicine, and endless documentation, physicians are burnt out. This is strongly associated with patient morbidity and mortality. Physician personal health and safety are at risk too; long and extended working hours have been associated with percutaneous injuries and road traffic accidents, and possibly

other incidents at work through the same pathway. (ii) The "Me Too Time generation": the new generation of doctors insists on having a life outside of medicine, demanding "me too time". Medicine is a jealous lover and they seek to divorce themselves from the relationship. Not to be unrecognized is the realities of the female domination of the medical profession (70% of the graduating classes), and their time demanded to grow relationships, motherhood and family ties. Less unit hours per physician translate to increasing numbers of physicians required. (iii) A shortage of Residency programmes. As the MBBS degree is recognized as an entrance exam as opposed to an exit one, and that each medical undergraduate is mandated to a residency programme in order to obtain an independent practice private license as in the USA, Canada and the UK, the issue is not that we have an oversupply of doctors but an under supply of postgraduate training programmes to provide the cadre of specialty

trained physicians for the delivery of quality care services our people need and deserve

Internationally, recognizing the increasing demand for health care as the population ages, the Association of American Medical Colleges forecast a shortage of up to 120,000 physicians in the USA by 2030; so too, there are similar physician shortages noted in Canada and the UK. It is only now that the UWI is acknowledging the business of medicine and the potential revenues that could be generated. This changes the strategies of a medical school and its assessment processes, when producing doctors for export becomes incorporated into its primary objectives.

I believe we are asking the wrong question: it is not 'are we producing enough doctors', but 'what are we producing our doctors for'?





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# Educating ALL in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona

## Medical Education Unit to Health Professions Education Unit

Russell Pierre<sup>1</sup>, Michael Branday<sup>2</sup>, Tomlin Paul<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Director, Health Professions Education Unit, <sup>2</sup>Consultant, Special Projects, <sup>3</sup>Dean, FMS, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona

The Medical Education Unit (MEU), Mona was established in 2007 by the then Dean, Professor Archibald McDonald. The mandate was to develop and implement medical education philosophy and practice in the undergraduate medical programme and to coordinate accreditation and quality assurance initiatives in response to a growing need.

The embryonic unit focused on staff training in broad aspects of medical education, while supporting educational activities, undergraduate curriculum development, department

initiatives and research in medical education. Important liaisons and collaborations were established with the Instructional Support Services (ISS), Mona Information Technology Services (MITS), the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (formerly the Instructional Development Unit) and the Medical Library.

Further development of the unit was stymied with the departure in 2010 of the Deputy Dean Curriculum, Professor JM Branday who up to that time, directed the unit, to his new position as Dean, FMS, Cave Hill, Barbados. A series of subsequent events however led to the critical need to re-think, re-establish, rebrand and expand the MEU into a **Health Professions Education Unit (HPEU), beginning August**



The Health Professions Education Unit



*Dr Tomlin Paul, Dean, FMS*



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**2018.** These included among others (1) Development and expansion of programmes in the FMS, Mona [MBBS, Dentistry, Physical Therapy, Doctor of Pharmacy, Diagnostic Imaging, and Nursing], (2) Accreditation and quality assurance concerns among programmes, (3) Gap in curriculum and relevant medical education expertise and capacity, and (4) Renewed interest and emphasis on inter-professional education in the curriculum.

The vision for the **HPEU** is to become a diverse, comprehensive unit that encompasses **quality health professions education for ALL**, through the following overall objectives:

1. Faculty development in all health professions education
2. Improving curriculum management, research and evaluation across the health disciplines
3. Developing working models

4. Leveraging educational technology across all programmes to enhance programme delivery
5. Innovative course development
6. Strengthening student support and tracking
7. Cross-campus collaboration in development of degree offerings in health professions education

The HPEU aims to promote, develop, implement and monitor health professions' education initiatives with special emphasis on faculty continued professional development, research in health professions' education, accreditation and quality enhancement support, curriculum development, and inter-professional education.

Since the inception in August 2018, the HPEU has successfully conducted inter-professional Faculty Development Workshops on "Flipping the Classroom", "Blueprinting", "Advanced Item Writing and Standard Setting". These have been enthusiastically supported by faculty from the various programmes (average 30 participants per session), and this coming semester will see further workshops on Leadership, Education Technology and Standard Setting. Additionally, consultations have been requested by and completed for individual departments, including research and course/programme development initiatives.

We envision that the HPEU will continue on this trajectory of development and expansion as we move toward the overall aim of quality health professions education for ALL.



*Participants - "Flipping the Classroom Workshop"*



# Surgical Incisions into Medical Education

J Michael Branday

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As I approach the end of my academic career, I reflect on my association with the University of the West Indies that now spans almost half a century. My journey began as an undergraduate student in September 1967. Basic medical training was followed by five years of surgical residency and in 1979 I was offered an academic post in the Department of Surgery.

I remember pondering the words 'Lecturer in Surgery' on my first contract. I had trained to be a surgeon, but what did I know about Lecturing? But, looking back, I had always loved to teach and recall disappointing my high school mentor who had advised me to go into teaching.

This love continued during my surgical training and in the early years on the academic staff. I was assigned traditional lectures but tried whenever possible to add some activity to keep the students (and myself) awake. As a senior resident I had introduced formative assessment to the clerkships without any idea that this was what it was called. Without formal teacher training, I just did it the way I had experienced it myself, trying to improve on the things that worked best and to avoid what had not.

In those early years, I registered for workshops and attended activities that addressed teaching and devoted my study-leave to visiting medical schools like McMaster University or the

University of Glasgow. In 1988, I participated in a teaching skills workshop at Mona at the end of which I was selected along with three others to receive further training at the University of British Columbia (UBC). In discussions with the UBC staff, it became clear that if I was serious about being an educator, I would need to get a formal qualification.

That opportunity came in 1993. I was granted sabbatical leave and a Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue formal studies in Britain and in 1995 I was awarded an MSc in Medical Education from the University of Wales.

