WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Medicine persevered in its mission of excellence in teaching, engaging in research which is relevant, providing service and outreach during the period August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015. One of the main challenges the Department faced was the limited budget allocated which is grossly inadequate for proper functioning of its academic activities. The increased number of undergraduate students also posed a significant challenge.

TEACHING

Undergraduate

The Department has been able to manage the increased number of Undergraduate students in the flagship MBBS program with difficulty
and this continues to be one of the major challenges for the Department. The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), the main teaching facility for clinical teaching has limited space and facilities and limited patient numbers. In addition, there is a significant shortage of resources at the UHWI which is causing major challenges for patient care and which adversely affects both undergraduate and post-graduate teaching and learning. There is chronic shortage of most medications and a lack of maintenance of most equipment used for patient care, teaching and research. There has been difficulty maintaining equipment and no replacement for outdated or non-functional equipment. The full time and associate staff have managed the problems associated with the increased number of students in all clinical clerkships with difficulty. The increased Internal Medicine patient load at the UHWI as well as at other institutions have created major problems with resources and inadequate staffing.

The clinical students were assigned predominantly to the UHWI, which includes all of the second year IMP students and two thirds of the third year clerkship students. The 3rd year clinical students were divided between the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) (one-third) and the UHWI (two-thirds). For the 5th year students in addition to UHWI, students were assigned to the peripheral teaching Hospitals including; KPH, the Cornwall Regional Hospital, the Mandeville Regional Hospital, the May Pen Hospital and the Spanish Town Hospital but problems with inadequate staffing continues to pose a challenge at all sites. The Associate Lecturers at the peripheral institutions, despite their busy clinical schedule, continue to do an excellent job in teaching the students. The feedback from the students at the peripheral teaching sites remains quite good. There is a need for more associates to be appointed due to the increased number of patients and the increased patient load in Internal Medicine which leaves inadequate time for teaching.

The teaching of the clinical clerkships consists of predominantly small group interactive teachings with an emphasis on patient centered and problem oriented learning. These include ward rounds, patient based and problem oriented teachings activities. In addition to the small group
bedside teaching there are scheduled teachings to students at the different sites on a daily basis. The topics for the daily teachings have been standardized.

The Introduction to Medical Practice (IMP 2) had a class size of over 320 students. There were problems with adequate space and staffing for the small group teaching activities, however, the clerkship was completed satisfactorily.

The increased number of students over the past two years doing the clinical examination created significant challenges with the need for an increased time to complete the clinical examination process and the increased personnel needed with an increase in expenditure. The November/December 2014 OSCE final examination was difficult to organize as we were unable to use the usual three medical wards for the examination due to the increased number of emergency patients requiring admission. One medical ward, the medical clinic and the surgery clinic were utilized. There were some problems with organization and there were hitches during the exam process. The main May/June (2015) MBBS final examination was conducted successfully and of the 255 students taking the Medicine examination 13 (5%) failed and 8 obtained Honors. A Mona student obtained the Medicine subject medal, having performed the best in the examination across all four campuses.

**Postgraduate**

The DM postgraduate programme in Medicine remains strong having trained specialists in Internal Medicine for Jamaica and the Caribbean for over forty years despite a lack of specific funding for the programme. The success of the programme has been highly dependent on the commitment of the staff to training DM postgraduate students.

A research project is a recent requirement in the third elective year. In general, the research has been beneficial but candidates frequently have challenges in the write up on schedule, as the completed project must be presented six months prior to sitting the final exit exam. Candidates are required to have an assessments completed by their supervisors each
semester. These assessments are required for their registration at the start of each semester. The candidates are also assessed monthly by their supervisor.

With the increasing number of undergraduate students in the MBBS programme there is an urgent need to increase the number of DM students in the Medicine programme but the UHWI is presently financially constrained to implement this increase. The DM students are paid by the UHWI and the number of posts are inadequate to cover the increased workload. Also, Government sponsored postgraduate students have diminished over the past two years. A major challenge for the DM graduate students is the significant increase in the number of emergency referrals on a daily basis at the UHWI. The number of emergency patients and the lack of resources to manage these patients are major problems that need urgent attention as this situation is adversely affecting teaching and learning.

There is a great need to train subspecialists and the Department is able to start Fellowship subspecialty training as qualified applicants are available in several areas. Nephrology Fellowship training has started and there has been four graduates. Approval has been obtained to start training in Cardiology, Gastroenterology and recently Infectious Disease. Fellowship training in Infectious Disease started in January 2014 with two Fellows; this in collaboration with the University of South Carolina. Proper training for Cardiology and Gastroenterology will require the provision of appropriate diagnostic equipment which has been grossly inadequate for routine use.

