DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Professor Minerva Thame, MBBS, DCH, DM (Paeds), PhD
Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Child and Adolescent Health has as its main focus, the improvement of the health and welfare of families through clinical service, research, intellectual leadership, advisory and community services and training of undergraduate students and postgraduate doctors.

In-patient clinical services are delivered through two paediatric medical wards and a newborn special care unit which includes a neonatal intensive care unit. Out-patient clinical services are delivered through general and sub-specialty clinics in cardiology, development and behaviour, endocrinology, haematology and oncology, infectious diseases, neonatology, nephrology, neurology, and pulmonology and a Paediatric Casualty.

The Department has been involved in collaborative research with other faculties of the University of the West Indies and several overseas
institutions such as Vanderbilt University Global Health Program, University of Texas and the Children’s Nutrition Research Centre (CNRC), Baylor College of Medicine, Texas and Yale University. These partnerships have also afforded student exchanges and this academic year several postgraduate students pursued electives at Yale University. Several members of the Department are involved in health promotion activities such as media presentations both print and electronic, community health fairs and presentations to the public. Members also demonstrated intellectual leadership through their involvement with several advisory boards.

The Department offers two undergraduate courses as part of the MBBS programme and a postgraduate programme in Paediatrics (Doctor of Medicine in Paediatrics) with students registered in Jamaica and in the Bahamas. Additionally, staff of the Department teach courses in child and adolescent health related areas and provide research and clinical supervision to students enrolled in undergraduate programmes in Nursing and Midwifery and postgraduate programmes in Clinical Psychology, Education, Nutrition, Family Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health. During the academic year, two new programmes were commenced. These are the fellowship in Neonatology initiated by the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC) and the Post-graduate diploma in Loss Grief and Trauma Management under the stewardship of Dr. Audrey Pottinger, Senior Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist.

There were 361 junior students and 300 senior students who completed the Child and Adolescent Health rotations over the last year. In the November/December 2015 final examination in Paediatrics, of the 37 candidates who were examined, 31 were successful while in May/June 2016, of 221 candidates who were examined, 194 were successful and 9 were awarded Honours. During the academic year 2015/2016, there were 70 elective students who rotated through Child and Adolescent Health. Fifty were from UWI; 20 were from overseas Universities: Caribbean (8), UK (9), Germany (2), and Australia (1).

There were 51 postgraduate students registered in the DM Paediatrics
programme during the year under review. Thirty six students were registered in Jamaica and 15 students were registered in the Bahamas. Nine candidates sat the DM Part 2 final examination and 5 (55.6%) were successful while 11 candidates sat the DM Part 1 examinations and 8 (72.7%) were successful. Ten candidates started the program on July 1st 2016; 7 were registered in Jamaica and 3 were registered in the Bahamas.

**NEONATAL FELLOWSHIP**

The neonatal fellowship was approved by the Board for Graduate Studies and Research and commenced January 2015. This fellowship programme was one of three fellowships initiated by the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC) which is a joint initiative between the European Union and the Government of Jamaica. The UWI was engaged as the educational institution to conduct the training. We have had one cohort of 2 candidates to date.

**PERINATAL AUDIT, SYMPOSIUM AND CONFERENCES**

This year was the fifteenth year of the Perinatal Audit and Symposium. This annual conference was held on the 27th and the 28th February this year. This is a joint effort between the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Child and Adolescent Health with external review of perinatal statistics by practitioners from outside units. The theme this year was “Obesity: A worldwide epidemic”.

**INVITED PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

- Christie CD. “Hot Topics in Vaccines – Dengue Fever and 14-valent Conjugate Pneumococcal Vaccine in Children”, Inter Science Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC), September 20, 2015, San Diego, California, USA.

- Christie CD. Invited Plenary speaker. “Jamaica’s invited perspective on the validation data and changes in collection tools, for the certification of elimination of MTCT HIV and Syphilis in Latin
America and the Caribbean, after the experience in Cuba”, Invited speaker and Consultant, Regional Validation Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, PAHO, Washington DC, 13–14, Oct, 2015.