On my return I was asked to lead a major review of the medical undergraduate curriculum which, five years later, led to implementation of a restructured programme. It was during those years that I began to experience the challenge of balancing a career as an academic surgeon with that of an educational administrator. Surgery is not something one can do occasionally and after another five years of managing the new

curriculum, I realized that I had to make a choice. My letterheads slowly changed from 'General and Vascular Surgery', to 'General Surgery', to 'Minor Surgery' and even before my transfer to the Cave Hill Campus as Dean in 2010, I had given up my surgical practice entirely.

Of course, there has been at least one happy consequence of my commitment to teaching. As a surgical resident in 1977, I once abandoned my leave to take a tutorial for a new group of clinical students in which there was an attractive young lady from Trinidad. It is long story for another occasion but suffice it to say that in May 2018 we celebrated our 38th wedding anniversary.

There are not many surgeons who venture formally into medical education and I still miss the atmosphere and camaraderie of the operating theatre. However, I believe that I have made a significant contribution to my medical school and I have few regrets for the path I took.



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# The Road to a Faculty Museum

**FMS Museum Planning Committee** – Dr Helen Trotman-Edwards, Dr Carron Gordon, Mr Craig Hall, Professor Joseph Branday, Ms Melissa Walker, Ms Mellisa Walker, Professor Jean-Pierre Louboutin, Ms Sodja Peters, Mr Dwayne Redwood, Dr Thaon Jones (Chair)

On Thursday, December 21, 2018, the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), Mona culminated The University of the West Indies 70th Anniversary celebrations with the opening of the Faculty of Medical Sciences Museum.

Historically, the museum has been in the making since the Department of Pathology initially housed specimens that were used for teaching purposes in the “old” Faculty of Medicine. However, the vision of a Faculty Museum by the previous Deans, Professor Archibald McDonald and Professor Horace Fletcher has been realized through the current Faculty Dean, Dr. Tomlin Paul.

Since the construction of the Faculty of Medical Sciences Archibald McDonald Teaching and Research Complex, a space was reserved and initially equipped for the museum. However, it was not until the start of 2017/18 through to 2018/19 Academic Years that momentum was fueled to fast-track the opening of the museum to culminate with

The University of the West Indies 70th Anniversary celebrations.

A ten-person multidisciplinary committee composed of academic faculty (programmes), administration and technical persons from the Dean's Office was assembled. The committee sought the assistance of and collaborated with the University Museum's curator, Dr. Suzanne Francis-Brown, the head of the History and Archeology Department in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Professor James Robertson, and Ms. Lisa O'Gilvie, head of the company that organizes and manages the Mona Campus University Research Days.

Through the initiative of Ms. Sharon White, Research Officer, Dean's Office, collaboration was engaged with the local branch of UNESCO. The medical museum's development was enthusiastically received and supported as a landmark event in the Caribbean Region, by UNESCO.

The committee decided to focus on the history of the key programmes in the Faculty of Medical Sciences for the first display (MBBS,



*Dean Dr Tomlin Paul and former Dean Professor Horace Fletcher who donated 3 books*



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Dentistry, Nursing, Doctor of Pharmacy, Basic Medical Sciences, Physical Therapy, Diagnostic Imaging). In congruence with a truly “One UWI, One Faculty” approach, the designated area was transformed from a storage room to a museum within six months.

At the short opening ceremony on the 21st December 2018, greetings and remarks were received from the Dean, Tomlin Paul, Dr. Francis-Brown, Professor Robertson and Mr. Everton Hannam of UNESCO. These were followed by the cutting of the ceremonial opening ribbon by Dean Paul, Professor Fletcher and other distinguished guests, and a short tour of the museum.

The featured displays representing the different health training programmes in the Faculty, were greatly enhanced by loaned contributions highlighting the landmark achievements of Sir George Alleyne, Sir Kenneth Standard, and Nurse Mary Seivwright.

The goal of the museum is to provide an enhanced educational and historical experience in health sciences to visitors, students and alumni. The museum will be open to the general public and will feature rotating displays of educational, cultural and historical value. A museum curator will be engaged in 2019, and the various health related organisations will be encouraged to collaborate and promote their annual health calendar events at the museum.

*[Top] Dr Thaon Jones (Chair) and some members of the FMS Museum Committee*

*[Bottom Left] Mr Everton Hannam (UNESCO), Dean Dr Tomlin Paul, Dean Professor Horace Fletcher, Dr Suzanne Francis-Brown (Curator, University Museum), Dr Thaon Jones*



# 'Tis the Season for Quality Assurance, Mona

Tomlin Paul<sup>1</sup>, Thaon Jones<sup>2</sup>, Russell Pierre<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dean; <sup>2</sup>Programme Director, School of Dentistry; <sup>3</sup>Director, Health Professions Education Unit, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona, Jamaica

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Higher education does have its own rhythm with semesters, examinations and summer schools all being a part of that drum beat. At Mona, the seasonal carpeting of the campus with the magnificent yellow flowers of the poui trees is a clear prelude to examinations. In the recent times, quality assurance (QA) is fast becoming a standard part of this landscape.

Quality in terms of achieving excellence has always been a central value in higher education (Schwarz and Westerheijden, 2007). At one point this mark of excellence was stamped from the General Medical Council (GMC) and was focussed on physician training. We are now in a period of widening demands to quality assure additional programmes and institution. Having just completed the MB BS programme response to the Caribbean Accreditation

Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) which replaced the GMC in 2003, Mona now has many QA irons in the fire.

The Bachelor's in Diagnostic Imaging programme was reviewed in late 2018 by the QA Unit of Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (UWI) with a team led by Ms Leslie Kendrick, Chair, Department of Radiologic Sciences College of Health Sciences, Boise State University. Following on this, we are also working with the QA Unit to prepare for an internal review of the MB BS Clinical programme. The Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) will have a visit by the CAAM-HP in 2019 but only after the whole Campus is visited by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) for an accreditation review in February. As if that is not enough, we have started joint preparations with our sister Campuses for QA review of the Doctor of Medicine (DM)

programmes and for accreditation of the BSc Nursing. At the programme level, for example, the Dentistry final year students have just finished their first set of three internal Pass/Fail Quality Assurance (QA) Examinations. These manikin and patient examinations in various disciplines (i.e. fillings, cleanings, deaf patient, extractions), independently assess the students' clinical skills competency development, and how well the clinical preceptors are following the stated objectives of the clinical programme. Independent reviewers guide the two-way individual feedback sessions that follow (examiners' comments are shared, students' clarification heard, and preceptors assessment evaluated). Rubrics designed to assess the outcomes of each competency are used. Quality Assurance has been a win-win opportunity for students and school.