**RESEARCH**

Expansion of research in the Department which is relevant remains a priority. All members are encouraged and expected to do research and publish. The number of research projects have increased and although research output has been variable this has increased over the past two years.

The research laboratory in the Department has been non-functional and
in disrepair for many years but has been partially refurbished recently, however there is a need for equipment for the lab to become fully functional.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Department of Medicine is committed to offering continuing medical education to all physicians. The Department hosted a successful Cardiology week culminating in a Cardiology Symposium in February 2015. The theme was “Coronary Artery Disease and Congenital Heart Disease”. There was a visiting lecturer from the University of Toronto, Dr Alan Barolet who gave the keynote address on “Choosing patients for percutaneous coronary intervention”. There were also two visiting paediatric cardiologists; Professor Jane Summerville from the University of London who discussed “Grown-up congenital heart disease” and Dr Allan Magee, University of South Hampton, who presented “Catheter treatment of congenital heart disease”. The cardiology week activities also involved a talk by a staff member to employees at a major private corporation and a public wellness clinic and talks to patients.

The Department had two distinguished Lectures presented by, a) Professor Harrison Farber, Boston University, in September 2014 who spoke on Pulmonary Fibrosis and b) Professor Anthony Kaloo, Johns Hopkins University, in June 2015 who spoke on Endoscopic surgical procedures.

The Department hosted an Infectious Disease Symposium in December 2014 with three presentations from visitors from the Infectious Disease Department of the University of South Carolina

The annual summer review, at which staff members give a presentation in their field of expertise, was held in July 2015 was successful with increased attendance from students, residents, general practitioners and nurses.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The Department has been in collaboration with the University of Toronto for Fellowship training in Cardiology. Several post-DM Fellows
have been trained and several others are in training. All trained Fellows have returned to the Caribbean.

There is collaboration with the University of South Carolina for Fellowship training in Infectious Disease. This started in January 2014 with two post–DM graduate students. The two Fellows have spent two months each at the University of South Carolina in clinical training from June to September 2014.

OUTREACH

The Department was active in several outreach projects. The Nephrology staff established renal 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 and staff members continue to service the clinic and dialysis unit.

The Department has continued assistance with the Gastrointestinal Service at the Spanish Town Hospital. Gastroenterologists from the Department continue weekly consultations and procedure lists at Spanish Town Hospital. However, the equipment at the Spanish Town Hospital has been non-functional and awaiting repair.

A staff Cardiologist from the Department has a monthly Cardiology clinic at the St. Ann’s Bay Hospital.

The staff at CHARES participate in several outreach projects including testing, and counselling at different public events and monitor individuals with HIV infection in homeless people in Kingston.

Several members of staff are resource personnel on government and non-governmental organizations concerned with public health and charity. Other members of staff sit on various boards.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

• Professor Selim Benbadis, Professor of Neurology, Tampa, Florida. Presented a special lecture on epilepsy. July 2014
• Professor Harrison Farber, Professor of Medicine, Boston University. Presented a distinguished lecture on pulmonary hypertension. September 2014

• Dr Sharon Weissman, Programme Director Infectious Disease, University of South Carolina and Professor Helmut Albrecht, Head Infectious Disease, University of South Carolina discussed continuing collaboration with the Fellowship Programme in Infectious Disease which started at Mona in January 2014. December 2014. Presented at Infectious Disease Symposium December 2014

• Professor Alan Barolet, International Programme Director Cardiology, Director Post-Graduate Education in Cardiology, University of Toronto, Canada. Presented at the Cardiology Symposium – Choosing patients for PCI. Discussed continuation of Fellowship training for DM graduates in Cardiology. February 2015

• Professor Anthony Kalloo, Professor of Medicine, Director of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Johns Hopkins University. Presented the Erick Cruickshank distinguished Lecture.

STAFF

A lecturer resigned and another lecturer took a two year leave of absence to pursue a research Fellowship in the USA. A senior lecturer retired in September 2014.

