The 2017/2018 academic year saw the Department of Microbiology building on the work of the last period. Amidst all the challenges we were able to stand firm showing excellent synergy with the needs of our stakeholders. Departmental members continued to produce high-quality publications in 2017 and represented the department through participation in various engagements both nationally and internationally. From these efforts, the department, in collaboration with the Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, will see a substantial increase in its research capacity through the Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program, supported by a five-year grant. This very timely initiative will likely bring us additional funding to improve the study of Zika, Dengue, HIV, Hepatitis and other viruses, placing Jamaica as the virology research hub in the Caribbean region.
Accreditation

We completed one year as an ISO-accredited medical Laboratory and the first surveillance assessment visit was conducted by the Jamaica National Accreditation Company (JANAAC) during June 2018.

The National Influenza Centre (NIC)

With the support of The University of the West Indies, the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization, the invaluable services provided by the National Influenza Centre (NIC) in diagnosis and surveillance of Influenza viruses were upgraded and sustained. The NIC participated in a number of external quality assessments, international meetings and training on Influenza during the 2017/2018 academic period.

Antimicrobial Resistance

Dr Alison Nicholson is a member of the Technical Working Group tasked with developing a National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. She will represent The UWI in partnership with the National Action Plan working group as they observe ‘World Antibiotic Awareness Week’ in November, 2018.

Mycology: Environmental Investigation of Mould

The Department of Microbiology continues to play a role in addressing the problem of mould contamination not only on the campus but in neighbouring communities. The staff has given lectures to a wide range of interested persons in these communities.

Influenza

Dr Jackson who is currently on leave, continues to be with Global Influenza Programme, GISRS at the World Health Organization based in Geneva, Switzerland – in the areas of human and zoonotic influenza
surveillance globally, diagnostic protocols, and bi-annual influenza vaccine composition selection, with special projects in: influenza surveillance capacity building in 8 UNAIDS AFRO countries and piloting the WHO Global Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance Pilot in 14 countries.

**PAPERS PRESENTED**

**Poster Presentations**


Oral Presentations


PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles


INCOME GENERATION

- **Source**: European Commission

  **Title**: ZIKAction: Preparedness, research and action network on maternal-paediatric axis of ZIKV infection in Latin America and the Caribbean

  **Grant Period**: 2016–2021

  **Total Amount**: €6,912,081.00

- **Consortium Participant**: J Anzinger

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- **Source**: Centers for Disease Control

  **Title**: Surveillance and Response to Avian and Pandemic Influenza

  **Grant Period**: 2016–2021

  **Total Amount**: US$2,000,000.00

- **Investigator**: J Anzinger

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- **Source**: Collaboration between The University at Buffalo Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences, University of the West Indies, State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University and Jamaica Ministry of Health

  **Title**: Establish the Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program

  **Grant Period**: 2017–2022

  **Total Amount**: USD1.1M (Sub-award USD293,775.00)

- **Co-Investigator**: J Lindo

- **Mentors**: J Anzinger, A Nicholson, I Vickers

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PUBLIC SERVICE

Anzinger, J.

Anzinger, J.

Lindo, J.
– UWI liaison to Ministry of Health on Mosquito Research and Control Unit.
– Co-chair (with Gene Morse) UWI/SUNY Global Health Research Taskforce.
– Member, Rotary Club of New Kingston.
– Chair, Finance Technical Working Group Caribbean Public Health Laboratories Network.
– Director, National Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health, Jamaica.

Nicholson, A.
– WI Representative on National Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group.

STUDENTS

Awards

The first group of Fogarty Fellows recently selected for the University at Buffalo and University of the West Indies collaborative Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program spearheaded by Professors Gene Morse (UB) and John Lindo (UWI) are:

NIH Fogarty Doctoral Fellowship – Tiffany Butterfield (PhD student)
NIH Fogarty Doctoral Fellowship – Inshand Ali (DM student)
NIH Fogarty Masters Fellowship – Chadwic Mears (MSc student)
NIH Fogarty Doctoral Fellowship – Michelle Brown (PhD awarded)