The FMS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Committee

has identified initial key Quality Indicators to monitor internal quality processes within Departments, Units and programmes. The identified data will be collated and inform the reporting for QA and accreditation self-studies. We anticipate that the functioning CQI Committee will coordinate responses to QA and accreditation review teams' recommendations, and ultimately promote and implement relevant quality related developments in accordance with the Faculty's strategic plan.

Indeed it appears to be the season and time for quality assurance at Mona. Forrest (2015) suggests that improvement from QA reviews depends on the approach taken by the reviewers and the current performance of the organisation. Working collaboratively across the campuses, we feel that the ground is sown for converting this season to a long period of continuous quality improvement in these programmes.



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# Continuing Medical Education Management System In The Bahamas

D Halliday, R Butler, D Hunt-Burrows, D Dames-Rahming, R Roberts



As of 2015 the requirements for licensure with The Bahamas Medical Council (BMC) were updated to include a minimum of 20 annual Continuing Medical Education (CME) points. Although there were several CME events each year prior to this, the outcomes were not reported to BMC. For example the Medical Association of the Bahamas has facilitated annual scientific conferences for the past 45 years. Traditionally all of the medical doctors would attend. In addition twice monthly hospital based CME events have been in place since the 1990s. Furthermore the individual departments at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau conduct routine lectures for Junior Doctors. In 1997 the School of Clinical Medicine and Research was established in The Bahamas to facilitate training of fourth and fifth year medical students. As a result, the number of medical graduates increased exponentially.

Mandatory CME attendance and reporting is an important evolution in quality assurance. This would dramatically increase the administrative burden of the CME office at the various institutions, thus prompting the need for an electronic automated system.

Using the following search terms: continuing medical education (CME), tracking, web based, automatic certificate, virtual classroom, open source, learning management system (LMS), and automatic feedback, we conducted Medline and Google searches. A platform was considered suitable if it was **cost effective**, **scalable**, had **communication tools built in**, met the **BMC CME administration criteria** and had **regional technical support expertise**. Once deployed, the CME events managed by this platform for the year 2016 were evaluated.

The cost and technical specifications of several systems were evaluated. Three commercial systems namely MedEd Manager, CME Tracker and EthosCE and several other open source systems including Moodle were evaluated. We noted in terms of regional usage, that The University of the West Indies, The University of the Bahamas, The Bahamas Technical Vocational Institute, all used Moodle as their primary LMS. Hence for us, Moodle emerged as a potential platform for customization.

A custom server was built to evaluate Moodle as a CME management system. After a four-week period of testing we deployed our website, sunshinelearner.com in March 2016 but tracked activities from February 2016 to December 2016. Portals for lecture series were configured in one of the following ways. The General

CME portal and Obstetrics and Gynecology CME portal were configured so that certificates were issued for "individual lectures". The Emergency Medicine portal and the Pediatrics portal were configured so that the certificates were issued at the "lecture series". Three other portals were developed, but not used to generate certificates during the period. These included Anesthesia, Internal Medicine and General Surgery. A total of four conferences/workshops were managed through the website during the first year of operation. Overall (that is for "individual lectures", "lecture series" and conferences/workshops,) participants generated a total of 989 certificates and were awarded 2529 CME points.

Moodle can therefore be used as a cloud based platform to reduce the administrative burden of managing CME events.



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# Jamaica Medical Students' Association at IFMSA August Meeting 2018

Nikolai J Nunes

MBBS Class of 2020, Mona Campus

The [International Federation of Medical Students Associations](#) (IFMSA), founded in 1951, represents over one million medical students from over 100 countries. IFMSA is a Global Health NGO recognized by the UN and WHO.

The Jamaica Medical Students' Association (JAMSA), the National Member Organization (NMO) for Jamaica is a member of the Americas region since our admission in the early 2000s.

Each year, IFMSA hosts two General Assemblies (GA): March and August while the Americas meeting is held in January. Despite JAMSA's relative youth in IFMSA, we have a track record of excellence.

In the August 2018 GA I was

given the opportunity to play a leading role, as a panelist on the GA theme, 'Social Accountability and Health Beyond the Hospital'. As a former two-term National Officer on Medical Education and student lead for SA and Interprofessional Education, I was selected by IFMSA to attend the Pre-General Assembly's inaugural SA workshop in Quebec City (July 29 to 31).

Our small group hailing from Haiti, Taiwan, Hungary and Jamaica was privileged to not only learn from leading SA experts but also to become part of IFMSA's SA Global Priority and Action Plan 2018-2020; developing the IFMSA SA Students' Pledge.

I then traveled to Montreal for IFMSA's 67th GA, (August 2 to 8). Here I delivered the presentation 'Student-driven Social Accountability and Interprofessionalism at The University of The West Indies

(UWI), Mona Campus, Jamaica' alongside distinguished fellow panelists such as Professor David Gordon, President of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).

IFMSA GAs are an exhausting yet exhilarating week. Days begin with communal breakfast before sessions for Presidents/Heads of Delegation, NMO Management (Executives), and Standing Committees (e.g. SCOME) with Regional and Theme sessions intermixed.

As daytime ends, plenaries begin. Plenaries are the assembly of IFMSA and NMO leadership where reporting, proposals, and voting occur and can stretch into the next day. There is also a social programme of which the most famous is the National Food and Drink Party (NFDP) where our different countries mingle in national dress and sample national dishes.

This was a GA of firsts: my first pre-GA and GA, being the first JAMSA delegate to attend a GA since August 2016, and probably one of the few to represent not only JAMSA, but our medical school, faculty, campus, and university as a subject matter expert. This incredible experience reinforced not only IFMSA's global impact, but that of JAMSA and the UWI.

I was reminded of the importance of capacity building and collaboration not only at IFMSA but in our UWI and [CARICOM](#) region. I look forward to continuing my work in medical education with our local, regional, and international partners and hopefully attending Slovenia 2019 and Taiwan 2019.



