

ADVANCED TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN FERTILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT

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Director

INTRODUCTION

This year was a very productive year with the Unit hosting a Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health, October 26-28, 2006 at the Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica. The theme for the conference was “Sexual and Reproductive Health; Our Mutual Responsibility”. This conference attracted one hundred and fifty (150) participants from the Caribbean, Nigeria, USA and Jamaica.



As part of our post conference strategy, we have approached conference presenters to expand on selected topics to be included in a manuscript entitled “Caribbean Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health”. The manuscript is in preparation and publication is projected for 2008. This book will focus on the issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Caribbean region and will include recommendations which will influence policy and the way forward.

The Unit is also in the process of developing a strategic plan, several workshops have been held to develop and produce a plan for the next five to ten years. The plan will embody the goals of the University’s strategic plan.

Research Conducted

Measuring Family Planning Satisfaction Service Quality through Client Satisfaction

- A study was undertaken of a random sample of clients attending the ATRFMU clinic over a 4 week period in 2007 using a modified version of an Exit Interview developed by International Planned Parenthood Federation. The instrument

measured levels of client dissatisfaction with service delivery. The focus was on clients' assessment of the services provided and areas for improvement. The findings have been reported and used to improve the areas identified.

PUBLICATIONS

WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal

- * P. Macpherson-Russell, J. Meade, H. Wynter. "The Foundation and Structure of Health and Family Life Education in the Caribbean – An Initiative of the Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management Unit". *Caribbean Quarterly* 52, 4 (2006).
- * Hamilton Pansy, "Health Issues in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, CARICOM Single Market and Economy Genesis and Prognosis" Edited by Kenneth Hall, Myrtle Chuck & A. Sang (Kingston, Ian Randle Publishers, 2007) PP 346-360.
- * Pottinger A, McKenzie C, Dacosta V, Wynter S, Everett D, Walters Y. "Gender differences in coping with infertility among couples undergoing counselling for In Vitro Fertilization treatment", *WIMJ* 2006; 237-42.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – OUTREACH

- Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Western Jamaica: HFLE-HIV/AIDS Project

Activities continued for the final year of the "Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Western Jamaica: HFLE-HIV/AIDS Project" in Montego Bay. Under this project the teaching of Health and Family Life Education, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS, was carried out at the Sam Sharpe Teachers College, the Granville All Age School and the Catherine Hall Primary and Infant School. Students graduating from

the Sam Sharpe Teachers' College in 2007 have had HFLE and HIV/AIDS education in all three years of training. Companion activities in the associated communities included a walk through the community during which people were engaged in conversation regarding HIV/AIDS; presentations to Parent Teacher Associations on November 2 and 3, 2006 in recognition of Parents' Month; a Health Fair at the Sam Sharpe Teachers' College Playing Field on January 26, 2007. Additionally, there was a workshop presentation to parents at the Granville All Age School during Child Month on the topic "Understanding your Child" with emphasis on healthy life choices and prevention of HIV/AIDS. A panel discussion was also held at a Women's Rally at the Calvary Baptist Church. The project is scheduled to be completed on August 31, 2007 and is currently being evaluated. Field work has been concluded and data entry has begun.

MSc Counselling Summer School (July 2-27, 2007)

The MSc Counselling Summer Workshop was conducted at Mona, with fifty six (56) participants from nine Caribbean countries, including Jamaica from July 2 to 27, 2007. The main emphasis of the workshop was the teaching of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods and to prepare the students to write their proposals for their final research projects.

MSc Counselling Tutors' Workshop (August 13-17, 2007)

A tutors' workshop was also held to hone the M.Sc. Counselling tutors' skills in quantitative and qualitative research supervision. The workshop was taught by Miss Carol Gayle and Mr. Herbert Gayle.

The MSc Counselling practicum placement manual was also revised.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Frederick, Joseph

- "Assisted Conception and the Future", The Annual Grabham Society of Obstetrician & Gynaecologists Conference. Hilton Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica, July 2006.
- "Jamaican Perspectives on Contraceptives & Terminations of Pregnancies", Caribbean Initiatives on Contraceptions & Abortions & Planned Parenthood, New York, April 2006.

- “New Innovations in Gynaecological Laparoscopy”. Update in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Laparoscopic Urogynaecology, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Faculty of Medical Sciences, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago. September 2006.
- “Minimally Invasive Surgery and its impact on Ambulatory Medicine in the Future of the Caribbean”, Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference, Knutsford Court, Hotel, October 2006.
- “The infertile couple and outcomes of infertility treatment in Jamaica”, Annual Midwives Conference Jamaica Conference Centre, November 2006.

Jackson, Elaine

- (with Hamilton P. Meade, J. Williams, L.) “Collaboration and Networking in Distance Learning: The Experience of the UWI with the MSc Counselling programme by Distance Education.” Fourth Pan Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning, Ocho Rios, Jamaica: 30 October – November 2006. 10 pages.

Hamilton P

- “Risk Factors for HIV Infection among Adolescents in Jamaica” University of Miami Fogarty International Training Program in HIV/AIDS & TB – 3rd International Conference on Health Research in the Americas. Miami: May 2007.

Meade J.

- (with Hamilton, P. & Russell, P.) “Attitudes of Children, Ages 4-9, to Peers with HIV/AIDS.” CCDC UNESCO sponsored Caribbean e-forum on Children and HIV/AIDS. June 2007.
- “Combating HIV/AIDS Stigma and Discrimination: Current Initiatives in Jamaica.” University of Miami Fogarty International Training Program in HIV/AIDS & TB – 3rd International Conference on Health Research in the Americas. Miami: May 2007.
- “Response to Health and Family Life Education: The Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management Unit.” Sixth CARICOM Regional Health and Family Life

Education Working Group Meeting. UN House, Barbados:
June 2007.

