WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

In March 2009, the Department of Basic Medical Sciences undertook its first Quality Assurance Review since the merger of the four Departments. All staff contributed to this valuable exercise and many lessons were learnt. The review covered the BB Med Sci, MB BS, and Physical Therapy undergraduate programmes, MPhil and PhD programmes and the administration. The Review Team had high commendations for the work of the Physical Therapy programme, however the need to employ teaching assistants to increase the staff to student ratio was recommended. The Team recommended that the BB Med Sci programme develop a curriculum that can be taught independently of the first year MB BS programme. The Review Team highlighted the overcrowding in the MB BS programme, and recommended the need to introduce technology such as digital histological images and to provide students with hands on experience in basic clinically-orientated practicals. The Team recommended that a strategic plan should be developed for the recruitment of graduate students into Anatomy and Physiology in order to achieve a critical mass and succession planning. The review highlighted the limited availability of resources for teaching and research and was emphatic that an adequate budget should be provided considering the increased enrolment of students. In the area of administration the Team recommended that there should be more effort to integrate the Academic Sections and that there should be more opportunities for technical, administrative and service staff to access training and personal development.

During the academic year, the Department made progress in implementing some of the strategic initiatives in its 2007-2012 Strategic Plan.
Plan that were in line with some of the recommendations from the Quality Assurance Review. The review of the Physical Therapy programme had begun and a committee to review and upgrade the BB Med Sci programme was established. Both the Physical Therapy and BB Med Sci programmes will increase student intake to 50 per year as of the 2009/2010 academic year. A new MSc Forensic Science programme was developed and was approved by Graduate Studies and Research. This programme will be introduced in the 2010/2011 academic year with areas covering forensic chemistry, forensic DNA science, forensic pathology, and forensic toxicology. In the area of infrastructure development and facilities, plans were completed for the construction of a 20,331 m² state-of-the-art complex for research, teaching and service. Construction is expected to begin in September 2009. The Department has also begun to invest in research infrastructure and has since commissioned a GC/MS for the screening of bioactive products, toxicology and drug testing.

In 2008/09 one-hundred and ninety-eight students were registered in the MBBS programme, 40 in the BB Med Sci programme and 43 in the Physical Therapy programme. Three-hundred and ten students were enrolled in the FPAS Biochemistry programmes. Students’ assessment of teaching was good as the academic staff continue to be highly rated by students. In this academic year three academic staff members were recognised at the UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teacher of the Year Awards for outstanding lecturer and course assessments. Members of the academic staff and their postgraduate students participated in several international conferences, and were also successful in attracting significant research funds of approximately US$244,000. The Research output continued at a steady pace as last year with approximately one original paper published per staff in peer reviewed journals.

STAFF AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

In the Pharmacology Section Dr. Oswald Simon was promoted to the rank of Professor and Dr. Arkene Levy was awarded the Fulbright Research Scholarship to pursue research at the Moores Cancer Institute, University of California, San Diego. Dr. Levy conducted research to evaluate the cytotoxic effect of plant extracts on human ovarian cancer cells. Dr. Maxine Gossell-Williams led a research team that received the Principal’s award for one of the best publications in the Faculty of Medical Sciences.
The following academic staff members were also recognised at the UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teacher of the Year Awards for the Lecturer and Course Assessments: Sharmella Martin, Gillian Hudson-Ducasse and Carron Gordon. The following members of staff were also recognised for years of service to the department: Professor Helen Asemota, Mr. Winston Campbell, Dr. Michelle Hamilton (15 yrs); Mrs Yvonne Bailey, Mr. Gerald Cooper (21 yrs).

Dr. Icolyn Amarakoon, Mr. Winston Young, and Ms. Kadeesh Johnson were promoted to the posts of Chief Laboratory Technologist, Senior Scientific Officer, Senior Laboratory Technologist, respectively. Mrs. Yvonne Bailey, Senior Secretary successfully completed her BA Philosophy (Hons) degree. Ms. Camelia Campbell was promoted to Secretary III.

**Staff Development**

Dr. Maxine Gossell-Williams received training in Pharmacovigilance sponsored by the World Health Organization held in WHO-Drug Monitoring Centre-Uppsala Sweden. Prof. Omkar Parshad was a guest lecture on Impact of Yoga on Hemodynamic Functions in Healthy Medical Students at the Department of Physiology, All India Medical Institute, New Delhi, India, June 22, 2009. Dr. C. Nwokocha and Dr. Lauriann Young-Martin attended a three-day staff development workshop on Academic Advising Training at UWI, held May 27 – 29, 2009. Dr. Lauriann Young-Martin participated in the UWI Medical Curriculum Harmonization Workshop held at the Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, May 20 – 22, 2009.