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# Basic Surgical Skills Report, St. Augustine

Compiled by Melrose Yearwood

Administrative Co-ordinator for Basic Surgical (Intercollegiate) Skills, DCSS, St Augustine Campus

The Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences, in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons, hosted two Basic Surgical (Intercollegiate) Skills Courses, and a one day workshop on How to Write a Surgical Paper and Training the Trainers.

The Royal College Faculty were Professor Michael Parker, Mr. William Thomas, Mr Eric Drabble and Clinical Research Fellows Mr James Ansell and Mr Akan Emin. Professor Michael James Ramdass led our academic and medical fraternity.

The University Field station provided the pig parts which are essential for the optimal running of this workshop and its sustainability. Consumables and laparoscopic equipment from sponsors AA Laquis, Bryden Pi and Johnson and Johnson helped keep the cost down.

The Basic Surgical Skills taught candidates the proper gowning and gloving technique; knot tying (Figure 4) and handling instruments. Additionally the participants are taught excising a skin lesion, sebaceous cysts and suturing techniques using the pig parts (Figure 5.) - all part of the first day.

Debridement of a traumatic wound, common faults in knot

tying, vein patch, abdominal closure with drain insertion, vascular surgery principles and introduction to Laparoscopic techniques comprise the second day.

Continuous assessment throughout the course allows the participants on the spot improvement of their suturing skills. They are finally assessed using the skin suture OSAT.

The How to Write a Surgical paper was facilitated by Ms Jyoti Shah, Macmillan Consultant Urological Surgeon for twenty-two participants: four lecturers as well as seven DM residents.

The Training the Trainers was undertaken as a pilot in the

School of Advanced Nursing Conference Room with eight faculty members both Lecturers as well as Associate Lecturers within the Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences. It arms the Faculty with a range of skills and techniques for the presentation of material and teaching medical trainees.

The Royal College has listed this course as having 12 CPD points and we hope to introduce a full two-day course in the future. Heartfelt thanks go to Larry Lakhan, Pamela Lewis, Shankara Madivala, Dexter Lewis and Melrose Yearwood who are the pillars of the workshop, and our greatest support.

*Photos (left to right) 1. Foreign and Local Faculty; 2. AA Laquis representative with Professor Parker and Professor Ramdass; 3. Bryden Pi with Mr Eric Drabble and Professor Parker; 4. Knot tying; 5. Suturing techniques*



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# Community Engagement and Outreach Session: Enhancing National Health Standards in Aquaculture Systems

- Increasing Aquaculture Productivity
- Improving Industry Sustainability
- Reducing Deleterious Aquatic Habitat Impacts

**Dr Ayanna Carla N Phillips**

Lecturer- Marine Mammal Medicine/Aquatic Animal Health, Coordinator- Aquatic Animal Health Unit, ENHSAS Project Lead.

The Aquatic Animal Health Unit at the University of the West Indies School of Veterinary Medicine has embarked upon a UNDP, GEF-SGP-funded project entitled “Enhancing National Health Standards in Aquaculture Systems (ENHSAS): Increasing Aquaculture Productivity, Improving Industry Sustainability and Reducing Deleterious Aquatic Habitat Impacts”.





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The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the local aquatic animal health capacity in Trinidad and Tobago and to safeguard the sustainability of the aquaculture sector and marine environment from the detrimental effects of invasive species and diseases through promoting and supporting the development of sustainable intensive and semi-intensive aquatic animal production systems using 'One Health' principles.

Among our tasks initial tasks was to garner feedback from industry stakeholders, including local food fish and ornamental aquaculture

producers and hobbyists, to learn first-hand of the fish health challenges facing the industry.

Twenty-three (23) participants representing Aquaculture Associations, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, government-operated aquaculture facilities, current and prospective private food fish farmers (subsistence and commercial producers), ornamental fish farmers and hobbyists as well as training staff of the UWI-SVM and the UWI Office of Research Development and Knowledge Transfer and the UNDP attended the project's first

Community Engagement and Outreach event in the form of a Stakeholder Dialogue Session that was held on Thursday, September 20th, 2018 from 1- 4 pm at the Sugarcane Feeds Centre, Pokhor Road, Longdenville, Chaguanas. Participants highlighted fish health challenges they have faced at their facilities and issues that they considered to be key to improving the viability and sustainability of the local aquaculture sector.

Feedback from this session is being used to guide the development of the content of the project's upcoming second Community Engagement and Outreach

activity; a Fish Health Training Workshop to be held at the UWI-SVM on November 21st – 23rd, 2018. The workshop will cover topics that specifically address managing the fish health problems encountered locally, zoonotic diseases from aquatic animals and aquatic environments, guidance on preventative measures that may be employed to mitigate future risks, and it will highlight the critical, often unrecognised or overlooked, interconnections between aquatic animal health, aquatic environmental health and human health.



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# An Interprofessional Collaboration of Nursing and Medicine at Mona

## Low Fidelity Simulation-Enhanced Teaching and Learning in Child Health

Andrea Garbutt<sup>1</sup>, Heather Silvera<sup>2</sup>, Veroina Deslandes<sup>2</sup>, Jacqueline Garvey<sup>2</sup>, Russell Pierre<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Child & Adolescent Health, FMS, Mona

<sup>2</sup>Family Nurse Practitioner Program, UWISON

<sup>3</sup>Health Professions Education Unit, FMS, Mona

The utility of simulation in medical education has established benefits of increasing task proficiency, and patient safety, against the background of decreased patient load and teaching times, and the legal environment which impacts patient use for procedures (1, 2).

Simulators may be considered low or high fidelity based on how closely they replicate the clinical situation they are simulating. Use for acquiring and maintaining clinical skills is well documented and reported to be better than didactic lectures alone (1).

Simulations provide standardized training that can be consistently repeated, and achieve quantitative measurement of competence. The advantage of patient safety, and willingness by clients to allow medical students to perform a task once they have achieved competence during simulation has been documented by Grabner et al (3).

The clerkship leaders for Aspects of Family Medicine Clerkship at Mona decided to optimize the course delivery with low fidelity simulation. This 8-week integrated clerkship is delivered by the Departments of Child & Adolescent Health and Community Health & Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus. During the period, students spend 4 weeks in paediatrics gaining exposure and experience in paediatric primary care, ambulatory and hospital care and the integration of allied health services in delivering care.

