

# DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY

**Professor Horace Fletcher BSC, MBBS, DM (O&G), FRCOG,  
FACOG – Head of Department**

## WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The main focus of the department is to improve the health and welfare of families, in particular women in the region. This is done through clinical (service) work and academic (teaching and research). The department comprises Obstetric and Gynaecological services (reproductive endocrinology, gynaecological oncology and perinatal services).



We teach medical students, postgraduate students (Doctorate Medicus Obstetrics/Gynaecology) as well as supervise other post Graduate students M Phil and PhD. We also assist in the teaching of Midwives and nurses.

## Obstetric Perinatal Service

The Perinatal service hosts an annual conference in February of each year run by Drs. Mullings, Kulkarni, Johnson and Simms-Stewart. This service manages high risk obstetric cases and accepts referrals from the rest of the island as well as the rest of the British West Indies. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students. Perinatal Audit for 2010, UWI, Mona was attended by over 600 delegates. This was a joint effort between Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Neonatology group from Child Health with external review by practitioners from outside units. Special emphasis was placed on topics such Counselling, Premature Birth and Neonatal Neurological Outcome.

## **Oncology Unit**

This is run by four lecturers Prof Fletcher, Dr Rattray, Dr Mitchell, Dr Bambury and Dr Taylor. The Unit is also run by Sister Murdoch and her team of nurses as well as residents who rotate through on a monthly basis. The services offered are consultations for patients with gynaecological tumours, colposcopic diagnosis and treatment, and surgery for gynaecological tumours. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students. Dr Bambury has obtained a fellowship to go to Ontario Canada to study Gynaecological Oncology as of July 2008 for two years. He has been replaced by a part time lecturer Dr Matthew Taylor.

## **Sterility & Fertility**

The members of the Sterility & Fertility firm and Fertility Management Unit resumed the In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer Programme for the treatment of infertile patients from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. The programme was restructured to streamline and accommodate the treatment of infertile couples on a continuous basis. Professor Joseph Frederick as director of the programme 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. Since the resumption, the pregnancy rates have shown considerable improvement as we are also achieving pregnancies from the frozen embryos and donor eggs. A major breakthrough is that all the documents required for the registration of the drugs used in the programme have been submitted to the Pharmaceuticals & Regulatory Affairs in the Ministry of Health.

The unit also undertakes operative and diagnostic laparoscopy, contraception and sterilisation advice and management. Counseling in family planning and family life is also offered.

The section has recently embarked on construction of a new state of the art building to house two operating suites, a lecture theatre and new in

vitro fertilisation labs. This construction is in an advanced state of completion.

This initiative will see an increase in the generation of capital for the University. Also important is the fact that this new unit will have facilities for video conferencing to allow other campuses to benefit from the seeing procedures being performed.

## **Income Generation: External Research Funding and Grant Support**

Research funding

Principals New Initiative

Study Endocrine disrupters and sperm counts in Jamaican men

**Fletcher H, Harriott J**, Christie L

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

- Bishop K, Nyi Nyi M, Jaggon JR, **Johnson N**, Trotman H, Richards N. Perinatal Death in Maternal Diabetes Mellitus at UHWI. Pathological Findings: 2006 – 2010. Annual Perinatal Conference: Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Mona. February 2011
- **DaCosta V**, ‘Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)’The Association of General Practitioners of Jamaica Symposium. The Alhambra Inn, Kingston, Jamaica, 21st January 2011.
- **DaCosta V**, “Ectopic pregnancy/DUB/PCOS”, The Association of General Practitioners of Jamaica Symposium. The Alhambra Inn, Kingston, Jamaica, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2010.
- **Fletcher H**. The Ethics of Abortion what do Jamaican Doctors know 2010 Presentation to Doctors in Clarendon, Juicy Beef Centre in Clarendon

- **Fletcher H.** Update on the management of cervical cancer. Caribbean Association of Clinical Haematologist and Oncologists Holiday Inn Montego Bay
- **Fletcher H.** Fibroids in Pregnancy. 2010 Mandeville Hospital annual Obstetrics and Gynaecology conference.
- **Fletcher H.** An update on the management of Gynaecological Malignancies. 2010 Grabham Society Conference Jamaica Pegasus Hotel
- **Fletcher H.** Update on Cervical Cancer and HPV. Given to ROCHE drug Rep managers from Latin America and Caribbean LASCO office July 6 Kingston Jamaica.
- **Fletcher H.** Fibroids in Pregnancy. 2010 Clinico Pathological Conference UWI
- **Fletcher H.** Renal impairment as a complication of uterine fibroids 2011 Clinico Pathological Conference UWI
- Dawkins JC, **Ratray CA, Fletcher HM.** Morinda Citrifolia (Noni) as an inflammatory treatment in women with Primary Dysmenorrhoea. Annual Clinical Meeting ACOG 2011 Washington P 31 page 72
- Hunter T, **Fletcher HM,** Gossell-Williams. Evaluation of the physiological benefits of pumpkin seed oil in menopausal patients. Annual Clinical Meeting ACOG 2011 Washington P 52 page 74
- Dawkins JC, **Ratray CA, Fletcher HM** Outcome following acute pyelonephritis in pregnancy at the University Hospital of the West Indies Annual Clinical Meeting ACOG 2011 Washington P 70 page 87.
- Hunter T, Simms-Stewart D, **Fletcher HM.** Comparison of Ultrasonic estimated fetal weight and actual birth weight done by residents. Annual Clinical Meeting ACOG 2011 Washington.