- Christie CD. Plenary speaker. “Clinical Features, Diagnosis and Management of Zika infections”, at Zika V update – Public Symposium, 2 February, 2016, Conference sponsored by UWI, collaborating with PAHO/ WHO/ Jamaican Ministry of Health, at UWI’s Mona Campus


- Christie CD. “ZIKAction: Preparedness, Research and Action Network on Maternal-Paediaic Axis of ZIKV Infection in Latin America and the Caribbean” – Multiple presentations viz: to Leadership of Ministry of Health, UWI’s Dept of Child and Adolescent Health,
Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Health care workers in public and private sector, researchers and many others, during 2016.


- Harrison A. “Communicating with Adolescents” – Adolescent Health Standards Criteria Workshop, Almond Tree Hotel, St. Ann, Jamaica. October 22, 2015


- Harrison A. “Communicating with the Adolescent” – Paediatric Annual Conference, Savanna-la-Mar June 18, 2016

- Melbourne Chambers R. “Chikungunya in Jamaica – Public Health Effects and Clinical Features in Children”. (invited platform presentation) at the Yale-UWI Global Health and Capacity Building CME Conference; Theme: Updates on Cancer, Infections and Genetics: From Bench to Clinic, April 29 to May 1, 2016, Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.


- Pierre RB, “Update on management of Paediatric HIV/AIDS” Presented (invited platform presentation) at the Yale-UWI Global Health and Capacity Building CME Conference; Theme: Updates on Cancer, Infections and Genetics: From Bench to Clinic, April 29 to May 1, 2016, Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica.


- Pierre RB, “UWI Requirements and Recommendations; what are the UWI options?” Presented (invited platform presentation) at the Caribbean Adolescent Health Curriculum Meeting PAHO/UWI
Collaboration, Spanish Court Hotel, 1 St. Lucia Ave. Kingston Jamaica, May 4–6, 2016.


- N Passard and AM Pottinger. “Building Self-Esteem” - Workshop
for high school students across the island, UWI Mona Research Day 2016. Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex, the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, February 18-19, 2016

CONSULTANCIES

- Christie CD. Organiser. ZIKA V Public Symposium (on announcement of WHO’s Epidemic of International Concern and first case of ZikV in Jamaica - a child), on 2 February, 2016, Conference Sponsored by UWI, Collaborating with PAHO/ WHO Jamaican Ministry of Health
- Christie CD. Co-Chair (with Prof Russell Pierre and Prof Elijah Painstil - Yale) Yale-UWI Conference on Global Health and Capacity Building, April 29 to May 1, 2016. (In West Indian Medical Journal; Supplement Vol 65 (Suppl 2); 1-41. ISSN 0043-3144 WIMJAD.
- Christie CD. Member, UWI’s Regional ZIKA V Task Force, “One environment – One health”, Representing Paediatrics and Mother to Child Transmission. Appointed by the Vice Chancellor, UWI.
- Harrison A. Co-Coordinator, 5th National Adolescent Health Workshop, MOH/PAHO/UHWI collaboration, November 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- Cook J, Hardie R, Bailey K, Tapper M, Vickers I, Calder D, Lindo


• Melbourne-Chambers R, Clarke D, Gordon-Strachan G, Tapper J, Tulloch-Reid MK. The UWIMONA Pediatric Epileptic Seizure Screening Questionnaire was equivalent to clinical assessment in identifying children with epilepsy. *J Clin Epidemiol.* 2015;68(9):988-93

• Morrison-Levy N, Melbourne-Chambers R. Traditional Antiepileptics Remain First Line Treatment for Children with Epilepsy at The University Hospital of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. DOI: 10.7727/WIMJ.2015.473 e-Published: 08 Mar, 2016

• Pottinger AM, Nelson, K, & McKenzie C. Stressful events and


- McLean N, **Trotman H**. Outcome of Late Preterm Infants at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *Amer J Perinatol* 2016 May 2. (Epub ahead of print).