Increased student enrolment has challenged the faculty's resource capacity to deliver components of the course and achieve attainment of skills by students. Following participation in a "Simulation Workshop" hosted by the UWI School of Nursing (UWISON), Mona in May 15-17, 2018, the Department of Child & Adolescent Health initiated a collaboration with the UWISON's

*Demonstration of anthropometric measurement in a baby*



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Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Programme to pilot low fidelity simulation teaching experience for the 3rd year medical students in the Aspects of Family Health Clerkship.

The objective was to instruct on common paediatric skills including anthropometry, use and interpretation of growth charts, obtaining basic vital signs including blood pressure measurement and practical activities associated with respiratory care (use of spacers/ metered dose inhalers, peak flow meters and nebulizations]. Concurrently FNPs received instructional training on these skills by the Health Professions Education Unit (HPEU), and audited specified lectures and presentations in the Child Health Clerkships.

During the initial 6 weeks of this collaboration (October-November 2018), 64 students participated in this low fidelity simulation skills training. Among the 60 who completed evaluations, students strongly agreed that the facilitators demonstrated thorough knowledge of the subject (75%), were able to show the relevance of the content (80%), used language that was appropriate (83%) and that they encouraged participation and interaction (87%).

Students also strongly agreed that the seminar met their expectations (80%), was well structured (78%), that the information was delivered in an organized manner (82%), the time allotted for the seminar was adequate (67%) and that the physical environment was comfortable (78%). Majority (82%) strongly agreed that they would be able to apply the knowledge gained from the seminar in the clinical setting.

This interprofessional instructional collaboration facilitated early exposure of the medical students to working with other members of the health team, while contributing to continued professional development and skills training by the Family Nurse Practitioners. We anticipate that the initiative will promote future health professions team building capacity.

1. Pros and cons of simulation in medical education: A review. *International Journal of Medical and Health Research*. 2017; 3(6):84-87.
2. Simulation-based medical teaching and learning. *J Family Community Med*. 2010;17(1):35-40.
3. Does simulator training for medical students change patient opinions and attitudes toward medical student procedures in the emergency department? *Acad Emerg Med*. 2005; 12:635-9.

*Student practicing use of spacer and metered-dose inhaler*



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# Professionalism is Key

Dr Rajendra Shepherd

Centre for Medical Sciences Education, FMS, St. Augustine.

*Research is central to the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), which dedicates a time to showcasing developments and engaging students who may eventually come to study with us. Rajendra Shepherd maps the terrain and highlights how students of the faculty are taught novel ways to grapple with the issue of professionalism.*



LEADING edge thinkers give TED talks and create the latest new knowledge. When that knowledge is clinical and on the pathway to impacting human life, it is right that those gains be hard fought. The scrutiny has to be impeccable.

So the opportunity to present at FMS's Faculty Research Day (FRD) is a privilege – and not one that everyone feels ready to embrace. It might be that it occurs at an inopportune moment in an academic's research cycle,

and so ultimately the resulting atmosphere is distinctly rarified. But there is more.

The day serves the dual function of show-casing research and the facilities themselves – particularly to young minds – so there has to be some focus on holding the interest of visiting sixth form students.

At the last iteration of FRD, students undoubtedly enjoyed looking at specimens and talking to current students about their experiences of studying at the campus. The courses devoted to exploring Professionalism, Ethics and Communications in Health (PECH) created a dedicated 'comms room' to engage almost 100 visitors throughout the day.

The space in the Medical Sciences Library included work from students and staff centred on the patient experiences of illness, student perceptions explored through film, and image and design utilised in both community service and public outreach – all of which are connected to one of PECH's central pillars.

Professionalism is understood to be both manifest in values and

behaviours, but engendering these in individuals is not an easy process.

Faculty Research Day is a wonderful opportunity to highlight some of the ways that community service and communications can intersect this development.

So visiting students got to engage with the media products produced by Year I's who go out into communities across T&T to engage societal needs. What they produce range from educational posters to apps and websites. Importantly, the students of the faculty – across the schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and from the optometry programme – begin to understand their social contract and how to meet a community's requirements: they conduct a needs assessment, a research process of sorts, to examine their goal and generate some innovative ways to deliver on it.

The room also contained films by Year II students that examined patient confidentiality, an important component of the clinician-patient professional relationship. The sixth formers



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were given opportunities to be hands-on with material, which included a space to consider both the language and design of public outreach, and produce miniature posters of their own.

Students in the faculty explore professionalism through various approaches and attending to their clinical competency is central. You can't serve a patient's needs properly without being professional because in some way you will lose a degree of understanding that person. While public awareness campaigns are the product, they have to be built on understanding needs; how to message a community, and plausible behaviour change.

Throughout the day, visiting students attended the research lectures, and toured the various schools of the faculty that each engaged the sixth formers in specific ways. Students came to the comms rooms at various points in their tour and reported being captivated by the research even if some of the details escaped them.

Outside the comms rooms the PECH team captured documentary data from students about their perceptions of health problems and how they might tackle them in their own lives. It became clear that as a society young people are aware of diabetes, heart disease and anxiety, and are as keen to find solutions to reducing them as the researchers are.

What is clearer still is that research is pushing the boundaries of public knowledge, but it is something that needs continual attention. One 18-year-old student remarked of diet and exercise: "I'm going to start next year, that's when I'll need to focus on my body."

As with the issue of professionalism that is key to the PECH programme, there are some things we might put off till tomorrow – but good health, we are advised, is something we should actually tackle today.

Faculty Research Day will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

*Students from Presentation College (above) work on public education campaign posters, and (below) anthropomorphise disease through poetry*



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# Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill at the UWI Research Week 2018 Awards

**Dr Md Anwarul Azim Majumder**

Director of Medical Education, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

*Awardees at the Campus Research Week Awards 2008 along with the Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Eudine Barriteau. Awardees from the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the photograph are Drs. Madhuvanti Murphy, Nkemcho Ojeh and Damian Cohall. Director of the GA-CDRC, Professor T. Alafia Samuels is also present.*

The staff in the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) were recognized for their excellence in research at the UWI Research Week Awards and the Principal's Staff Awards of Excellence 2018. The Research Week was held in tandem with the UWI Open Week during November 15 – 17, 2018.