- Lewis G K, **Mullings AM**, Gordon-Strachan G. A Randomized Controlled Trial of Vitamin E Supplementation in the Treatment of Primary Dysmenorrhoea” 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Meeting of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Washington Convention Centre, Washington DC, April 30 to May 4 2011.
- **Mullings A**. “Social Determinants of Health: A Jamaican Perspective”, Nuffield Council of Bioethics Global Health Meeting, London, July 20, 2011.
- **Wynter S**. Abortion / Miscarriage – Types, Management, and Effects on Women, October 26, 2010. The Jamaica Midwives Association 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, Jamaica Conference Centre.
- **Wynter S**. Pregnancy and Breast Cancer. CPC UWI. Main Medical Lecture Theatre. Feb 16, 2011.
- **Wynter S**. Management of the Infertile Couple, Caribbean College of Family Physicians (Jamaica Chapter) workshop on “Update in the Management of Gynaecological Disorders” May 15 2011. Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston 5.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal*

- \* **Johnson N**, Bishop K, Trotman H, Reid M. Congenital abnormalities at a tertiary centre in Jamaica—18 month maternal-fetal medicine experience. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med*, 2011; 00(00): 000-000, ISSN 1476-7058 print/ISSN 1476-4954 online
- \* **DaCosta V**, Lewis T, **Wynter S**, **Harriott J**, **Christie L**, **Frederick J**. Experiences of Jamaican men who have undergone no-scalpel vasectomy at the UWI. Open Access *Journal of Contraception*. Oct 12, 2010.  
[http://www.dovepress.com/article\\_5504.t2391789](http://www.dovepress.com/article_5504.t2391789)

- \* Christie LR, **Harriott J, DaCosta, V, Wynter S, Frederick J,** Everett D, Foster R. Intrauterine insemination in Jamaica: low cost subfertility management in a low resource region. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* Jan 17, 2011.
- \* Roye-Green K, **Frederick J,** Wharfe G, Choo-Kang E, **DaCosta V, Fletcher H,** Smikle M. Antiphospholipid and other autoantibodies in a cohort of habitual aborters and healthy multiparous women in Jamaica. *Hum Antibodies.* 2011 Jan 1; 20(1):1-5.
- \* Foster R, **DaCosta V, Christie L,** Everett D, **Harriott J, Wynter S, Frederick J,** Walters Y. Successful treatment of severe male factor infertility in Jamaica with intracytoplasmic sperm injection. *WIMJ,* 2011; 60 (1): 41-5.
- \* Grant C, Lalor G , **Fletcher H,** Potter T and Reid. Elements in Human Placentas in Jamaica. M *WIMJ,* 2010, 59:479-485
- \* **Fletcher H,** Bennett F, Simms-Stewart D, Reid M, Williams NP, Wharfe G, Wilks R, **Mitchell S,** Scott P. Cardiovascular Disease Risk factors in Menopausal Jamaican Black Women after hysterectomy and bilateral oophorectomy: An Observational study, *WIMJ,* 2010, 59:625-632
- \* **Thame M, Fletcher H,** Baker T, Jahoor FJ., Arginine flux, but not nitric oxide synthesis, decreases in adolescent girls compared with adult women during pregnancy, *Nutr.* 2011 141: 1 71-74;
- \* Marshall KG Swaby K Hamilton K, Howell S, Landis RC, Hambleton I, Reid M, **Fletcher H,** Forrester T & McKenzie C. A preliminary examination of the effects of genetic variants of redox enzymes on susceptibility to oedematous malnutrition and on percentage cytotoxicity in response to oxidative stress *in vitro.* *Annals of Tropical Paediatrics* 2011:31(1)27-36.
- \* Gossell-Williams, Hyde C. Hunter T, McGrowder D, Walters C, Simms-Stewart D, **Fletcher H.** HDL-Cholesterol

improvement in postmenopausal women supplemented with pumpkin seed oil: Pilot study. *Climacteric* 2011 May 5