Refereed Journal Articles


• Y Dawkins, M Mills, T Murphy, B. Hanchard, MG Lee. Autoimmune
Hepatitis and Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis – Overlap Syndrome
*Internet Journal of Gastroenterology*. 2014;14 No.1 ISSN: 1528-8323

- T K McGhie, K DeCeulaer, CA Walters, A Soyibo, M G Lee. Vitamin D levels in Jamaican patients with systemic lupus erythematosus Lupus. Published online 2014. DOI: 10.1177/0961203314528556

**Abstracts in Peer Reviewed Journal**

• D Reid, M Lee, M Mills, B Hanchard, MF Smikle. A review of autoimmune hepatitis at the University Hospital of the West Indies over a ten-year period. *West Indian Medical Journal*. 2014; 63 (Suppl 4): 23


• S Matthews, S Jarrett, G Barrow. A secret is not a secret if you tell somebody else”: exploration of factors affecting HIV disclosure in intimate relationships. *West Indian Medical Journal*. 2014; 63 (Suppl 4): 24

• G Barrow, N Palmer-Mitchell, EN Barton, MG Lee. A short-term project of routine, provider-initiated, HIV testing and counseling in the Department of Medicine, University Hospital of the West Indies: success and challenges. *West Indian Medical Journal*. 2014; 63 (Suppl 4): 25

• K King-Robinson, D Whittle, M Mills, B Hanchard, S Shah, MG Lee. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *West Indian Medical Journal*. 2014; 63 (Suppl 4): 38

• T Mason, M Verley, M Gossell-Williams, A Thorbourne, A Walcott-Mitchell, K Hoe, M Lee

• The evaluation of the changes in serum creatinine associated with intravenous administration of Gentamicin. *West Indian Medical Journal*. 2014; 63 (Suppl 4): 41
• R Gordon, V Elliott, R Edwards, J Williams-Johnson, M Hoo Sang, MG Lee. Reperfusion therapy at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, for patients with ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) presenting to the Emergency Department. *West Indian Medical Journal.* 2014; 63 (Suppl 4): 41

• A Procope, J Campbell, M Gossell-Williams, V Elliott. An investigation into the association of age, gender, ethnicity, body mass index and concomitant medications on international normalized ratio levels in persons on warfarin therapy *West Indian Medical Journal.* 2014; 63 (Suppl 4): 42


• Lyle-Miller L, Ferguson TS, Wright-Pascoe R. “Factors Associated with Medical Non-Compliance among Patients with Type 2 Diabetes at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *West Indian Medical Journal.* 2015; 64 (Suppl 1): 36.


• KA Pate-Robinson, T Thompson, T Clarke, T Ferguson. The Chikungunya Outbreak in Jamaica: Clinical Features and Outcomes of Patients Seen at an Urban Hospital in September 2014. Abstract #53013 Infectious Diseases society of America
• KA Pate-Robinson, T Thompson, O Olugbuyi, K Swaby, P Robert. Prevalence and Outcome of Sepsis in Adults Admitted to a Tertiary Care Hospital in the West Indies from January 2010 to December 2014. Abstract #51179 Infectious Diseases society of America

• N Forbes, G Johnson, M A C. Frankson, K Johnston, I Martin, A Smith, K Mcconnell, R Sands, A Garrison, S Weissman, T Thompson, S Read, The HIV Continuum of Care in the Bahamas in 2012. Abstract #52461(Infectious Diseases society of America)


• R Wright-Pascoe. Managing Chronic Non-Communicable Disease during Sports. West Indian Medical J 2014; 63 (Suppl 1) 35.

• R Wright-Pascoe. Chairman’s Message to the University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences 22ND Annual Research Conference and Workshop on “Affairs of the Heart”. West Indian Medical Journal. 2014; 62(suppl.6) 2.


PRESENTATIONS

Dr. A. Soyibo


Professor R. Wright-Pascoe

• Inflammatory markers in Obesity. Annual Scientific Meeting of the
Caribbean Obesity Forum and Caribbean Society of Endoscopy Surgeons. 20–22, November 2014

• Earlier Treatment Intensification in Type II Diabetes. February 2015

• It’s not only about A1c: How a patient gets to goal is important. July 2015

• The Intervention to Prevent Development of Diabetes. January 2015

• Current Guidelines for the Management of Diabetes”. 29 June 2015

• Role of the Kidney in Diabetes Control”. 20 May 2015


Dr. Lisa Chin-Harty

• Poster Presentation at ENDO 2015 Conference – The Association between Early Life Factors and Cortisol Awakening Response in Adolescents. March 5-8

Dr. Amza Ali


Dr. Tamara Thompson

• Special considerations for women and HIV. 3rd CHART-CCAS-CMLF Joint Meeting (11th CCAS HIV/AIDS International Workshop)


• Exploring the need for a mixed methods approach to ascertaining antibiotic prescribing practices among Jamaican medical practitioners. Mixed Methods Research Caribbean Conference.

