

THE CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH (CAIHR)

Professor Marshall Tulloch-Reid, MBBS, MPhil, DSc, FACE
- Director CAIHR

We present some selected highlights from the Mona units of the Caribbean Institute for Health Research for the 2022/2023 academic year.

ACCESS

Preparations were made for the continued administration of the taught courses offered through CAIHR with special emphasis on marketing the MSc Epidemiology (Self Financing) and Nutrition (UGC) Programmes. We are in the processing of re-negotiating our agreement with the Open Campus (Global Campus) for administration of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research and Epidemiology to increase access to training in these areas for persons who are unable to commit to full time study due to work or distance.

ALIGNMENT

Members of CAIHR continued their work in collaboration with the Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness. In the last year we partnered with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to:

- Offer training sessions on the management of Sickle Cell Disease
- Implement and evaluate the Reach Up early childhood parenting programme through primary health centres
- Develop new evidence based guidelines for the Management of three Chronic Diseases Hypertension, Diabetes and Asthma.

The Child Development Group also continues its work with the Early Childhood Commission (ECC), building skills in parenting training nationally based on lessons learned from its IRIE Homes violence prevention programme.

Cross University Collaborations continue with graduate student exchange between the UWI, The University of Glasgow Nutrition Collaboration and McGill University.

AGILITY

CAIHR continues to identify and obtain external grant funding relevant to our research strategy and regional needs from local and international agencies and donors including the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), The Wellcome Trust, International atomic energy agency, the UK Global Challenge Research Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, UKRI/Medical Research Council, The UK National Institute for Health Research and several others.

These funds are essential to maintain our research productivity and excellence and have allowed us to retain critical staff at a time when there is a freeze on many UGC posts and significant economic fallout. It is therefore critical that administrative and other support that allows us to maintain our standards for reporting and research excellence be maintained to ensure the sustainability of the Institute for the next generation of scientists and students.

NEW GRANT

The Reach Up early childhood parenting programme developed by the Child Development Research Group at CAIHR continues to expand globally with implementation in 20 countries in the global South. In 2022–23 the group was successful in a bid to support the Government of Uzbekistan, through funding from the World Bank, to expand early childhood development through their Ministry of Preschool Education's, "Increasing Access to Quality Early Learning Environment" project. The grant includes support from the UWI team for adaptation, training and evaluation.

The services also include the provision of tools for monitoring and supervision, operations manual and guidance on the systematization of the model within the Ministry of Pre-School Education system.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UWI 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The commemorate the University of the West Indies' 75th Anniversary Celebrations the Institute has committed to three In-person Professorial Lectures.

The first held by Institute Director Professor Marshall Tulloch-Reid chronicled his own journey in research and the critical role that Institutions play in facilitating and shaping the development of the next generation of academic scientists. A recoding of the lecture is available at https://www.facebook.com/UWITV/videos/229147049845659.

The additional 2 lectures are scheduled for the 2023/24 academic year.

We have set about the completion of work commended during CAIHR's 20th Anniversary Celebration to archive materials, instruments and images from the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU). We are slowly refurbishing a section of the TMRU building to create a display area /living museum with relevant captioning. It is hoped that this display will capture the history of TMRU and its role in the development of the Caribbean Institute for Health Research and be available for viewing before the end of the anniversary celebrations.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

For the upcoming academic year we will continue in our efforts to increases enrolment in self-financing programmes and obtain research grant income as part of the UWI Strategic Plan's Revenue Revolution. Strengthening of systems to support income from these sources will allow us to be more ambitious in our plans and allow CAIHR to make a greater contribution to the University's financial health and international reputation.