- \* **Fletcher H**, Gordon-Strachan G, Hamilton, **Frederick J**, McFarlane S. Provider KAP re Abortion in Jamaica. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* 2011 Jun; 113(3):183-6.
- \* **Fletcher H**, Buchanan K and Jacob L. Conservative treatment of ectopic pregnancies medical versus surgical Therapy. *Open Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2011, 1:6-11
- \* **Fletcher H**, **Johnson N** and Reid M. The effect of introduction of misoprostol for induction of labour on pregnancy in gravidas with pre eclampsia. *Open Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2011, 2:64-69
- \* **Fletcher H**, Figueroa P, Brathwaite A and Hylton-Kong T. Poverty STD and folate deficiency. *WIMJ*, Mar 2011, vol. 60, no 2: 137- 40.
- \* Christie LR, **Harriott JA**, **Dacosta VE**, **Wynter SH**, Everett DM, Foster RA. Intrauterine insemination in Jamaica as a low-cost subfertility treatment in a low-resource region. *Int. J Gynaecol Obstet.* Jan 17, 2011. [Epub ahead of print]
- \* Foster R, **DaCosta V**, Everett D, Christie L, **Harriott J**, **Wynter S**, **Frederick J**, Walters Y. Successful Treatment of Severe Male Factor Infertility In Jamaica With Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). *WIMJ*, Jan 2011, vol. 60, no 1: 42 - 45.
- \* Lewis T, **DaCosta V**, **Harriott J**, **Wynter S.**, Cawich S. Factors related to Obstetric Third and Fourth degree perineal lacerations in a Jamaican Cohort. *WIMJ*, Mar 2011, vol. 60, no 2: 195-8.
- \* **Fletcher H**. Environmental hazards in pregnancy and risks to the baby, *Carib Explorer* 2010, 2:27-8

## Book Chapter

### Books

- \* **Fletcher H.** FISHKILL and other modern Jamaican fables, 2011, ISBN: 978-1-4502-7225-4 (sc) ISBN: 978-1-4502-7226-1 (ebk) Library of Congress Control Number: 2010916860

### Abstracts

- \* Pumpkin Seed Oil Supplementation improves HDL and LDL cholesterol in Post-Menopausal Women: A Random Double-Blind Pilot Study. Hyde CD, Gossell-Williams M, Hunter T, Simms-Stewart D, McGrowder D, **Fletcher H**, Choo-Kang E. *The FASEB Journal* 588.6
- \* Bone mineral density in Jamaican men on androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer B Morrison, I Burrowes, W Aiken, R Mayhew, **H Fletcher**, M Reid 2010. *WTMJ*, 59 (supp 4) :23
- \* Morinda citrifolia (NONI) as an anti-inflammatory treatment in women with primary dysmenorrhoea JC Dawkins, **HM Fletcher**, **CA Rattray**, G Gordon-Strachan, M Reid 2010 *WTMJ*, 59 (supp 4):43
- \* The prevention of striae gravidarum with olive oil cream and cocoabutter: a randomized double blind trial K Matthews, **H Fletcher**, M Reid 2010. *WTMJ*, 59 (supp 4)::45
- \* The prevention of striae gravidarum with shea butter(CUREL®) versus cocoa butter: a randomized controlled double blind trial K Campbell-Simpson, **H Fletcher**, **C Rattray**, C Pitter, L Brown, A Thompson 2010. *WTMJ*, 59 (supp 4):45
- \* Evaluation of the physiological and cytological benefits of pumpkin seed oil supplementation in postmenopausal women: a pilot study T Hunter, M Gossell-Williams, **H Fletcher**, D Simms-Stewart, C Hyde, N Williams, C Walters 2010. *WTMJ*, 59 (supp 4):51



- \* A retrospective study of acute pyelonephritis in pregnancy at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) 2003-2008 JC Dawkins, **CA Rattray**, **HM Fletcher**, G Gordon-Strachan, M Reid 2010. *WTMJ*, 59 (supp 4):29
- \* Bone mineral density in Jamaican men on androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer B Morrison, I Burrowes, W Aiken, R Mayhew, **H Fletcher**, M Reid 2011. *WTMJ*, 60 (supp 2) :23

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Prof H Fletcher**

- Member, Faculty Assessment and Promotion Committee
- Member, Faculty Accreditation Committee
- Director of Clinical Services, University Hospital
- President, Cornwall College Old Boys Kingston Chapter 2009 to present.

### **Dr Nadine Johnson**

- Co-organizer, annual perinatal conference.

### **Dr A Mullings**

- Chairman, National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica
- Member, Ministry of Health Advisory Panel on Ethics and Medico-Legal Affairs
- Member, of Ministry of Health, National Guidelines for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Review Committee
- Member, Board of the Jamaica Cancer Society

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Principals Award Best Research Publication article 2010-11 “Comparing Glucose Kinetics of Adolescent Girls and Adult women during pregnancy” Thame M, **Fletcher H**, Baker T.

## **Teaching**

### **Fletcher H**

Special commendations for teaching assessments in by the Deputy Principal Mr. Pereira on behalf of the Campus Academic Quality Assurance Committee. This was as a result of achieving a minimum mean score of 4.8 and a mode of 5.1.