DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY AND CHILD HEALTH

Professor Horace M. Fletcher BSc, MB,BS, DM(O&G), FRCOG, FACOG – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The main focus of the department is to improve the health and welfare of families, in particular women and children in the region. This is done through clinical (service) work and academic (teaching and research). The department comprises Obstetric and Gynaecological services (reproductive endocrinology, gynaecological oncology and perinatal services) as well as Child Health dealing with medical problems, neonatology and psychological disorders (development and behavioural Paediatrics).

We teach medical students, postgraduate students (Doctorate Medicus Obstetrics/Gynaecology and Paediatrics) as well as supervise other postgraduate students M Phil and PhD. We also assist in the teaching of midwives and nurses.

Child Health

This department is comprised of two medical wards and one neonatal intensive care unit. The main subspecialties are infectious diseases, psychological disorders (development and behavioural Paediatrics), cardiology, gastroenterology neonatology, nephrology, neurology, pulmonology and other medical conditions managed in conjunction with other specialties. Residents and medical students are taught and referrals are accepted from the rest of the Caribbean. The section of Child Health successfully staged the academic conference Child Neurology for Practitioners May 1-2 2004. This conference saw excellent presentations by a multidisciplinary faculty of esteemed experts from Jamaica and the United States. There were approximately 150 registrants including
paediatricians, general practitioners, nurses, physiotherapists, and medical and nursing students

**Obstetric Perinatal Service**

The Perinatal service hosted its annual conference in February run by Drs. Matadial, Kulkarni and Mullings. Perinatal Audit for 2005, UWI, Mona, February 6 - 7, 2005 was attended by over 600 delegates. This was a joint effort between Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Neonatology group Dr. Thame, Dr. Trotman and Dr. Antoine from Child Health with external review by practitioners from outside units. Special emphasis was placed on topics such as Genetic Counseling, Premature Birth and Neonatal Neurological Outcome. This service manages high risk obstetric cases and accepts referrals from the rest of the island as well as the rest of the British West Indies. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students.

**Oncology Unit**

This is run by three Consultants Prof Fletcher, Dr Rattray and Dr Mitchell. The Unit is also run by nurses as well as residents who rotate through on a monthly basis. The services offered are consultations for patients with gynaecological tumours, colposcopic diagnosis and treatment, and surgery for gynaecological tumours. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students.

**Sterility & Fertility**

The members of the Sterility & Fertility firm and Fertility Management Unit resumed the In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer Programme for the treatment of infertile patients from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. The programme was restructured to streamline and accommodate the treatment of infertile couples on a continuous basis. Professor Joseph Frederick as director of the programme with Drs. Shaun Wynter, Vernon DaCosta, John Harriott and Loxley Christie as clinicians and Dr. Audrey Pottinger and Sister McKenzie as counselors. Two new staff members joined the programme in Miss Denise Everett, a senior embryologist (Biologist) and Miss Hillary Walters a staff Nurse as the coordinator of the programme. Since the resumption, the pregnancy rates have shown considerable improvement as we are also achieving pregnancies from the frozen embryos. A major break through is that all the documents required for the registration of the drugs used in the programme have been submitted to the Pharmaceuticals & Regulatory Affairs in the Ministry of Health.
The unit also undertakes operative and diagnostic laparoscopy, contraception and sterilisation advice and management. Counseling in family planning and family life is also offered.

**PAPERS PRESENTED:**


- **Olugbuyi A.O.** Limb Deformities more than Just an orthopaedic problem Biennial Conference on Paediatric Endocrinology University Hospital of the West Indies Main Lecture Theatre. 18th May 2006

- **Pierre RB.** *Taking responsibility for your health*. University of Technology Orientation for New Students on Tuesday 23rd August, 2005.


- **Effectiveness of interventions in treating paediatric HIV/AIDS, Pierre RB 2nd Biannual Mini-Symposium “ Paediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS in Jamaica”, the University of the West Indies; December 15, 2005, Kingston, Jamaica.**

• **Pottinger A.** Migration of parents from the Caribbean: Implications for counselling children and families in ‘receiving’ and ‘sending’ countries.” Caribbean Migration Conference, The University of the West Indies, Mona, June 12-14 2006.

• **Pottinger A.** “Overview of ADHD and local research findings”. 2nd Annual Conference on Attention –Deficit –Hyperactivity Disorder; McCam Child Development Centre and Ministry of Education, Special Unit, Jamaica Conference Center, May 17-19 2006.

• **Pottinger A.** “Migration of parents from the Caribbean: the impact on children and parents. Lessons for counselors.” American Counseling Association/Canadian Counseling Association Annual Convention, Palais des congres de Montreal, Montreal, Canada, March 30 – April 3 2006.

