

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

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*We look back this year at 70 years as a Faculty. Within that period are many achievements which reflect The University of the West Indies' (UWI) vision of being an excellent global university rooted in the Caribbean. The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) at Mona in "three score and ten" has become a focal point of excellence and diversity. We have seven undergraduate programmes training a wide range of members of the health team and a fast growing menu of graduate degree offerings. Matching this strong footprint of teaching is a noteworthy performance in research.*

*The 2019 Times Higher Education World University Rankings recently placed The UWI in the elite band of the top 5% of universities. Within that ranking, despite limited resources we placed in the top 30% of universities for research influence. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference (ARC) highlights our Faculty's engagement in contributing to this research influence. The focus on violence, trauma and development allows for critical analysis of a major public health problem facing Jamaica and the Caribbean. The impact of violence and trauma is seen at many levels; the individual, family, community and society at large. This complex landscape requires a mix of disciplines and approaches to gain new knowledge and develop meaningful interventions. The programme developed by the FMS ARC delivers on this and hopefully will also engender deeper insight and analysis, new ideas and collaboration.*

*I am delighted to welcome Professor Jonathan Shepherd of the School of Dentistry, Cardiff University. Professor*

*Shepherd's leadership and expertise in violence research will no doubt serve us well over the days of our research conference and also build momentum beyond the conference for deeper engagement in addressing these issues. Sir Kenneth Standard was in the first class of medical students entering the Faculty 70 years ago. His pioneering work in social and preventive medicine was a fitting prelude to this discourse to be provided by our local and international experts.*

*I am proud and thankful for the work of our conference planning team. Under the new leadership of Chairman Dr Christine Walters, the team continues to operate at a high standard with limited resources. This year we partnered with the Violence Prevention Alliance, Jamaica in putting on this conference. We are grateful for their intrinsic philosophy of "working together" and multi-disciplinarity which has energised our efforts and sowed seeds for further collaboration.*

*The activities over these few days though wrapped in the context of a celebration of excellence must also be savoured intellectually and bring deep analysis, contemplation and resolve for socially accountable action. I wish for all an enjoyable and successful conference.*

*Dr Tomlin Paul  
Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences  
The University of the West Indies, Mona  
Jamaica*