• Exploring the need for a mixed methods approach to ascertaining antibiotic prescribing practices among Jamaican medical practitioners. Mixed Methods Research Caribbean Conference, March, 2015

Dr. C. Collie

• Obstructive Sleep Apnea

• TVJ – “10 Minute to Your Health” on Smile Jamaica. May 2015

• Recommendations to sleep better – “10 Minutes to Your Health” on Smile Jamaica at TVJ. June 2015

• Role of Immunization in Adults with Emphasis on Pneumococcal Vaccinations. June 2015

Dr. T Murphy

• Bowel Preparation in the patient with Renal Disease. Caribbean Institute of Nephrology’s Annual conference. 2015

Professor E Barton

• Screening for Kidney Disease. 7th Caribbean Institute of Nephrology Conference. 2015.

• Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease. March 2015

Dr. M Hoo Sang

• Hypertension- Applying the JNC 8 Guidelines. November 2014

• Current Guidelines for Management of Hypertension. June 2015

PUBLIC SERVICE & OUTREACH

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
– Member, Board of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica
– Member, Health and Wellness Tourism Steering Committee, JAMPRO

Professor Everard Barton
– Renal clinic outreach Mandeville Regional Hospital and St. Ann’s Bay Hospital.
– Outreach services to develop renal care services in Tobago and public education on prevention of causative diseases.
– Working with CHEF (Caribbean Health and Education Foundation) to do a Caribbean wide screening for Kidney disease in the English speaking Islands/countries.
– Arranged with Global links for visiting teams of Healthcare professionals to work with local teams in surgery and medicine in Kingston, Manchester and St. Ann.
– Screening for Kidney Disease, Diabetes, hypertension, obesity and HIV among security force personnel, Jamaica
– Outreach programme re HIV working with Global Limited and Bridge for Life for aid to Jamaican Hospitals
– Obtaining from Global links (USA) dialysis material: fluid, chemicals and machines

Dr. A. K. Soyibo
– Outreach to Rural areas: Preventing Life style related disease.
– Renal clinic in two major government hospitals: Mandeville Regional Hospital and St. Ann’s Bay Hospital.
– Development of an Operational Policy manual and Haemodialysis Orientation Manual for University Hospital of the West Indies and satellite Units.
– Development of an Operational Policy manual and Haemodialysis Orientation Manual for Tobago

**Dr. Lisa Hurlock**

– Cardiologic evaluation Physician for swimmers for Jamaica

**Professor R. Wright–Pascoe**

– Chairman of the Jamaica National Committee on Non-Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health
– Member of Council of the Medical Association of Jamaica.
– Chairman of the Board of Management of Central Medical Laboratories.
– Member of the Medical Tribunal Unit of the Medical Council of Jamaica.
– Co-chair the Medical Association of Jamaica’s 50th Anniversary Celebrating the MAJ Golden Jubilee.

**Dr. C. Collie**

– Chairman, Board of Directors, Pre-University School, Taylor Hall, UWI, Mona

C– hairman, Board of Directors, Ayrton Distributors Limited

**Dr. M. Lawrence-Wright**

– Treasurer – Caribbean Cardiac Society
– Member, Bustamante Hospital for Children Development Committee,

**Dr. G. Barrow**

– Consultancy for UNICEF
– Consultant services for the Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis.
– Ministry of Health, technical support to National HIV/STI Programme as the Director for the Treatment Care
Department of Medicine

– Member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group, National HIV/STI Programme.
– Member of the Academic Sub-Committee of the National AIDS Committee.
– Member of the Civil Society Forum of Jamaica.
– Member of the “Most At Risk Population” Technical Working Group, National HIV/STI Programme.

Dr. T. Clarke
– Medical Director for the Racers (Usain Bolt’s) Running Club
Member of the Medical Committee for the JAAA January

Dr. A. Ali
– Chair, Caribbean taskforce of the North American Regional Commission on Epilepsy
– Chair of Taskforce for the biennial North American Regional Caribbean Congress on Epilepsy
– Member, International Affairs Commission of the American Epilepsy Society (AES).

Dr. K. Maloney
– Vice president Lupus foundation of Jamaica July 2012 to present

Dr. F. Gayle
– Jamaica National Health Fund Medical Expert Panel

Dr. Paul Scott
– Vice-Chairman finance committee Church of the Ascension, Mona
– Youth Co-coordinator, Church of the Ascension, Mona
– Summer Retreat for youths via Anglican Youth Fellowship, Church of the Ascension, Mona
– Local industry monitoring of lung function in workers in keeping with International Labour Organization (ILO) standards
AWARDS

– Professor E Barton – The Sir Phillip Distinguished Award for Pioneering Service in Nephrology and Dialysis
– Dr Althea East Innis – awarded the FRCPC, Edinburgh