

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

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*The heartbeat of our academy lies in its research. It provides the nourishment and stimulus for our teaching and service and the impetus for growth and development. For the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) at The University of the West Indies, Mona, research continues to be seen as a priority of our operations. The research enterprise, which is often visible in journal publications or conference presentations, goes much deeper. The quality of our undergraduate and graduate programmes is without doubt enhanced by the research fervour of our teachers. Searching for new knowledge is an infectious adventure, and it is my desire to see all of our students catch that bug during their time with us in the Faculty.*

*The growing number of postgraduate programmes within the Faculty also calls for vibrant research activity, which is a core ingredient of the graduate experience. To this end, we are continuing to invest in strengthening the operations for research within the Faculty and its nexus with graduate training. We have been building strong partnerships to strengthen the research infrastructure. For example, our collaboration with the State University of New York (SUNY) led by Professors John Lindo and Gene Morse, even as it takes root, is already bearing fruit with the Faculty now having access to US\$1.1 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fogarty International Center for Global Infectious Diseases Research Training. In this academic year, the Faculty will be rolling out a re-engineered support unit to deepen the engagement of members of our academy in research. We are also well on our way in piloting a Transition Unit to foster the entrepreneurial outputs from our research endeavours.*

*The FMS Annual Research Conference and Workshop for 2019 provides us with a clear signal of the progress of science and knowledge with the theme 'Genomics in Health'. It has also given us the opportunity for a special homecoming of our distinguished alumnus, Professor Franklyn Prendergast, Director Emeritus of the Mayo Comprehensive Cancer Center. We are excited and grateful that Professor Prendergast will deliver the Sir Kenneth Standard distinguished lecture this year, and I am sure his visit for this event will bring added fervour to the Faculty's drive to strengthen and transform its research operations.*

*The FMS Annual Research Conference and Workshop produces, inter alia, enhanced collegiality and a sense of community. Many have worked hard under the leadership of the Organizing Committee's Chair Dr Christine Walters to make the event possible. Each year, the reflections form the work of the Organizing Committee, and the deliberations of the actual conference bring forth recommendations for improvement and innovation. I look forward to what is to come of this year's celebration of research and to the strengthening of the pulse of our academy.*

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