ACCESS

STUDENTS

MPhil/PhD Candidates CAIHR Programmes

- "Effects of menstruation on sickle cell pain in Jamaican women with sickle cell disease". Monika Asnani Supervisor to Dr. Zachary Ramsay. PhD Epidemiology (UWI) Candidate. January 2022–Current
- "Social Determinants of Adult Health Outcomes in Sickle Cell Disease Patients in a Jamaican Birth Cohort". Monika Asnani Supervisor to Mr. Alphanso Blake. PhD Epidemiology (UWI) Candidate. September 2021–Current
- "Evaluation of fat free mass as a proxy for muscle mass and its association with muscle function for the assessment of sarcopenia" – Prof Asha Badaloo Supervisor to Mr. Bentley Chambers, PhD Nutrition
- "Bioavailability of the indispensable amino acids of the red kidney bean in a typical Jamaican meal using a dual stable isotope tracer method" – Dr Carolyn Taylor-Bryan Supervisor to Dr Daniel Thomas, PhD Nutrition
- "The impact of a nutrition-based educational intervention on the development
 of obesity in a cohort of children from 2 years to 5 years of age" Dr Carolyn
 Taylor-Bryan Supervisor to Mrs. Tameka Duncan-Baker, PhD Nutrition

- "The Development, Implementation and Evaluation of the IRIE Homes Toolbox: A Universal Violence Prevention Programme" Dr Helen Henningham Supervisor to Ms. Taja Francis, PhD Epidemiology
- "The effect of maternal infant feeding styles on childhood health and development in Caribbean infants: A longitudinal study" Prof Susan Walker and Prof Marshall Tulloch-Reid Supervisors to Ms. Amika Wright, PhD Epidemiology
- "Policy Implications of HIV Drug Resistance and its Impact on the Jamaica HIV Epidemic" – Prof J. Peter Figueroa and Prof Marshall Tulloch-Reid Supervisors, MPhil Epidemiology

MPhil/PhD and DM Candidates other Departments

- "Beverage label marketing in Jamaica and its influence on the awareness, attitudes and preferences on primary school children" Dr Suzanne Soares-Wynter Co-Supervisor to Linda Lisa Homi Levee, PhD in Child, Adolescent and Youth Studies UWI Global Campus, formerly UWI Open Campus
- "Gut microbiota in obese and non-obese Afro-Caribbean population consuming a traditional Afro-Caribbean versus a westernized ultra-processed diet patterns" Dr Suzanne Soares-Wynter Co-Supervisor to Meshell Carrington MPhil/PhD Epidemiology University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados.
- "Knowledge, attitudes, practices, and barriers faced by primary care physicians in Jamaica regarding provision of chronic illness preventative nutrition care".
 Monika Asnani Supervisor to Dr. Sophie Abrikian. DM Family Medicine. Completed March 2023.
- "Prevalence and determinants of non-barrier contraceptive use among women in Westmoreland". Monika Asnani Supervisor to Dr. Henrika Gayle. DM Family Medicine. Completed March 2023.

MPhil/PhD and DM Candidates other Universities

"An evaluation of the food environment of healthcare settings in Jamaica: implications for policy and research" – Dr Suzanne Soares-Wynter Co-Supervisor to Lisa Anna-Kay Reid PhD in Public Health University of the Western Cape, Faculty of Community and Health Sciences, South Africa

PUBLICATONS

Books and Monographs

 Book Chapter: Public Policy Challenges to Control Childhood Obesity in Latin America and the Caribbean (D. Thomas, C. Taylor-Bryan, S. McFarlane, A. Badaloo) in Public Policy Challenges to Control Childhood Obesity in Latin America and the Caribbean: DOI: 10.5935/978-65-88041-03-1.0001 (http://dx.doi.org) https://www.editoraemescam.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/POLITICAS-PUBLICAS-DIRIGIDAS-A-INFANCIA-INGLES-22-12-1.pdf