Technical staff members from the Anatomy and Physiology Sections attended the Caribbean Poison Information Network (CARPIN) Scientific Conference in Kingston. Mr. Garth Dawkins, Jnr. Research Fellow attended the 29th International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology held at Kansas State University.

Ms. Talitha Farquharson attended the Jamaica Association of Secretaries and Administrators Annual Conference at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica.
PAPERS PRESENTED


• Bowers, A. S., Pepple, D. J. and Reid, H. L. Oxygen delivery index in subjects with normal haemoglobin genotype (HbAA), sickle cell trait (HbAS) and homozygous sickle cell disease (HbSS) in stable and crisis states. International Society of Biorheology & International Society of Clinical Hemorheology Conference, Penns State, USA, July 9-13, 2008.


• Dilworth, L. Green, C. and Asemota H.N. (2008) Bioactive compounds and citrus polymethoxylated flavones in commonly eaten Caribbean foods and citrus cultivars. 122nd AOAC International Annual Meeting and Exposition, Dallas, Texas.

• Duncan, K., Reid, H. L. and Voutchkov, M. Lead concentrations in blood donors in Jamaica. 16th Annual Conference of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, UWI, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica, March 26-27, 2008.


• Nelson, G. Exercise training for patients with stable chronic Heart Failure UHWI Cardiology Unit, Heart Failure Symposium, February 13, 2009.


• Young-Martin, L. “High Testosterone Coupled with Oestrogen Significantly Impaired Cognition in Aged Males”. Annual International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease (ICAD), Reed Messe Wien, Vienna, Austria, July 11-17, 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and monographs


**Refereed Journal Articles**

*Ref. Journals are abbreviated as follows:

WIMJ = *West Indian Medical Journal*

Int. J. Pharm. 3 (1): 41-47.

Plant Pathology 57:417-426.

Journal of Chromatographic Science 47: 3-9.


* Gossell-Williams, M., K. Lyttle, T. Clarke, M. Gardner, O. Simon (2008). Supplementation with pumpkin seed oil improves plasma lipid profile and cardiovascular outcomes of
female non-ovariectomized and ovariectomized Sprague-Dawley rats. *Phytotherapy Research* 22 (7): 873-877


Abstract in Peer Reviewed Journal


folklore medicine claim as a diuretic agent’ (Abstract) WIMJ 58 (S2): 54-55.


**INCOME GENERATION**

*Research Grants:*

**Professor Helen Asemota, Dr. Andrew Wheatley and Dr. Perceval Bahadoosingh**

– Glycemic indices of Jamaican foods and the development of Low-GI products for diabetics and health conscious individuals. National Health Fund **US$62,100.00.**
Professor Norma McFarlane-Anderson

– Isoflavone and Lignan as biomarkers For Dietary Phytoestrogen Intake and their relation to Uterine Leiomyomata (fibroid) risk” Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC). US$5,000.

– Prostate cancer in Jamaican men: are there associations with inflammation, infection and genetic predisposition? Collaborators: Dr. Maria Jackson (Community Health & Psychiatry) and Dr. M. Tulloch-Reid (TMRI) CHASE fund J$6,360,000.

Dr Sherline Brown

– Coconut Industry Board/Common Funds for Commodities (CFC) “Sustainable Coconut Production through Control of Coconut Lethal Yellowing” (CFC/FIGOOF/22) – to study the mechanism of transmission on lethal yellowing phytoplasma in alternate hosts and vectors. US$36,000

Dr. Paul Brown

– Campus Research and Publication Fund, UWI, Mona; PI (Awarded to Gabrielle Andrade) US$2,050 for the project Investigation of the basis of attachment of Leptospira species to mammalian cells.

– Campus Research and Publication Fund, UWI, Mona; PI (Awarded to Ann-Tenneil O'Connor) US$1,700 for the project Mechanism of degradation of organic compounds and consequent biochemical effects in aquaculture species

– CHASE Fund; Co-PI (with Prof. John Lindo) J$3M for the project

– “Malaria and leptospirosis as possible causes of fever during an epidemic of dengue in Jamaica”

Dr. Wayne McLaughlin

– Coconut Industry Board (CIB)/Common Funds for Commodities (CFC) “Sustainable Coconut Production through Control of Coconut Lethal Yellowing” (CFC/FIGOOF/22) – to study the possible erosion of resistance to lethal yellowing in coconuts (Mrs Millicent Wallace (CIB) Postgraduate student) US$24,700.