• **Pottinger A.** “Psychological support in critical care of the very low birth weight”. 5th Annual Perinatal Conference, Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Child Health, Main Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Feb 9-11, 2006.


• **Wynter S.** Human Reproduction and Intrauterine Growth and Development, UWIDEC cross Caribbean Lecture Masters in Counselling, Mona Campus, September 2005

• **Wynter S.** Use and misuse of prescription drugs in pregnancy, Caribbean College of Family Physicians, Medallion Hall Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica. January 29, 2006

• **Wynter S.** Evaluation of the fetal heart – Fetal echo using 2D ultrasound. Perinatal Conference 2006, UWI Main Medical Lecture Theatre, February 2006

• **Wynter S.** Pregnancy after age 40 years - ACOG West Indies Section conference, Hilton Kingston Hotel, Jamaica. April 2006


• **Thame M.** Body composition in pregnancies of adolescent girls and mature women and the impact on growth and birth
anthropometry. WHO integrated Strategy to promote Optimal growth and development CFNI/PAHO/WHO June 2006

- **Thame M.** Endocrinopathy of IUGR and the impact on adult disease, Second Biennial Paediatric Conference Issues in Endocrinology For paediatric Practitioners May 2006

- **Thame M.** Weight retention in the puerperium in adolescents a risk factor for obesity CHRC 51st annual conference ST Kitts and Nevis April 2006

- **Thame M.** Teenage Pregnancies The Jamaica Midwives Association Jamaica Conference Centre Nov 2005


- **Trotman H.** Lord C. Outcome of extremely low birth weight infants at the University Hospital of the West Indies. FMS 13th Annual Research Conference November 2005.

- **Trotman H.** Lord C. Predictors of outcome in very low birth weight infants at the University Hospital of the West Indies. FMS 13th Annual Research Conference November 2005.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal**

**Refereed:**

* Timo Vesikari, David O. Matson, Penelope Dennehy, Pierre Van Damme, Mathuram Santosham, Zoe Rodriguez, Michael J. Dallas, Joseph F. Heyse, Michelle G. Goveia, Steven B. Black, Henry R. Shinefield, Celia D.C. Christie, Samuli Ylitalo, Robbin F. Itzler, Michele L. Coia, Matthew T. Onorato, Ben A. 

176


* Trotman H, Bell Y, Thame M, Nicholson A, Barton M. Predictors of poor outcome in neonates with bacterial sepsis admitted to the University Hospital of the West Indies. *WIMJ.* 2006; 55(2): 80-83.


* Jackson S, Mullings A, Rainford I. Miller A. The Epidemiology of mycotic vulvovaginitis and the use of antifungal agents in

**Publications - Books and Monographs:**


**Technical Report**


**Non-refereed**


**ABSTRACTS:**

**Peer-reviewed**


* Christie CDC. “Equal treatment for children: Turning the tide of the Pediatric AIDS Pandemic”.


* Trotman H. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the University Hospital of the West Indies: the first few years experience. *WIMJ*, 2006; 55(2): 5-79.


* Trotman H, Bell Y. Neonatal group B streptococcal infection at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica: a 10-year experience. *Ann Trop Paediatr* 2006; 26: 53-57.

* Trotman H, Barton M. The impact of the establishment of a neonatal intensive care unit on the outcome of very low birth weight infants at the UHWI. *WIMJ*, 2005; 54: 297-301.


* Christie, L, McGill, N, Aiken, W, Mitchell, S, **Fletcher, H**. Female Sexual Dysfunction in Women Attending the Colposcopy and family planning clinics at the UHWI: The Prevalence, demographics and risk factors, *WIMJ*, (Supp 5) 2005 54:27

* Gossell-Williams, M, **Fletcher, H**, Zeisel, S, McFarlane-Anderson, N, Jacob, A, Patel, J. Longitudinal Assessment of plasma choline and metabolites in pregnant women attending the antenatal clinic at UHWI, *WIMJ*, (Supp 5) 2005 54: 28

* Scarlett, D, **Fletcher, H**, Reid, M. Reproductive Factors with Abnormal PAP Smear and the Value of PAP Smears in Diagnosing Cervical Pathologies, *WIMJ*, (Supp 5) 2005 54: 28


* Bramwell G, Wierenga A, Jackson M, **Fletcher H** McFarlane-Anderson N. Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase genotypes, homo- cysteine and folate levels in women with pre-eclampsia, *WIMJ*, (Supp 2) 2006 55:21

* Watt A, Smikle M, **Fletcher H**, Jackson M. McFarlane Anderson N. Sexually transmitted infections in pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at the university Hospital of the West Indies, *WIMJ*, (Supp 2) 2006 55:28
* Simms-Stewart D, Dacosta V, Fletcher H and Reid M. Comparison of ultrasonic estimated weight and actual birth weigh performed by residents in training at the University of the west Indies, *WIMJ*, (Supp 2) 2006 55:57


**AWARDS and HONOURS:**

Christie CDC. 2nd *C. Davenport Cook Lecturer in International Child Health*, “Academic Pediatrics in Jamaica”, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, 2005.