Jackson J,

- (with & Lee A.) “Union Difference and Risk Perception for STI/HIV Among Urban Males 18-40 years.” Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management Reproductive Health Conference October 2006.

Lewis Bell, K.

- (with Kulkarni S. & Jackson JU.) “Training in the Use of the Partograph: A Measure to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Jamaica”. Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management Reproductive Health Conference October 2006.

Williams L.

- (with Hamilton P.) Study of the Knowledge, Values, Attitudes and Practices (KVAP) Among Adolescents with Disabilities and their Parents. Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management Reproductive Health Conference October 2006.

Claudette McKenzie

- “Stress Management in the Operating Theatre” Jamaica Operating Theatre Nurses League Conference, June 2006.

Vernon Dacosta

- “No Scalpel Vasectomy at the UWI”, Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference. October 2006
- “Intrauterine Contraceptive Device”, ACOG Conference. July 2007
- (with J. Frederick, S. Wynter) “A review of the first sixty cases of No-Scalpel Vasectomy” (a new technique) performed at the Fertility Management Unit, UWI

John Harriot

- “Trends in Semen analysis in Jamaican Infertile Males”, Inaugural Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health. October 2006

- “Impact of Nutrition in Fertility”, Annual Perinatal Conference. February 2007
- “Chronic Pain”, Laparoscopic Conference, Annotto Bay Hospital in conjunction with Kaiser Permanente in Chicago. March 2007
- “Infertility: 21st Century Approach”, Jamaica Medical Doctor’s Association.
- “Contraceptive Management in the patient with Cardiovascular Disease” Gramham Society Annual Conference.

Loxley Christie

- “Intrauterine Insemination at the UWI – Prognosticating Factors” Inaugural Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference
- “Ultrasound Assessment of Foetal Growth and Ultrasound Assessment of the Macrosomic Infant” 2007 Annual Perinatal Conference (Workshop), University Hospital of the West Indies.
- “Update on Reproductive Technology” Annual Grabham Society Conference.

Rochelle Foster

- “ICSI – The Solution for Suboptimal Sperm Parameters in Jamaica”, Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference 2007.

Establishment of the Administrative Academic Committees

On June 18, 2007, the ATRFMU hosted a special meeting of a number of senior UWI’s officials as a special initiative towards the establishment of an Administrative and Academic Committee which will have responsibility for jointly overseeing the delivery of the M.Sc. Counselling Programme. The committees are scheduled to be in operation by the end of Semester One of Academic year 2006-2007.

CLINICAL SECTION

Numbers of surgery done between the period August 2006 -July 2007.

Diagnostic Laparoscopy	184
Diagnostic Hysteroscopy	219

Tubal Ligation	79
Vasectomy	4
Operative Laparoscopy	170
Operative Hysteroscopy	28
Laparotomy	33

Numbers of contraceptive distributed/administered

Oral contraceptives (Lofemenal, Microgynon, Ovidon)	947
Depo provera injection	2,454
Insertion of Intra Uterine contraceptive device	137
Norplant insertion	93
Condoms	16,248

IUCD and Norplant insertion has increased over the same period last year. This year instead of having patients for both procedure come ad hoc, appointments are made for IUCD and Norplant insertions to maximise the amount of patients that can be done on a Thursday.

We can plan effectively with this schedule in place.

IVF PROGRAMME

Work at the Fertility Unit continues to escalate. Our patient intake for this period was one hundred and seventeen couples (117). These couples were referred to the unit from private doctors (local, regional, USA, Canada and England), hospitals, clinics and even patients who have had treatments.

Procedures	Cycles	Pregnancies	Pre. Rates	
IVF		35	15	42.9%
ICSI		51	12	23.5%
IUI		38	4	10.5%
FET		14	5	35.7%
Embryo Cryopreservation	20		-	-
Semen Analysis	209		-	-

The Egg Sharing/Donor Egg programme started in March 2007. We have had five patients who were Egg Recipients and four of them were successful. This resulted in an eighty percent ongoing pregnancy rate for Egg Recipients (40 - 45 years old). Two sets of twins resulted and

three of the five patients had embryo freezing. The egg donors also had additional embryos for freezing.

Counselling Programme

Twenty two couples were seen in the counselling programme which is very beneficial to our couples and counselors. A research paper was published in the West Indian Medical Journal 2006, Gender Differences in coping with infertility among couples undergoing counselling for Invitro Fertilization. (A.M. Pottinger, C. McKenzie, J. Frederick, V. DaCosta, S. Wynter, D. Everett, Y. Walters).

A pamphlet was also created out of the data collected from patients undergoing counselling – Ways to Cope while trying to Conceive.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Hamilton Pansy

- Member, Planning Institute of Jamaica Gender Committee for Jamaica 2030 Plan
- Vice President, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives
- Board Member, Whole Person Resource Center
- Member, United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Synodical Committee
- Executive Member, YWCA Jamaica
- Member, Jamaica America Friendship Association (JAFA)

Frederick Joseph, Professor

- Member, Caribbean Initiatives of Planning Committee of Planned Parenthood
- Member, Pacesetters Toast masters Club

Jackson Jean

- Member, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives

Lee Amy

- Member, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives

Meade Joan

- 1st Vice President, Lions Club of St. Andrew Central
- Member, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives

McKenzie Claudette

- Council Member, Anglican Diocese of Jamaica and Cayman