**Dr. Paul Singh**

– Campus Committee for Research and Publication and Graduate Award for Anikki Burnett. Title: Investigations of extracts of a local plant used in Caribbean folklore medicine to treat diabetes mellitus. US$2,500.

**Dr. Maxine Gossell-Williams**

– Campus Committee for Research and Publication and Graduate Award for Coretha Hyde.: Title: Evaluation of the physiological, cytological benefits of pumpkin seed oil supplementation in post-menopausal women. US$1702.00.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Professor Helen Asemota**

– Chairman, Institutional Research Board (IRB), Shaw University, North Carolina.
– Member, International Proxy Parents’ Education Committee, Jamaica.
– Member, Executive Committee, International Christian Fellowship (ICF), USA.
– Chairman & Co-Founder, Imade Asemota Foundation (IAF) for Sickle Cell Research & Patients’ Welfare, USA.

**Dr. Paul Brown**

Member, Technical working group on Leptospirosis, Jamaica

**Ms. Gillian Hudson-Ducasse**

– Member, Combined Disabilities Association
– Member, Friends of the Consie Walters Cancer Care Center

**Mr. Michael Gardner**

– Executive Member, Jamaica Historical Society
Dr. Kerith Golden
- Vice Chairman, Stock Form Road Citizens Association, Golden Spring, St. Andrew
- Member, Editorial Advisory Board for Stewarts Post harvest Review.

Dr. Maxine Gossell-Williams
- Scholarship Chair-Jamaica Fulbright-Humphrey’s Alumni Association
- Member, Optimist club of North St. Andrew
- Pharmacology Section Representative – Central Drug and Therapeutics Committee- Ministry of Health.
- Executive Member, Citizen Association of Armour Glades

Dr Arkene Levy
- Staff representative, Rotoract club of UWI
- Member, CARPIN Education Subcommitee

Professor McFarlane-Anderson
- Chairman, Education Committee – International Proxy Parents
- Friends, Foundation for International Self Help (FISH).

Dr. Wayne McLaughlin
- Board Member, Coconut Industry Board
- Deputy Chairman, National Commission on Science and Technology, Biosafety Committee
- Council Member, Jamaica Society for Agricultural Sciences

Ms. Gail Nelson
- President, Jamaica Physiotherapy Association
- Jamaica’s representative, North American/Caribbean Regional Chapter, World Confederation of Physical Therapy

Prof. Omkar Parshad
- Immediate Past President, Lions Club of St. Andrew, Jamaica
- Vice President, Indian Cultural Society in Jamaica.
Professor Dalip Ragoobirsingh
- Chief Examiner, Caribbean Examination Council, CSEC Human & Social Biology.
- Diabetes Educator, Diabetes Association of Jamaica (DAJ)

Prof. Harvey Reid
- Member, Board of Governors, Cross Keys High School, Manchester
- Member, Jamaica Wellness Cluster
- Member, Manchester Herb and Spices Association
- Member, Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)

Dr. Oswald Simon
- Observer, Technical Advisory Committee, CARICOM Drug Testing Laboratory

Dr. Paul Singh
- Member, Caribbean Poison Information Network Management Committee

Dr. Lauriann Young-Martin
- Council Member, Holy Cross Community

Dr. Andrew Wheatley
- Director, Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission
- Member, Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO
- Chair, Subcommittee on Science and Education, National Anti-Doping Commission
- Vice-president, Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ)
- Chair, Education and outreach Committee (JADCO)
- Chairman, St. Catherine Parish Council
Students Registration In programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>BB Med Sci.</th>
<th>MB BS</th>
<th>Physical Therapy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Allied Health Students
Year 1 = 54

BSc Biochemistry/Biotechnology/Molecular Biology
Year 1 = 310
Year 2 = 101
Year 3 = 68

Postgraduate Degrees Awarded

- Natala Burnett – PhD Molecular Biology
- Curtis Green – PhD Biochemistry
- Damian Cohall – PhD Pharmacology

Postgraduate Scholarships Awarded

*UWI Postgraduate Scholarship*

- Fallon Lutchmansingh – MPhil Biochemistry
- Kesi Brown – MPhil Biochemistry

*UWI 60th Anniversary Scholarship*

- Tricishanna Henry – MPhil Pharmacology