

**FACULTY OF
MEDICAL SCIENCES
MONA**

Year ending July 31, 2005



Professor Owen St. Clair Morgan, CD, MA, MD *Dub*, FRCP, FACP – Dean

Dean's Overview

Academic Year 2004/5 ushered significant policy changes for the Faculty of Medical Sciences with respect to admissions, curriculum development, and physical infrastructure. The philosophy driving such changes was partly economic but also the need for strategic transformation of our operations. The shortfall in the UWI's budget forced the Faculty to re-examine the way it had operated over the years. It was required to contribute J\$57 million to the income generation effort of the Campus.

For over thirty years the Faculty of Medical Sciences admitted approximately 100 medical students annually. Admission was based on a quota system agreed to by the contributing territories. Jamaica was allocated 55 places. Over the years as staff was increased relative to the number of students, the cost of training at Mona had escalated above that at the St. Augustine Campus. At the start of this academic year, a decision was taken, that after filling places through the quota system, 50 full fee paying places would be offered not only to international students, but also to Jamaicans and other Caribbean nationals. This policy shift netted 44 full fee paying students from Botswana, Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean.

The decision to merge the University Hospital School of Nursing and the Department of Advanced Nursing Education into the UWI School of Nursing, Mona (UWISON) to offer a generic BSc degree in Nursing yielded significant income and heralded a new era in the training of nurses. 144 students were admitted to this self financing programme.

These two initiatives enabled the Faculty to exceed its income generation target. The Faculty also examined the physical facilities and found that they were inadequate even before the increased student enrollment. A new lecture theatre to accommodate 240 students was built and the capacity of the Preclinical Lecture expanded from 166 to 190. The physiology laboratory was renovated and a number of areas in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences were refurbished to accommodate graduate students.

Our efforts to improve our MB BS curriculum and to achieve harmonization with our sister campuses continued. Challenges for this academic year included achieving agreement on matters such a common entry criteria for Mona and St. Augustine to be adopted by the proposed new school in Barbados, development of a GPA system for the Faculty, and strengthening of on-going assessment in Phase 2 of the programme so that it can be factored into the final examination by year 2007.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In Academic Year 2004/2005, the Faculty attained a number of notable milestones, including:

Curriculum and Examinations

The last cohort under the old MBBS curriculum completed Stage II of the programme and was awarded the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery Degree (MBBS). The first cohort under the new curriculum will graduate in 2006. Significant developments in the MBBS curriculum were:

- . • an evaluation of Stage I of the new MBBS curriculum was completed and the following recommendations implemented.
- . • re-sequencing modules to offer them in blocks thus affording assessment of

individual modules.

- commencement of the revised Introduction to Medical Practice module.
- establishment of mechanisms to identify weak students earlier and provide remedial training.
- cross-campus agreement on a common Stage I (BMedSci) examination, the place of continuous assessment in years 4 and 5 and the format of the final MBBS examination.

Increased student intake

The increased student enrollment through the Full Fee Paying Programme was commenced and provided much needed income for the faculty. It also provided us the opportunity to increase the percentage of qualified applicants admitted.

The demand for nurses worldwide is great. The intake of BSc Nursing students increased under the University of the West Indies School of Nursing (UWISON) representing the merger of the former Department of Advanced Nursing Education and the UHWI School of Nursing. This initiative will enhance the reputation of the UWI as an institution which trains professionals to fulfill the manpower needs of the region.

UWISON undergraduate student population increased from 74 in 2003 – 2004 to 311 in 2004 – 2005. This enrollment includes students at Brown's Town and Excelsior Community Colleges under the aegis of the UWI/TLI collaboration.

Facilities

There had been no significant improvement to the physical plant in the Faculty for several years. The Faculty welcomes the new lecture theatre and the improvements to the pre-clinical lecture theatre and the physiology laboratory during this academic year. There are plans to begin construction of a new building for the Department of Basic Medical Sciences next year.

The expansion of the Accident and Emergency Unit and the construction of the new operating theatres and 8-bed Intensive Care Unit will not only improve patient care but will enhance our teaching programmes. During the 2005-2006 academic year, the Faculty will support the efforts of the UHWI Management to rebuild the hospital and will be attempting to restore facilities such as call rooms, recreation areas and computer stations for its students.

Collaboration and Alliances

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Dr. Chen Thien Yook for him to serve as UWI's representative to recruit medical students from Malaysia. Although the timing was not favorable to meet the entry deadline for the current academic year, it is anticipated that a number of students from Malaysia will join our student body in the Academic Year 2006/2007.

Deans of the Medical Faculties of the University of the West Indies, met on May 6 and 7, 2005 to try to achieve consensus on harmonization of the existing undergraduate medical programme at Mona and St. Augustine and allow for continued improvement of the clinical programmes in Barbados and Nassau, as well as forming a rational basis for the proposed development of a full medical curriculum at the Cave Hill Campus.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) made a site visit to UWI, Mona on May 2 and 3, 2005 to evaluate the facilities and staff, for external funding to continue observational studies of HIV

infected pregnant women, HIV-exposed infants and HIV-infected children in Greater Kingston, Jamaica.