The FMS, in collaboration with the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Center (GA-CDRC), received the award for Recognition of Researchers/ Research Teams who have won significant funding. Professor T. Alafia Samuels, Director of the GA-CDRC and Principal Investigator, received (US\$3,048,000) over a four-year period from the Canadian International Development Research Centre to undertake a study titled, *Improving Household Nutrition Security and Public Health in the CARICOM (Fan)*. She was accompanied by the FMS project lead, Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Deputy Dean, Dr. Madhuvanti Murphy, in accepting the award.

The FMS also secured another Campus Award for a joint publication authored by Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Deputy Dean, Dr Damian Cohall and Lecturer in Sociology, Dr. Alana Griffith, Faculty of Social Sciences for Best Applied Research. Their publication is titled, *Towards Conceptualizing a Policy Framework for the Implementation of Medical Marijuana in a Small Island State in the Caribbean*, and was published in Drug Science, Policy and Law in September 2018.

Dr Nkemcho Ojeh, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Genetics in the FMS earned one of four Faculty/Institute awards for Most Outstanding Researcher. Her research focuses on adult stem cells, wound healing (acute and chronic), skin disorders (keloids) and potential therapies.

Office of Public Information. The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. St. Michael, Barbados: Office of Public Information; [2018 \[rev. Nov 2018; cited 18 Jan 2019\]](#).



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# The Principal's Award of Excellence 2018, Cave Hill

## Dr Md Anwarul Azim Majumder

Director of Medical Education, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

*Awardees of the Principal's Award of Excellence 2018 at the UWI, Cave Hill Campus*

Dr. Damian Cohall, Deputy Dean - Preclinical Sciences, was recognized for his scholarly activities at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus' annual Staff Retirement and Long Service Awards Ceremony on December 15, 2018. He was awarded the Principal's Award of Excellence in the academic category for his notable contribution in the area of teaching, and dedication to the university and public service.

Dr. Cohall joined the Faculty of Medical Sciences when it was inaugurated in 2008 and was immediately given the demanding post of Phase-1 MBBS Curriculum Coordinator by the then Dean, Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser. He was jointly responsible with his colleagues for developing the preclinical curriculum of the MBBS programme offered at Cave Hill. He is credited with developing the Bachelor of Health Sciences and the MPhil/PhD in Pharmacology, which is the first PhD offered by the FMS Phase-1 Basic Sciences Faculty since the establishment of the Faculty in

2008. He currently supervises three postgraduate students in the PhD programme.

Now hailed as a "local expert on medical marijuana research", Dr. Cohall is the author of 20 papers accepted and published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, a book chapter on 'Pharmacodynamics -A Pharmacognosy Perspective' [In: Badal, S and Delgoda, R (ed.) Pharmacognosy: Fundamentals, Applications and Strategy. London, UK: Elsevier – Academic Press] and a book on 'Medicinal Plants of Barbados'. He has jointly authored regional technical report and a CARIFORUM standard on health and wellness. He has raised a total of BBD\$ 441,590.40 in research funding to date. He is the Chair of the FMS Evaluation and Promotions sub-committee; Chair of the FMS Quality Assurance Committee; Chair of the Campus Health Week Committee and a member of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Drug and Therapeutic monitoring committee.

Office of Public Information. The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. St. Michael, Barbados: Office of Public Information; [2018 \[rev. Dec 2018; cited 18 Jan 2019\]](#).



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# 70th Anniversary Distinguished Lectureship Series, Cave Hill

## Dr Damian Cohall

Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Deputy Dean (Pre-clinical), Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

*Chancellor Emeritus of the The University of the West Indies, Professor Emeritus Sir George Alleyne delivering his lecture on September 5, 2018 in the Henry Fraser Lecture Theatre at the Cave Hill campus.*

The University of the West Indies celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2018 since its establishment as a satellite campus of the University of London in 1948.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences at Cave Hill contributed to the celebrations by hosting a Nutrition Symposium at the Queens Park Steel Shed Auditorium in Bridgetown, St. Michael, Barbados in March 2018 and two public lectures in September and October on the main campus by Chancellor Emeritus Sir George Alleyne and Former Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Cave Hill, Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser.

Chancellor Emeritus Sir George Alleyne's lecture: "The perception and place of health in Caribbean integration" theorised health as one of the 'possessions' that individuals value most highly

as an intrinsic good but that perception of health should be expanded to encompass a view of it as an instrumental good, contributing in several dimensions to another end: Caribbean integration.

He further mooted that there have been and continue to be Caribbean cooperative health initiatives, while health should take a prominent place in the Caribbean Community as a fundamental aspect of functional cooperation; one of the objectives of the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

He emphasised that Caribbean health is threatened by the epidemic of non-communicable diseases, thus putting Caribbean wealth and sustainable development in jeopardy. The role of the University of the West Indies in addressing these issues must not be neglected.



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Former Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Cave Hill, Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser's lecture: "The UWI and Healthcare in the Caribbean - Successes, Problems and Opportunities" highlighted that in 1948, the University of the West Indies (UWI) welcomed 33 students from across the region. Medical education was urgent because of appalling health conditions and scandalously poor health care. The main recommendations of the founding fathers were to train doctors and do research.

The remarkable achievement of training doctors is clear – 8,800 in all – 5,000 from Mona, 3,000 St. Augustine, 800 Cave Hill and 300 Nassau. UWI graduates fill most posts of CMO, public health, hospital and university leaders, and have led specialty development.

Research too has been remarkably successful: Mona, with its world-famous Tropical Metabolism

*Former Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Cave Hill, Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser delivering his lecture on October 10, 2018 in the Henry Fraser Lecture Theatre at the Cave Hill campus.*

Research Unit, the Epidemiology Research Unit, Sickle Cell Unit and George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre (GA-CDRC), boasts both global and local impact.

However, translation of research findings into planning, programmes and care remains woefully inadequate.

Sir Henry's recommendations for the path ahead for the UWI and its input into medical education focused on optimal healthcare development which needs on-going partnership between the University and the government.