Christie CDC and Collaborators. Most Outstanding Research Project, Principal’s Research Award, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, “*Kingston Pediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS Project*”, 2004-05.

Thame Minerva

June 2006 Outstanding contribution to the education of student midwives in the area of Paediatrics from the Directors of Nursing Education and Nursing Services, UHWI.

**INCOME GENERATION**

**RESEARCH GRANTS:**

**Funded Grants, Contracts – Income generation:**

**Professor Celia Christie**

Feeney M. (Principal Investigator), Christie C, Elizabeth Glaser Scientists Award, Jan 1, 2006 to Dec 30, 2011; “The Immune Response to Acute Perinatal HIV Infection” Total grant amount $650,000 USD’s, total amount to UWI $112,000 USD’s (ie., $16,000 USD’s per annum for seven years).

Feeney M. (Principal Investigator), Christie CDC, Co-investigator. “The impact of DC8 T cells on viral control and evolution in HIV-infected infants. National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, total amount to UWI, $135,000 USD’s December 1, 2006 through November 30, 2011 (ie., $19,285.71 USD’s per annum for 7 years).
Christie CDC (Principal Investigator)

“A prospective observational study of HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants at Clinical sites in Latin America and the Caribbean” March 1 to October 31, 2006, and “A prospective, observational study of HIV-exposed and HIV-infected children at clinical sites in Latin America and Caribbean Countries” March 1, to October 31, 2006; NIH, NICHD grant N01-HD-3-3345; grant amount -- $318,588.00 USD’s.

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2002 - 2006

“Mega-trial of Safety and Efficacy of Pentavalent (G1, G2, G3, G4, and P1) Human Reassortant Rotavirus Vaccine in Healthy Infants”, Merck and Co., USA. Grant amount - $ 1,861,020.00 USD’s.

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2002 – 2005

“Pediatric HIV/AIDS Leadership Initiative in Kingston, Jamaica” International Leadership Award, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Grant amount - $ 472,500.00 USD’s

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2003 - 2005


Professor Horace Fletcher

2005 $10,909.51 US ($338,195.00 Jamaican dollars per year) Research Grant from PAHO to Population council/Ministry Health/UWI for the study Emergency Contraception Provider Knowledge Attitude and Practices in the Caribbean (Co-investigator)

P.I.: Gossell Williams M, Co-Investigators: Samms-Vaughan M, Fletcher H

Source : Gerber Baby Foods & University of North Carolina
Title: Choline and neuro-development in humans
Grant Period: 1/1/05 - 30/6/08
Annual direct costs: US$ 155,000.00

Fletcher H Cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis in women who used Depo medroxy progesterone acetate. $J 2.4 million Fellowship from the Principals Office, University of the West Indies.
**Dr M Samms-Vaughan**

P.I.: R. Wilks, Co-Investigators: D. Ashley, F. Bennett, T Ferguson, T Forrester, M. Jackson, J.Knight-Madden, **M. Samms-Vaughan**, K. Vaughan, N. Younger

Source: National Health Fund, CHASE Fund, Caribbean Cardiac Society, Caribbean Health Research Council, UHWI

Title: The impact of early-life experiences on cardio-vascular risk in Jamaica

Grant Period: 1/1/05 - 30/6/06
Annual direct costs: J$ 14,000,000.00

**P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan**

Source: UNICEF

Title: The evaluation of a community based parenting programme in Jamaica

Grant Period: 1/1/05 - 30/6/06
Annual direct costs: Phase I J$ 1,775,250.00

P.I.: M Gossell Williams, Co-Investigators: **M. Samms-Vaughan**, H Fletcher

Source: Gerber Baby Foods & University of North Carolina

Title: Choline and neuro-development in humans

Grant Period: 1/1/05 - 30/6/08
Annual direct costs: US$ 155,000.00

**P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan**

Source: Dudley Grant Memorial Trust (through EFJ), World Bank

Title: A proposal for the review and selection and/or development of instruments to assess the physical, cognitive and emotional development of children 0-6 years, including those with special needs.

