WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department continued its thrust in teaching undergraduate and graduate students, service work and outreach while experiencing several challenges during the period August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012. The Department contributed to three review and accreditation processes with good external assessments of the Department and Faculty of Medical Sciences (Quality Review of the Clinical Departments, University Council of Jamaica Accreditation and the CAAM-HP accreditation). The CAAM-HP has fully accredited the Faculty of Medical Sciences for the next five years.

Teaching

Undergraduate

The major challenge for the Department remains the increased number of Undergraduate students in the MBBS programme. The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) is the main teaching facility for clinical students. However, there are limited spaces and deteriorating facilities. There were also problems associated with patient numbers. The dedicated staff rose to the challenges and coped with the increased number of students. The majority of students are assigned to the UHWI and in addition the 5th year students were assigned to the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), the Cornwall Regional Hospital and the Mandeville Regional Hospital. Teaching began, albeit slowly at the Spanish Town
Hospital in January 2012. The Associate Lecturers at these institutions despite their busy clinical schedule did an excellent job in teaching the students. The feedback continues to be good from the students at the peripheral teaching sites. The 3rd year clinical students are divided between KPH and the UHWI. The majority of Associate staff at KPH has performed extremely well despite the heavy service load.

The teaching for the MBBS programme has evolved fully to small group teaching and a more patient and problem oriented method. In addition to the small group assignments there are set teachings to all students on a daily basis at all sites. The guidelines for the clerkships have been updated and the topics for the daily teachings standardized.

The main May/June final MBBS examination was conducted very successfully and of the 119 students taking the Medicine examination 117(98%) passed with 5 obtaining Honours. A student from Mona also received the subject medal in Medicine for the overall best performance on all campuses.

Postgraduate

The DM programme in Medicine continues to be strong with dedicated Lecturers despite a lack of funding for the programme. The programme continues to train specialists in Internal Medicine for Jamaica and the Caribbean. With the increasing number of undergraduate students there is an urgent need to increase the number of DM students but the UHWI is presently financially constrained to implement this increase. There is also a need to train subspecialists and the Department is to start Fellowship subspecialty training. Nephrology Fellowship training has started. Approval has been obtained to start training in Cardiology and Gastroenterology.

Research

All members are encouraged to do research. The research output has increased over the past two years and approximately 20 full peer reviewed articles was published in 2010 – 2011 but decreased to 19 full publications and 14 abstract for the current year.
Outreach Service

The Department is active in many outreach programmes. The staff has established Nephrology Clinics at the Mandeville Regional and St. Ann’s Bay Hospitals. The Department was instrumental in establishing the renal dialysis unit at the Mandeville Regional Hospital. Consultation services and gastrointestinal procedures are performed at the Princess Margaret Hospital, St. Thomas. The Department has started a Gastrointestinal Service at the Spanish Town Hospital and has trained nurses in preparation. Gastroenterologists from the Department have weekly procedure lists.

A Cardiologist from the Department has a regular Cardiology Clinic at the St Ann’s Bay Hospital. The staff at CHARES monitor individuals with HIV infection at the Resident Home Downtown, Kingston.

Several members of staff are resource personnel on non-governmental organizations concerned with public health and charity.

Visitors to the Department of Medicine

Professor Talmadge King, University of California at San Francisco, Head of Pulmonary Division, gave the Rolf Richards Distinguished Lecture.

Dr. Robert Iwanochko, University of Toronto, gave a lecture on Viability of myocardium in ischaemic heart disease at the Annual Cardiovascular Week.

Professor Gary Newton, Head, Division of Cardiology, University Health Network, University of Toronto, gave the Professor Erick Cruickshank Distinguished Lecture. He met with the Head of Department and Cardiologists. He discussed collaborative work in Cardiology and expressed his willingness to continue to train Cardiology Fellows from the DM programme.

Professor Bongani M. Mayosi, Head, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town. He met with Head of Department and
discussed collaborative research with the Cardiologist on Rheumatic Heart Disease and Ischaemic Heart disease.

Professor Ralph Sacco, Professor and Head of Neurology, University of Miami, Florida. He met with the Head of Department and discussed collaborative work. He delivered a special Lectures entitled “Facing the Challenge of the Stroke Pandemic”.

Dr. Jose Romano, Professor of Neurology, University of Miami, Florida. He met with Head of Department and discussed collaborative work with the Department. He delivered two Lecture entitled “Systems of Acute Stroke Care” and Medical Management of Acute Ischemic Stroke.

Dr. D. Yavagal, University of Miami, Florida met with Head of Department and discussed collaborative work. He delivered a lecture entitled: “Endovascular Intervention in Acute Stroke”.