He maintained that the UWI leaders should be in constant dialogue with government and health planners and our strength in teaching clinical skills could attract international students, especially from Britain. Furthermore, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, now internationally (Canadian) accredited, could, with appropriate planning and investment become the "Mayo Clinic of the region."



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# Cross-Campus Anatomy ICT Teaching

**Dr Keerti Singh<sup>1</sup>, Professor J.P Louboutin<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer in Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

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Cross-campus Teaching is a joint project between the UWI Cave Hill, UWI Mona and Western Jamaica campuses, using information communication and technology (ICT). Following the report from the ICT steering committee in March 2017, this project was officially launched in September 2017. After consultation with colleagues from Mona and Cave Hill, course objectives were refined to determine absolute minimum ICT requirements based on the equipment already available.

The aim was to develop a pilot program in Anatomy for shared online teaching, to communicate and receive information. ICT is included as an initiative in FMS action plan and in the CAAM-HP report. The objective is to work towards developing a congruent

course outline and similar time tables across the campuses.

## *Current Status and Achievements Academic year 2017- 2018*

### Semester 1:

Four ICT teaching sessions were conducted by zoom teleconferencing, including online practice of MCQs by Quizalize. Online demonstration of potted specimens in embryology and prosected gross anatomy specimens of upper and lower limbs from UWI Mona. An Embryology review session was conducted from Cave Hill. First ever cross-campus POL (Problem-oriented learning) session in Embryology was conducted, Year 1 MBBS students from UWI Cave Hill, Mona and the Western Jamaica Campuses participated.

An end of term review meeting was held by zoom on 20th December 2017 between faculty from UWI Mona and Cave Hill. It was agreed to pretest all sessions before conducting the actual sessions to address any IT issues and challenges. Submission and approval of modified MDSC 1103 Meiosis to Man course outline for ICT teaching to AQAC was discussed along with improved coordination between campuses and inclusion of Phase 1 course coordinators for smooth time tabling.

### Semester 2:

Gross specimens relayed from UWI Mona were remarkable. A respiratory physiology lecture was relayed from Mona and students appreciated active involvement and participation of senior faculty.

For the first-time a “Jeopardy game session” on Respiratory Anatomy was conducted between all three campuses. This was the first successful relay of an ICT session by using the new Polycom System installed on 6th of March 2018 at Multifunction Lab of the Multipurpose teaching complex FMS Cave Hill. An orientation/ training session for the Polycom system, with assistance from Central IT Services was held on the 20th of April 2018 for faculty and staff at FMS Cave Hill.

## *Targets for the New Academic year*

- Include other specialties in ICT teaching project
- Include more online MCQ solving sessions to pre-assess the practicality and possibility of common assessments
- Increase the number of ICT sessions per semester.

## *Benefits*

Platform for collaboration and harmonization between campuses to support the initiative towards the One UWI goal.



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# World Pharmacy Day

## Highlighting the Biochemical Basis of Common Diseases that affect The Caribbean

### Dr Shamjeet Singh

Lecturer, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine Campus



In 2009 the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Council designated September 25th to recognise an annual World Pharmacists Day. "Pharmacists: Your medicines experts" was the theme of 2018's World Pharmacists Day. On Tuesday

25th September 2018 at the Student Recreation Centre (SRC), Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) the class of 2022 (Year 1) from the School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), UWI, St. Augustine marked the importance of this day by a series of scientific presentations. This was followed by a mini symposium.

Concurrently, this exercise formed part of the continuous assessment element for the course PHAR 1205: Introductory Biochemistry. This course is the component of the Integrated Basic Health Sciences programme that instructs students (BSc Pharmacy) in the fundamentals of cellular biochemistry. It specifically seeks to expose students to subject matter that will eventually link

their understanding of the cellular environment with derangements that occur in diseased states. Consequently, students were exposed to the fundamental and applied facts about the health challenges that result in the highest proportion of morbidity and mortality in our region. The assignment was also aimed at advancing their investigational, cooperative and presentation skills.

Students were divided into groups and instructed to produce and deliver presentations on Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, Enlarged Prostate, Hypertension, Breast Cancer, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Alzheimer's Disease, Coronary Artery Disease and Mental Depression. The presentations were to include epidemiological data, definitions, the biochemical basis of the disease, conclusions and references. All groups were able to accurately explain the biochemical basis of these diseases. Many of them were able to link the molecular processes with contemporary diagnostic variables and methods. Moreover, the presentations were well structured and articulated with much enthusiasm.

The presentations were followed by a mini symposium organised by Dr. Rajiv Dahiya, Director, School of Pharmacy. Dr. Edwin

Bolastig, Advisor, Health Systems and Services at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) spoke on the role of PAHO in addressing these conditions and Mr. Ramesar Kallap, a Pharmacist from the Blanchisseuse and Brasso Seco Health Centre, related some of his experiences in working with patients.

The student presentations were marked by Dr. Raveed Khan, Lecturer, Public Health and Primary Care Unit, Department of Paraclinical Sciences; Prof. Sureshwar Pandey, Lecturer, School of Pharmacy and myself.





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# AMEE 2018 Conference

## Dr Md Anwarul Azim Majumder

Director of Medical Education, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

Dr Md Anwarul Azim Majumder attendeadead the Annual Conference of the **Association for Medical Education in Europe** (AMEE), which was held from 25-29 August 2018 in **Basel**, Switzerland.

Dr Majumder presented a poster titled: "Students' and examiners' feedback of Objectively Structured Clinical Examination: A Caribbean experience" in the conference. Approximately 3,500 participants from 104 countries attended the conference, and 1,800 papers were presented. The conference provided an opportunity to meet medical educationists from around the globe, and listen to their ideas regarding innovation and experimentation of medical education.

AMEE is a worldwide organisation with members in 90 countries over five continents. Members

include teachers, educators, researchers, administrators, curriculum developers, deans, assessors, students, and trainees in medicine and the healthcare professions. AMEE promotes international excellence in education in the healthcare professions across the continuum of undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education. AMEE, working with other organisations, supports teachers and institutions in their current educational activities, and in the development of new approaches to educational management, curriculum planning, and teaching, learning and assessment techniques. They do this in response to advances in medicine, changes in healthcare delivery and patient demands, and new educational thinking and techniques.