One of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, MERCK, is making a significant contribution to the Caribbean Fight Against HIV-AIDS by funding an important survey to be carried out by UWP's HIV/AIDS Response Programme – UWI HARP. The research is intended to help design new strategies in the campaign to encourage earlier diagnosis and treatment of the disease by reducing the prevailing stigma attached to people living with the disease. The new study will be funded by a grant of over J\$4.8 million from both MERCK & Co. INC and its Caribbean subsidiary.

Research in Progress

These are listed in the individual Departmental reports. The Faculty was awarded several clinical trials during the academic year. Professor Celia Christie attracted significant research funds from a trial of the safety and efficacy of Pentavalent Human Reassortant Rotavirus Vaccine in Healthy Infants and in collaboration with Professor Peter Figueroa have been awarded a NIH contract for HIV/AIDS clinical trials in Jamaica. The Faculty intends to develop a reputation for conducting clinical trials. This will enhance the reputation of the UWI and also generate significant income.

Research Grants

The Faculty attracted over U.S. \$7.5 million in research grants during the academic year. The breakdown of this income is available in individual departmental reports.

Research Output

The Faculty increased its research output by 23 percent from 104 publications in peer-reviewed journals last year to 128 this year. Presentation to local and international conferences increased from 198 to 217. Two hundred and ten (210) full time academic staff are employed to the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The per capita publication rate for the year was therefore 0.6. The research output per department is shown in the table below.

Department	Publications	Conference Presentations
Advanced Nursing Education	5	11
Basic Medical Sciences	11	26
Community Health & Psychiatry	14	24
Medicine	8	11
Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Child Health	35	52
Pathology	15	20
Microbiology	11	17
Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care	29	56
TOTAL	128	217

Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

The Faculty hosted several conferences and seminars during academic year 2004/2005 including:

A Research Ethics Conference in association with the University of Miami Bioethics Programme and PAHO held April 28-30, 2005 at the Mona Visitors' Lodge. The theme was

“Research Ethics a Global Concern – Regional Solutions.” Continuing medical education credits were offered to nurses.

The Annual Nursing Research Conference was held on May 12 and 13, 2005 at the Jamaica Conference Centre under the theme, “Quality Nursing Care through Evidence Based Practice.” Dr. Beverly Bonaparte, Professor of Nursing at Medgar Evars College and Fulbright Scholar for academic year 2004/5 delivered the keynote address.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences Annual Research Day was held on November 10 to 12, 2005 under the theme “Violence and Violence Prevention,” at the Mona Visitors’ Lodge and the Main Medical Lecture Theatre. The opening session featured the Sir Kenneth Standard distinguished lecture by Dr. Rodrigo Guerrero, Coordinator of the Inter-American Coalition on Violence Prevention.

12th International Conference on Human Retrovirology, HTLV and related viruses, held June 22-25, 2005 at the Half Moon Hotel in Montego Bay.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Undergraduate Programme

The Faculty graduated 116 undergraduate students in Academic Year 2002/2003:

MBBS 90
BSc Nursing 7
Certificate Nursing Education 8
Certificate Nursing Administration 11

Of the 109 candidates of the Class of 2007 sat the Stage I MBBS/BMedSci examination, 102 students were successful in the first attempt; one gained honors with distinctions, and 31, honours.

MBBS Examination Results

The MBBS examination results for Academic Year 2004/2005 were as follows:

Stage II Part I

Dates Dist. Hons. Pass Fail

Pathology/Microbiology May 2005 – – 5 4

Stage II Parts II, III & IV

Medicine (MD 500) June 2005 – 5 79 2

Surgery (SU 500) June 2005 – – 84 1

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

(OG	500)	June	2005	3	6	76	1
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Prizes Awarded

The following students were awarded Stage II Part I prizes for

Academic Year 2004/2005:

Allenbury Prize in Medicine	Kerry Skyers
Dr Aubrey McFarlane Bursary	Adina Bowe
Lawson Douglas Prize in Urology	Lisa Chin
	Natalie Crump

Graduate Studies

The Faculty awarded the following postgraduates Degrees during the academic year:

DM		Anaesthetists		3
DM	Emergency		Medicine	3
DM		Medicine		3
DM	Internal		Medicine	6
DM	Obstetrics	&	Gynaecology	1
DM		Paediatrics		5
DM		Psychiatry		2
DM		Radiology		5
DM		Surgery		3
MPhil		Biochemistry		3
PhD		Biochemistry		2
PhD		Nutrition		1

There were 520 Graduate students registered in the Faculty during the academic year including 39 PhD students.

Conclusion

The Faculty has commenced the process of strategic transformation which will equip it to deal with the challenges ahead. It needs to intensify its income generation activities to fund its planned development. During the next academic year the Faculty plans to start construction of a new Basic Medical Sciences Complex and expansion of the facilities in the UWISON. The Mona Institute of Medical Sciences will be expanded and the Faculty will encourage geographical practice among its academic staff. The publication of 0.6 per capita is unsatisfactory. The Faculty will be implementing measures to improve the quality and quantity of publications in peer reviewed journals.