Refereed Journal Articles

- Bailey J, Bazuaye-Alonge P, McFarlane S. (2023) The Putative Role of Environmental Chemical Exposure in the Development of Cervical- Prostate- Colorectal (CPC) Cancers in Jamaica. WCRJ; 10: e2542 DOI:10.32113/wcrj_20235_2542
- Barnett F, Duncan A, Ramsay Z, Ramsay T, Simmons Q, Brooks TA, Channer G. The clinical assessment of foreign body ingestions: Experience in a developing country. Trop Doct. 2023 Apr;53(2):210–217. doi: 10.1177/00494755221147355. Epub 2023 Jan 3. PMID: 36597663.
- Belle Jarvis S, Hadeed E, Lee K, Hardy-Dessources MD, Knight-Madden JM, Richardson C. Sickle Cell Disease Newborn Screening-An Audit of a Twin Island State Pilot Program. Int J Neonatal Screen. 2023 Mar 1;9(1):14. doi: 10.3390/ijns9010014. PMID: 36975852; PMCID: PMC10052052.
- Costello, A., M. Romanello, S. Hartinger, Gordon-Strachan, G. S. Huq, P. Gong, T. Kjellstrom, P. Ekins and H. Montgomery "Climate change threatens our health and survival within decades." The Lancet.November 2022. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)02353-4
- Doubova, S. V., Asai, D., Mariam, D. H., Ayele, W., Mebratie, A. D., Thermidor, R., Sapag, J. C., Bedregal, P., Passi-Solar, Á., Gordon-Strachan, G., Dulal, M., Gadeka, D. D., Mehata, S., Margozzini, P., Leerapan, B., Rittiphairoj, T., Kaewkamjornchai, P., ... Arsenault, C. (2023). Associations between the stringency of COVID-19 containment policies and health service disruptions in 10 countries. BMC health services research, 23(1), 363. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-023-09363-1
- Evans-Gilbert, T. Hambleton, I. Taylor-Bryan, C. Sin-Quee, C. Young-Peart, S. Lashley, PM. Gilbert, B. Richille-Ann, B. Fernandes, M. Singh, V.(2022). Nutritional Status and COVID-19 in Children: A Caribbean Inpatient Survey. J Paediatr Neonatal Med 4(4): 169
- Farina N, Jacobs R, Sani TP, Schneider M, Theresia I, Turana Y, Fitri FI, Albanese E, Lorenz-Dant K, Docrat S, Toit PD, Ferri CP, **Govia I**, Comas-Herrera A, Ibnidris A, Knapp M, Banerjee S. Description of the cross-cultural process adopted in the STRiDE (STrengthening Responses to dementia in DEveloping countries) program: A methodological overview. Alzheimers Dement (Amst). 2022;14(1):e12293.
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- of urban living for children and adolescents' growth and development. Nature, 615(7954), 874–883. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-05772-8
- Ferguson T, Webster-Kerr K, Tulloch-Reid M, Bennett N, Ho J, Davidson T, Grant A, Gordon-Johnson K, Govia I, Soares-Wynter S, Younger-Coleman N, McKenzie J, Walker E, Anderson S, Edwards S, Spence S. The Jamaica salt consumption, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (Salt-KAP) study: A research protocol [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]. F1000Research. 2022;11(721).
- Fisher LA, **Asnani M**. Acute kidney injury in Jamaicans with sickle cell disease hospitalized with COVID-19 infection. EJHaem. 2023 Jan 7;4(1):37–44. doi: 10.1002/jha2.636. PMID: 36819174; PMCID: PMC9928646.
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- Foley L, Brugulat-Panés A, Woodcock J, Govia I, Hambleton I, Turner-Moss E, Mogo ERI, Awinja AC, Dambisya PM, Matina SS, Micklesfield L, Abdool Karim S, Ware LJ, Tulloch-Reid M, Assah F, Pley C, Bennett N, Pujol-Busquets G, Okop K, Anand T, Mba CM, Kwan H, Mukoma G, Anil M, Tatah L, Randall L. Socioeconomic and gendered inequities in travel behaviour in Africa: Mixed-method systematic review and meta-ethnography. Soc Sci Med. 2022 Jan;292:114545. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114545. Epub 2021 Nov 6.
- Gordon-Strachan, G., Shiu, R. N., Smith, J., Harrison, A., & Walker, S. (2023). Climate change in small island developing states: caring for youth's mental health. *The Lancet. Child & adolescent health*, 7(6), 373–374. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(23)00081-0
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- **Govia IO**, Doubova SV, **Younger-Coleman N**, Atkinson U. Gender Differences in Prevalence and Risk Factors Associated With Substance Use in 50- to 65-Year-Old Jamaicans. *J Addict Nurs*. 2021.
- Hall P, Kerr K, Gray Brown A, Soares-Wynter S. "Sodium levels in pre-packaged foods and beverages sold in Jamaica: A label analysis." *J Nutrition Health Food Sci* 2022 10(1):1–8. DOI: 10.15226/jnhfs.2022.001188
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- prenatal substance use and poor infant outcomes in a multi-country cohort of mothers: a latent class analysis. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. **2022;22(1):505.**
- King L, Alexander-Gabbadon K, Chin N, Hammond-Gabbadon C, Simmonds-Brooks P, Harris J, Martin H, Witter K, Bartlett R, Knight-Madden J, Asnani M. Telehealth: Navigating the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: The Sickle Cell Unit Experience. *Telemed J E Health*. 2023 Apr 24. doi: 10.1089/tmj.2023.0100. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37092975.
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ALIGNMENT