- Richardson C, **Trotman H**. Outcome of Macrosomic infants at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *West Indian Med J* DOI: 10.7727/wimj.2015.050


**ABSTRACTS**


• Pierre RB, Lu Q, Moore JT, Christie CDC, Paintsil E. Viremia copy–years over the first 2 years predicts immunologic outcome in a pediatric HIV cohort in Jamaica. Poster and Abstract, 8th International Pediatric HIV Workshop, July, 2016 in Durban, South Africa.


**INCOME GENERATION**

**Research Grants**

**Christie CDC – Principal Investigator**

• Source: European Commission and Paediatric European Network for Treatment of AIDS (PENTA) Foundation

  Title: Addressing the urgent research gaps against the Zika virus and other emerging threats in Latin America, SC1-PM-22-2016

  Grant Period: 2016 to 2021 (five years)
  Total Amount: 877,065.00

• Source: Minister of Health (October 4, 2012) through National Health Fund (November 15, 2012) for immediate funding, for three years
Title: Elimination of Vertical (Mother-to-child) Transmission of HIV/AIDS and Congenital Syphilis in Jamaica,

Grant Period: 2012 to 2015
Total Amount: J$ 55,448,800

- Source: Minister of Health (July, 2015) through National Health Fund (June, 2016) for immediate funding, for three years (NEW)

Title: Elimination of Vertical (Mother-to-child) Transmission of HIV/AIDS and Congenital Syphilis in Jamaica,

Grant Period: 2015 to 2016
Total Amount: J$ 25,000,000

- Source: UNICEF & UNAIDS (April, 2015) for immediate funding, for 3 months (NEW)

Title: Elimination of Vertical (Mother-to-child) Transmission of HIV/AIDS and Congenital Syphilis in Jamaica,

Grant Period: 2015 – 2016
Total Amount: US $ 4,250

Harrison A – Principal Investigator

- Source: UNICEF

Title: Chronic illness in Jamaican Adolescents – A review of asthma, diabetes mellitus, HIV and sickle cell disease
Funds: JAD 4861566.70 (2014-2016)

Pierre RB, Christie CDC. – Co-Principal Investigators

- Source: Funded by Viiv Healthcare in collaboration with Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and other international sites (South Africa, Brazil, Ireland, United Kingdom, Romania, and Thailand)

Title: “The Passages Project – Mapping Transition, Charting Futures Global Research into Specialty Care and Transition for Adolescents Living with HIV”, from September 1, 2014 to June 26, 2016
Total grant amount to the UWI, US$ 17,086.95 (€ 15,000.00) [Phase 1]

**Pottinger A**

- Source: Council of World Missions  
  Title: Council for World Mission Ecumenical Grant  
  Total grant amount – J$5,200,700.00 (2016-2018)

**Samms-Vaughan – Principal Investigator**

- Source: Inter-American Development Bank  
  Title: Evaluation of Early Childhood Learning Environments  
  Grant Period: 14/08/2014-13/08/2016  
  Funds: US $1,000,000.00 (Counterpart funding additional US200,000.00)

- Source: UNICEF  
  Title: Validation of Jamaica School Readiness Screening Tools  
  Grant Period: 25/03/2015-31/08/2015  
  Funds: J$ 4,379,076.00

- Source: NIH (RO1 Grant)  
  Title: Epidemiology of Autism in Jamaica (Collaboration with the University of Texas)  
  Grant Period: 12/09/2013-30/04/2018  
  Funds: US $737,953.00 (Jamaican site)

**Thame M. – Principal Investigator**

**Trotman H – Co-Investigator**

- Source: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna  
  Title: Infant feeding practices and resultant growth patterns in Jamaican children assessed by anthropometry and body composition  
  Grant Period: 2012-2016  
  Funds: 50,000.00
PUBLIC SERVICE

Christie CDC.

