The department continues to blaze a trail in Teaching and Research activities as well as focusing on excellent service to our Jamaican women. With the increasing numbers of medical students, the responsibility for teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students is being increasingly shared with Associate Lecturers in our affiliate accredited hospitals of Cornwall Regional Hospital, Mandeville Regional Hospital, Spanish Town Hospital and Victoria Jubilee Hospital. The May Pen Hospital will start to take final year Obstetrics & Gynaecology students in September 2013.

Our services include general Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Reproductive endocrinology, Gynaecological Oncology, Perinatal services and Assisted Reproduction.
OBSTETRIC PERINATAL SERVICE

This service manages high risk Obstetric cases and accepts referrals from the rest of the island. The Unit provides teaching for postgraduate and undergraduate medical students. Perinatal Audits occur monthly as a joint meeting with the Department of Child Health and the annual conference in February of each year is run by Drs. Kulkarni, Johnson and Simms-Stewart. This is a joint effort between Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Neonatology group from Child Health with invited Obstetricians and Perinatologist providing vital critiques of the annual statistics.

The Labour Ward and Postnatal Services are supervised by Drs. Leslie Samuels and Cathy Maddan who also teach undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as midwives in training.

ONCOLOGY UNIT

Dr. Bambury completed his Fellowship training in Gynaecological Oncology in Ottawa, Canada, and returned to the Department as the point person in the Unit. This unit is manned by Dr Rattray, Dr Mitchell, Dr Bambury and Dr Taylor with Sister Murdoch and her team of nurses as well as administrative secretary Miss Thompson. Residents rotate through the unit spending 2 months in the Colposcopy and Oncology areas. Patients requiring colposcopy in the management of the abnormal cervical smear are seen in the Colposcopy clinics while patients with gynaecological malignancies, are seen in the Oncology clinic both in preparation for surgery and in following patients post surgery, post chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The Unit also has facilities for teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

FERTILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT

Professor Joseph Frederick is the director of the Unit with Drs. Shaun Wynter, Vernon DaCosta, John Harriott, Loxley Christie and Sharifa
Frederick as clinicians and Dr. Audrey Pottinger and Sister McKenzie as counselors. Two other staff members in the programme are Miss Denise Everett, a senior embryologist (Biologist) and Miss Hillary Walters a staff Nurse as the coordinator of the programme. This team has championed the In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer Programme for Jamaica and the Caribbean. Pregnancy rates continue to improve and frozen embryos and donor eggs are now being stored.

Minimally invasive procedures such as hysteroscopy and laparoscopy (both diagnostic and therapeutic procedures) are provided as day case procedures and the family planning clinic offers contraceptive and sterilization advice.

The renovation and reconstruction exercises are now complete and this state of the art building is now fully functional. It houses two operating suites equipped with a surgical robot, a lecture theatre and new in vitro fertilisation laboratories. This new unit will have facilities for video conferencing allowing for the transmission of live surgical procedures other campuses in the Caribbean. It is to be officially re-opened by the Prime Minister in November 2013.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

- Professor Glen Taylor: Univ. of Ottawa; Perinatal pathologist and guest speaker at Perinatal Conference February 9–9, 2013.
- Professor Justin Konje: Univ. of Leister UK External examiner May/June 2013.
- Dr Karolynn Echols – Urogynaecologist (November annually since 2009).

INCOME GENERATION: EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING AND GRANT SUPPORT

- Research funding: Dr SimmsStewart – Twin Birth Study – US$ 63,000
• Dr. Kulkarni – Perinatology conference registered 400+ persons; J$256,000

PAPERS/POSTERS PRESENTED


PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. S Kulkarni
– Member, Jamaica MOH Maternal Mortality audit Committee
– Member, Jamaica MOH Patient Affairs Audit Committee

Dr Nadine Johnson
– Co-organizer of Annual Perinatal Conference.
Dr. Simms-Stewart
– ACOG Vice Chair, West Indies Section

Dr. Rattray
– Representative for the West Indies at RCOG Meeting, Liverpool England.

PUBLICATIONS


• Frederick S, Frederick J, Fletcher H, Reid M, Hardie M, Gardner W. A trial comparing the use of rectal misoprostol plus perivascular vasopressin with perivascular vasopressin alone to decrease myometrial bleeding at the time of abdominal myomectomy. *Fertil Steril* 2013.06.022. Epub 2013 July 19.

