



WEST INDIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

- 1 **A New Strategy to Increase Scientific Publications and Facilitate Research Uptake in the Caribbean**
DT Simeon

- 3 **The Quality and Completeness of 2008 Perinatal and Under-five Mortality Data from Vital Registration, Jamaica**

A McCaw-Binns, J Mullings, Y Holder
Registration of stillbirths (69%) and under-five deaths (79%) improved from 1998–2008. Stillbirth certificates lacked cause of death information and neonatal deaths due to prematurity and birth asphyxia were often misclassified. Stillbirth, infant and under-five mortality rates were 15, 20 and 22/1000, respectively.

- 17 **The Prevalence of Elevated Blood Pressure in Adolescents in Nassau, The Bahamas**

C Conliffe, M Frankson, F Smith, C Hanna-Mahase, M Oriakhi

The estimated prevalence of elevated blood pressure in Bahamian adolescents is relatively high. The prevalence of 8.9% is comparable to those in the region. Researchers advise yearly screening in reducing the cardiovascular disease risk profile.

- 23 **What Is in the Caribbean Baby? Assessing Prenatal Exposures and Potential Health Outcomes to Environmental Contaminants in 10 Caribbean Countries**

MS Forde, E Dewailly

Caribbean fetuses are being exposed to various environmental chemicals known to have adverse health and developmental effects. The impacts of such exposures need to be thoroughly evaluated in order to minimize such adverse exposures in the future.

- 29 **Nutritional Knowledge and Practices, Lifestyle Characteristics and Anthropometric Status of Turks and Caicos Islands Elementary School Children**

TE Maitland, S Malcolm, S Handfield

Assessment of nutritional status and knowledge of 297 elementary school children in Turks and Caicos Islands revealed that most (70%) knew non-communicable diseases were related to diet and obesity. However, levels of physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption were low, while overweight/obesity level was high (41%).

- 37 **Epidemiological Trend and Clinical Observations among Children and Adults with Dengue in Barbados**

A Kumar, M Gittens-St Hilaire, N Clarke-Greenidge, AL Nielsen

The epidemiological characteristics and clinical manifestations of confirmed dengue cases over a ten-year period in Barbados were evaluated. The mean annual incidence rate of dengue was 1.36/1000 population

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and the overall case fatality rate was 0.35%. The largest number of cases was seen in the 11 to 16-year age group. Dengue is characterized by less severe cases and lower mortality rate.

43 Knowledge and Perceptions of HPV and the HPV Vaccine among Pre-adolescent Girls and Their Guardians in Georgetown, Guyana

E Tyrell, K Ramsammy-Boyce

As the Ministry of Health in Guyana seeks to introduce human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, this study highlights the disparity between perceived knowledge and the correct knowledge of the stakeholders: the girls and their guardians. It also examines ways of overcoming this dilemma.

49 Outcome of HIV-infected Pregnant Women and Their Offspring in Barbados: A Five-year Study

MA St John, F Denny, D Babb

One hundred and forty-three HIV-infected pregnant women treated with highly active antiretroviral therapy for prevention of mother-to-child transmission during a five-year period and their offspring were studied retrospectively. Two mothers died during the period of study and no infant was infected. The study revealed a good outcome and compliance with follow-up.

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Correspondence should be addressed to:

THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MAILING ADDRESS: West Indian Medical Journal, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Kingston 7, Jamaica

Webpage: <http://www.mona.uwi.edu/fms/wimj/>

E-mail: wimj@uwimona.edu.jm

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