– Treasurer, International AIDS Society (IAS)
– Member, Governing Council, Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric Education and Research (CIPHER) and Research Grant Working Group, International AIDS Society
– Chair, “Rethinking the Pharmaceutical Industry Liaison Forum (ILF)” of the IAS
– Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America,
– Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
– Founding Member, HIV Medicine Association of America
– Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
– Member, International Society for Infectious Diseases
– Director, Jamaica’s National Program for the Elimination of Congenital HIV/AIDS and Syphilis and JaPPAAIDS
– Senior Member, Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (eMTCT) of HIV and Syphilis, Oversight Committee and its many Subcommittees
– Chair, Clinical Trials Advisory Committee, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI Mona
– Member, West Indian Medical Journal, Editorial Board
– Chair, Principal’s Research Awards Committee, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI
– Chair, Clinical Trials Oversight Committee, UWI – Mona
– Special Project Lead – Collaboration UWI/ Yale University School of Medicine.

Gabay L

– Co-Founder and Medical Director, Camp Yellow Bird for children with diabetes.
Harrison A.
– Chairman, Board of Visitors, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre
– Director, Board of Directors, National Family Planning Board
– Executive council, Vice-President Caribbean region – International Association for Adolescent Health
– Member, Adolescent Policy Working group – Ministry of Health, Jamaica
– Member, Steering Committee, ‘All-in project”. Ministry of Health and UNICEF.
– Manuscript Reviewer:
  PLOS One
  West Indian Medical Journal

Melbourne-Chambers R
– Manuscript Reviewer – Epilepsy and Behavior Journal

Miller M
– Founder, Jamaica Kidney Kids Foundation.

Pierre R
– Co-Chairs: Elijah Paintsil, Russell Pierre, Celia DC Christie-Samuels
  The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, in collaboration with Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA. GLOBAL HEALTH AND CAPACITY BUILDING CONFERENCE 2016. Theme: Updates on Cancer, Infections and Genetics: From Bench to Clinic. April 29 to May 1, 2016. Faculty of Medical Sciences Teaching and Research Complex. University of the West Indies, Mona Campus
– Caribbean Association of Medical Councils Examination – Chairman of committee to implement examination on behalf of the Faculty of Medical Sciences: from January 2007
– Negotiated and Initiated Prizes for Final MBBS Students
– Guardian Life Jamaica Limited Award for Best Overall Performance in Community Health and Psychiatry
– Medical Protection Society Prize Best Overall Programme Performance
– Sagicor Life Jamaica Limited Award in Paediatrics in Medicine and Therapeutics
– University of Georgia-Augusta University Medical Partnership: Negotiated and facilitated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UWI, Mona and the University of Georgia (UGA) and the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University (AU-MCG).

**Manuscript reviewer:**
– Biomed Central BMC Infectious Disease – Manuscript Reviewer September 2015
– Pediatrics – Manuscript reviewer April 2016
– Abstract reviewer – The 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016) 18–22 July 2016, Durban, South Africa

**Pottinger AM**
– Member, Executive Council, International Association for Counsellors, Regional Coordinator (Caribbean)
– Affiliate member, International Federation Red Cross/ Red Crescent Research Network on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
– Coordinator and Chair of Steering Committee, Church-site Counselling Initiative (CSCI)
– Member, Steering Committee, Child Protection Policy Committee, United Church Jamaica and Cayman Islands

**Thame M.**
– Member, UHWI representative Medical Review Panel, MOH
– Chair, Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Research and Advisory Committee
– One of the lead physicians for the Sick Kids-Caribbean Initiative
– Co-Chair for the research team, Sick Kids-Caribbean Initiative
– Director, Jamaica Kidney Kids Foundation (JKKF)