Grant Period: 1/2/04 - 31/1/06
Annual direct costs: Phase I J$ 2,500,000.00

**P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan**

P.I.: E. Le Franc. PI Jamaican Site: **M. Samms-Vaughan**

Source: Wellcome Trust

Title: Migration, Family Structures and Morbidity from External Causes
Grant Period: 1/1/04 - 30/6/06
Annual direct costs (Jamaican Site): US$ 338,130.00
P.I.: M. Lambert, Co-Investigators M. Samms-Vaughan, F. Hickling
Source: Michigan State University Grant
Title: Measuring the co-morbidity of substance abuse, violence, psychopathology, help-seeking behaviour and attitudes towards substance abuse, violence, mental illness and the afflicted:

Grant Period: 1/1/03 - 30/6/06
Annual direct costs (Jamaican Site): J$ 720,000.00
P.I.: Children’s Issues Coalition, UWI. Founding Members: Prof. E. Leo-Rhynie, Prof. S.Walker, Dr. M. Samms-Vaughan, Dr. Rose Davies, Dr. J. Meeks-Gardner, Mrs. Janet Brown, Mrs. Sian William Source: UNICEF and The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
Title: Development of a regional Children’s Journal and regional database on children’s issues

Grant Period: 1/1/02 - 31/12/05
Annual direct costs: US $15,000.00 and J$2,286,387.00

Dr Helen Trotman Edwards
Caribbean Health Research Council US $10,000
The relationship between maternal depression, pregnancy and birth outcome

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professional Societies/Activities:
Dr. Roxanne Melbourne Chambers
– Vice President, Paediatric Association of Jamaica

Christie CD
– Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America
– Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
– Member, HIV Medicine Association of America, Founding
– Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
– Non-Executive Board Member, Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited and Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Life Insurance Company Ltd
– Member, Private Sector Organization of Jamaica, Corporate Governance Committee

Dr Yomi Olugbuyi
– Member, Pediatric Association of Jamaica.

Dr Doreen Millard
– Chairman, Adoption Board
– Chairman, Bustamante Hospital for Children Management Committee
– Chairman, Regional Technical Subcommittee of SERHA
– Member, South East Region Health Authority
– Adviser, Ministry of Health Rheumatic Fever / Rheumatic Heart Disease Prevention Programme
– Member, Advisory Board of the Child Development Agency

Professor Horace Fletcher
– Chairman, West Indies Section American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Professor Joseph Frederick
– Member, Grabham Society (Jamaican Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists)
– Member, Pacesetters Toast Masters Club.

Dr S Kulkarni
– Member, Maternal Mortality Committee, MOH, Jamaica
Dr. Sharmaine Mitchell

- Examiner, Caribbean Medical Council
- Member, Gynaecologist - Grants Pen and Stella Maris Foundation Outreach Programme

Dr Doreen Millard

- Member, Medical Association of Jamaica
- Member, Paediatric Association of Jamaica

Dr. Audrey Pottinger

- Board Member, Child Development Agency Advisory Board, Ministry of Health
- Member, Steering Committee, Disaster Mental Health Team, Jamaica Red Cross
- Chairperson, Child Development Division, Jamaican Psychological Society

Dr Maureen Samms-Vaughan

- Member, National Council on Education, Jamaica
- Chairman, Policy Research Committee, National Council on Education, Jamaica
- Member, Advisory Board to the National Education Transformation Team
- Member, Early Childhood Committee, Anglican Diocese
- Member, Research Committee, Society for Developmental and Behavioural Pediatrics, USA
- Member, Vaz Preparatory School Board
- Member, Queen’s High School Board
- Member, Promise Learning Centre (Special Education School) Board
Dr Shaun Wynter

- Integral liason, Pan Caribbean SIGMA Corporate
- Member, MAJ Ethics Committee
- Member, Fundraising Committee, Sigma Run for UHWI Labour Ward.
- Fund Raiser, Bellevue Hospital, Marie Atkins Homeless Shelter and Best Care Lodge Children’s Home.

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

This year was the fourth year of the introductory lectures to the preclinical students which is part of the urogenital module.

All but five candidates were successful in the May June 2005 MBBS examinations. Six students obtained honors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The undergraduate exam format was reviewed by a team chaired by Professor Ramsewak (Trinidad), University examiner. Major changes were made to ensure that the format and standard of the clinical exam were uniform across the campuses. This was the first year the exam was conducted using multiple choice short structured and questions

Four candidates were successful in the Doctor of Medicine part II in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the May/June examinations and two were successful in the DM part I.