PAPERS PRESENTED

There were 4 papers presented at local and regional conferences.

NON-REFEREED ARTICLES

 Ferguson TS, Younger-Coleman NO, Webster-Kerr K, Tulloch-Reid MK, Bennett NR, Davidson T, Grant AS, Gordon-Johnson K-AM, Govia I, Soares-Wynter S, Mckenzie JA, Walker E, Cunningham-Myrie CA, Anderson SG, Blake AL, Ho J, Stephenson R, Edwards SE, McFarlane SR, Spence S, Wilks RJ. Sodium

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- Soares-Wynter S. National School Nutrition & Wellness Standards (Jamaica).
 Ministry of Education, Youth and Information Jamaica.
- Soares-Wynter S. CARICOM Regional Standard for Prepackaged Foods Nutrition Labelling Requirements
- Soares-Wynter S. CARICOM Regional Standard for Labelling of Foods -Prepackaged Foods (Draft Standard)
- Soares-Wynter S. National School Nutrition & Wellness Policy (Jamaica).
 Ministry of Education, Youth and Information Jamaica.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Marshall Tulloch-Reid

- Advisor, Diabetes Educators of the Caribbean
- Examination Board, Caribbean Certified Diabetes Educators
- Statistical Editor, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism
- Chair, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health, GACD Steering Committee

Jennifer Knight Madden

- Member, Board of Governors, St. Andrew High School for Girls
- Co-Chair Sickle Cell Technical Working Group (National)
- Co-Chair the Surveillance, Monitoring & Evaluation, Research sub-committee of the National NCD Committee (National)
- Chair, Advisory Panel on Ethics and Medico-Legal Affairs (National)
- Member Bureau of Standards Medical Facilities Technical Committee (National)
- Chair, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for the Realizing Effectiveness Across Continents with Hydroxyurea (REACH) trial Oct, 2017 to present (International)
- Chair, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for the Enhancing Preventive Therapy of Malaria In children with Sickle cell anemia in East Africa (EPITOMISE) trial Nov, 2018 to 2021 (International)

- Chair, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for Promoting Utilization and Safety of Hydroxyurea Using Precision in Africa June, 2022 (International)
- Reviewer, NIHR Global Health Policy and Systems Research Programme (International)
- Reviewer, NIHR Funding Committee for Global Health Centres: Research and Institutional Capacity Strengthening In NCDs (International)
- Member Organizing Committee, 4th Global Congress on Sickle Cell Disease,
 Paris June 2022 (International)
- Member Organizing Committee, Sickle Cell Disease Association of America/ National institutes of Health Sickle Cell in Focus Conference 2022 (International)