The next AMEE 2019 conference will be held from 24-28 August 2019 in Vienna, Austria.





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# 2018 Events

## Various Media Outlets and/or The University of the West Indies

### Launch of the Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development

The FMS, St. Augustine, launched the Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development on September 14. This initiative was the result of a series of collaborative meetings and a stakeholder retreat that saw the FMS engaging the Ministry of Health, the regional health authorities, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the University of Suriname and the University of Guyana. Feature Speaker and Chancellor Emeritus Sir George Alleyne highlighted the need for research that is relevant to the needs of Caribbean people, and applauded the initiative as an important step in ensuring various stakeholders are involved. The work of the centre will be coordinated by Professor Donald Simeon.

## FMS St. Augustine Oath-taking Ceremonies

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, The UWI, St. Augustine campus, is home to six academic programmes that graduate professionals in the field of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and allied health professions of nursing, optometry and pharmacy. In recognition of the transition to professional life, the various schools host ceremonies for declaration of professional oaths, pinning and for recognition of academic excellence by the graduating class. These events are supported by the professional councils, associations and various corporate sponsors who sponsor awards or prizes for graduating students.

## Faculty Outreach Activities

Various members of faculty, through their departments have engaged the public through outreach activities to promote healthy lifestyles and to prevent diseases.

World Sight Day – Dr. Desiree Murray, Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences, School of

Medicine, continues to lead the way in keeping the public aware of eye diseases and related complications. In observance of World Sight Day 2018, she coordinated a Walk for Sight on 13th October 2018, as well as public symposium and vision screening with the Lions' District Associate Sight Prevention, Awareness and Action 60, titled "[Eye Care, We Care](#)" on Thursday 18th October, 2018 which gained press coverage.

As part of her public education efforts, Dr. Murray also penned an article on 'Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases and Blindness' which was published in in the [Trinidad Guardian on 11th October, 2018](#) (Subscription required).

## NCRHA / UWI Activities: "Walk-the-Talk"

The North Central Regional Health Authority has embarked on various community services to reduce the number of emergency room visits by patients at the various health facilities. Students and faculty members of various schools join the NCRHA team in these activities, titled "Walk-The-Talk" programme.



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In October 2018, medical students in the Family Medicine rotation attended the following activities under the guidance of Dr. Raveed Khan:

1. The Christian Brethren Assembly at La Horquetta on 6th October, 2018
2. St. Michael's Church at Maracas St. Joseph on 7th October, 2018

3. St. John the Baptist RC Church at St. Augustine on 14th October, 2018.

At each of these outreach activities the students related positive feedback as they participated in first-hand screening and other disease prevention/health promotion initiatives such as

nutrition counselling, blood pressure and blood sugar testing and HIV rapid-testing. They indicated that they would like to be more involved in patient care and screening and Dr. Khan intends to continue to engage the NCRHA to see how best this can be achieved.

### World Pharmacy Day – School of Pharmacy

In commemoration of “World Pharmacist Day”, observed on Tuesday 25th September, 2018, The School of Pharmacy hosted the following events:

- Year 1 Oral Presentation entitled “The Biochemical Basis of Common Diseases” - by Dr. Shamjeet Singh

*For 2018, six ceremonies have been conducted to date as follows:*

DEGREE PROGRAMME	SCHOOL OR UNIT	DATE
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)	School of Veterinary Medicine	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) B.Sc. Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (DHDT)	School of Dentistry	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Bachelor of Science (BSc) – Pharmacy	School of Pharmacy	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2018
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)	School of Medicine	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Bachelor of Science (BSc) – Optometry	Unit of Optometry	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2018
Bachelor of Science (BSc) – Nursing	School of Nursing	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2018



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- Pharmacist presentation titled "Patient Compliance in Medications" by Mr. Kallap Ramesar (Pharmacist) - Blanchisseuse, Brasso Seco & Talparo Health Centres and
- Year 2 Poster Presentations entitled "The role of the pharmacist in reducing disease burden in the community" - in Foyer of Building 42, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Champs Fleurs via Dr. Shamjeet Singh

The Director of the School, Dr. Rajiv Dahiya also visited a health centre on Wednesday 26th September, 2018.

## **Faculty and Students Mobilize to Help Persons Affected by Flooding**

In the aftermath of the severe weather and subsequent flooding of various parts of Trinidad and Tobago, student organizations rallied to lend support to fellow students and persons living in communities that were adversely affected.

Dr. Katija Khan, clinical psychologist and Lecturer published an article in [The Trinidad Guardian on 24th October 2018](#), and via social media to provide persons who

have been affected by the flood to cope mentally. The article provides recommendations to minimize the trauma of the event, and to assist persons to think positively in approaching the problems that they will face. These include:

1. Limiting exposure to credible news (not too graphic)
2. Trying to regain a normal routine
3. Letting friends and family help
4. Recharging and taking care of yourself
5. Using humour if you can

Dr. Khan also appeared on [The Morning Brew](#) programme on [Tuesday 23rd October, 2018](#) to discuss the possible impact and coping strategies that may be considered to support those affected.

## **Clinical Surgical Sciences' Training of Residents**

The Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences annually support our Faculty in the continued training of residents through liaison with international organizations that enhance their knowledge as well as skills. We also encourage and support outreach to better serve our communities.

Dr Desiree Murray, Lecturer in the Ophthalmology unit

1. Published in Clinical Ophthalmology - [ReGAE 12: preventing glaucoma blindness in the Caribbean](#) - published 11 September.
2. Hosted Walk for Sight on 13th October 2018
3. Hosted Public symposium on eye health and blindness prevention on 18th October

Dr Joanne F Paul, coordinated four Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) courses and liaised with Dr Paula Robertson on the Paediatric Basic Course. The APLS course was held four times in 2018 January, March, May and October with the Paediatric Basic Course hosted in April. These courses provided doctors as well as nurses with the tools that are important in treating emergencies in the paediatric population. The next course dates for 2019 are 23rd and 24th March, however, dates are to be confirmed for May and October.

Additionally, we hosted American Board of In-Service Training Examination and International Council of Ophthalmology Examination. The residents, associate lecturers, faculty, ATSS staff and our retirees were honoured in the Department's annual Residents Welcome and Awards Ceremony on 18th October 2018.



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