PAPERS PRESENTED


• Measures to Prevent Diabetic Nephropathy and End Stage Renal Disease and Implication for Insulin Therapy. R Wright-Pascoe. Caribbean College of Family Physicians Symposium. September 25, 2011.

• A Strategic Approach to Early Aggressive Management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. **R Wright-Pascoe.** CME Symposium November 17, 2011.


• New Opportunities in the Management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. **R Wright-Pascoe.** CME Symposium. April 20, 2012.


• The Prevalence of depression and depression symptoms among patients attending a Specialist Diabetes Clinic in Jamaica. SR McFarlane, TS Ferguson, M Tulloch-Reid, NOM Younger, **R Wright-Pascoe,** M Boyne, DK Francis, RJ Wilkes. The International Diabetic Federation World Congress 2011. December 2-11, 2011

• GERD - symptoms and diagnosis. **D Whittle.** CME Symposium February 2012

• Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) - importance of proper diagnosis, **D Whittle.** CME Symposium February 2012.

• Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) - diagnosis and treatment. **D Whittle.** CME Symposium April 2012.

• Anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapy in ACS. **V Elliott.** Cardiology Symposium January 2012.

• Combination therapy in the management of Hypertension. **V Elliott.** CME Symposium July 2012.

• Management of Heart Failure. **V Elliott.** CME Symposium April 2012.

• Statin and other therapies in Preventing Heart Disease. **V Elliott.** CME Symposium: March 2012.

• Rate, Rhythm, Ectopes. **V Elliott.** Caribbean Cardiac Society annual meeting July 2012.

• Cognitive, Behavioural and Psychiatric issues in Epilepsy. **A Ali.** Annual Symposium of the Association of General Practitioners. November, 2011


• How Ischaemic Heart Disease Kills. **MB Lawrence-Wright.** Cardiovascular Week 2012 Cardiovascular Symposium. February 2012.

• Hypertension and Dyslipidaemia. **MB Lawrence-Wright.** CME Symposium February 2012.


**PUBLICATIONS**

**Refereed Journal Articles**

**WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal**


Abstracts in Peer Reviewed Journal


* “Prevalence of Gastrointestinal Symptoms among ambulatory HIV patients and a control population”. T Thompson, MG Lee, TR Clarke, M Mills, G Wharfe², C Walters. WIMJ 60(Suppl. 4), (2011): 30.

* “Microbial isolates in diabetic foot lesion of hospitalized patients at the University Hospital of the West Indies”. LA
Chin, MS Boyne, EN Barton, R Wright-Pascoe, A Martin, K Roye-Green. WIMJ 60 (Suppl. 4), (2011): 35.

* “The clinicopathologic characteristics of breast cancer at the University Hospital of the West Indies”. SN Chin, C Green, G Gordon-Strachan, G Wharfe. WIMJ 60 (Suppl. 4), (2011): 35.

* “The prevalence and significance of oestrogen receptor (ER) positivity in breast cancer at the University Hospital of the West Indies”. R Alfred, SN Chin, E Williams, C Walters, EN Barton, D Shah. WIMJ 60 (Suppl. 4, (2011): 37.


* “Foot Care and Footwear Practices among Patients attending a specialist Diabetes Clinic in Jamaica”. KA Gayle, MK Tulloch-Reid, NO Younger-Coleman, DK Francis, SR McFarlane, RA Wright-Pascoe, MS Boyne, RJ Wilks, TS Ferguson. WIMJ 61 (Suppl. 1), (2012): 36.


PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Michael Lee
   – Member, Board of Executive, Food For the Poor
   – Chair, Medical Committee, Food For the Poor
   – Member, Medical Review Panel, Ministry of Health, Jamaica

Dr. Trevor Murphy
   – Secretary, Association of West Indian Gastroenterologists

Dr. Dwight Whittle
   – Volunteer, Gastroenterology Clinic and procedures, Princess Margaret Hospital, Morant Bay, St Thomas.

Dr. Lisa Hurlock
   – Member, Cardiologic evaluation Physician for swimmers for Jamaica

Dr. Rosemarie Wright–Pascoe
   – Chairman, Jamaica National Committee on Non-Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health
   – Member, Council of the Medical Association of Jamaica
   – President, Association of Consultant Physicians of Jamaica
   – Chairman, Board of Management of Central Medical Laboratories
   – Member, Medical Tribunal Unit of the Medical Council of Jamaica
Dr. Charlton Collie
- Chairman, Board of Directors, Pre-University School

Dr. Marilyn Lawrence-Wright
- Treasurer, Caribbean Cardiac Society
- Member, Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission Board

AWARDS

Professor M Lee
- Distinguished award. Medical Association of Jamaica

Professor E Barton
- Order of Distinction, Government of Jamaica 2011
- Appreciation Award, Bridge for life U.S.A. 2012
- Travel Award American College of Physicians 2012