Susan Walker

- Expert Panellist, Annual Meeting of the Boards of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) expert panel on Poverty and Inequality, March 16, 2023
- Member and alternate Departmental representative, Advisory Board, Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development
- Member, Advisory Committee on Health Research, Pan American Health Organization
- Member of Data Safety & Monitoring Board for the Scaling Up Nurturing care,
 a Radio Intervention to Stimulate Early child development in Burkina Faso
 (SUNRISE) Trial, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Carolyn Taylor-Bryan

- National Infant and Young Child Feeding Committee Training sub-committee
- Member, Medical Association of Jamaica
- Member, Pediatric Association of Jamaica
- Member, National Infant and Young Child Feeding Committee

Kwesi Marshall

- Chairman of the National Food Industry Task Force (NFITF)
- Chairman of the Nutrition Sub-committee of the National Committee on Non-communicable diseases
- Georgiana Gordon Strachan
- Member, Board of Directors, Mico University, Jamaica
- Chair, Essential National Health Research Committee National COVID-19

Agenda, Health Services Sub-Committee, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica

Suzanne Soares-Wynter

- The Heart Foundation of Jamaica Board of Directors and Medical Sub-Committee Member
- Bureau of Standards Jamaica Limited National Mirror Committee Member
- Bureau of Standards Jamaica Limited Labelling and Technical Committee Member
- World Health Organization (WHO) Guideline Development Group: Management of young children and adolescents with obesity for improved health, functioning and reduced disability: a primary health care approach.
- Vital Strategies Healthy Food Policy Fellowship Fund Reviewer
- Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
- Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (Member)
- Next Gen(d)eration of Leaders for a Well-Nourished World
- Jamaica Association of Professionals in Nutrition and Dietetics (JAPINAD)
 Standards and Regulatory Committee

Trevor Ferguson

- Chair National Committee on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Weekly Core Group Meetings & Meeting with Minister of Health and Wellness, Permanent Secretary and CMO to update on NCD Committee matters
- Chair for CARPHA Hypertension Guidelines Development Committee

Monika Asnani

- Appointed Member: WHO Guidelines Development Group Member. Management of Pregnancy in SCD. May 2023–Current
- Appointed Member. Sickle Cell Disease Working Group. PhenX Collection on measures for 'Pregnancy and Sickle Cell Disease'. June 2022–Current
- Co-Chair. Access to Care Working Group. Sickle Cell Disease Coalition. Monika Asnani: September 2022–Current
- Member Organizing Committee. Sickle Cell Disease Association of America/ National institutes of Health 15th Sickle Cell in Focus/ UWI Conference 2022
- Member: Sickle Cell Technical Working Group
- Term Graduate Faculty Appointment. Duke University Graduate School. 2017–2022

- Board Member of Caribbean Network of Researchers in Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia since 2014
- Board Member, Indian Cultural Society in Jamaica. July 2007–Present

Ishtar Govia

- Member, Communications Sub-committee of Ministry of Health and Wellness Essential National Health Research Committee
- Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations (CANPA) Executive
 Committee Member and Elections Committee Member.

Debbie Thompson

- Member, WHO Guideline Development Group Management of Severe Wasting
- Member, UWI / University of Glasgow / McGill University Nutrition Collaboration Working Group
- Member, Kwashiorkor Working Group
- Founding Member, Autism Advocacy and Support Committee
- Co-Benefactor, The Promise Award
- Founding Member/ Parent Counselor, Jamaica Autism Support Association

AGILITY

INCOME GENERATION

New Grants

Funding source: Ministry of Preschool Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan **Title**: Promoting Early Childhood Development Project Supporting the implementation of an ECD home visiting program in Uzbekistan **Investigators**: Susan Chang Lopez, Jacqueline Coore-Hall, Helen Baker-Henningham, Susan Walker, Christine Powell **Period of award**: 01 November 2022–October 31, 2023 **Total**

Value: USD 99,340.00