DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

Professor John F. Lindo, BSc, PhD UWI – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

During 2007/2008 there was a 6% increase in the numbers of clinical specimens processed by the laboratory (58,113) compared with 2006/2007 (54,946). A programme of universal testing for HIV infection among patients admitted to the University Hospital of the West Indies was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Jamaica.

The department successfully completed the WHO External Quality Assessment Programme for the Detection of Type A Human and Avian Influenza Virus by PCR with a score of 100% in a turn around time of three days. We thank CARIGEN for collaborating with the department on this project.

There was an increase in per capita publication output for the academic staff from 0.4 in 2006/2007 to 1.2 for the period under review from a staff of 10 academics.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Non peer reviewed

Nicholson A

- Approach to Antibiotic Therapy, Caribbean Association of Clinical Microbiologists (CACM), Kingston, Jamaica 2007
- Update on Current Antibiotic Treatment Options, Medical Association of Jamaica Annual General Meeting, 2007
- Antimicrobial Resistance, Caribbean College of Physicians, Kingston, Jamaica 2007
• Rolling Back the Tide of Antibiotic Resistance, Freeport, Bahamas, 2007

• Antimicrobial Resistance, South Central Medical Association of Mandeville, Jamaica 2007

**Peer reviewed abstracts/papers**

*WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal*


• Saunders GL, Nicholson A, Roye-Green K, Bodonaik NC. Gentamicin Susceptibility and Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase Activity in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli* at the University Hospital of The West Indies. 15th Annual Conference of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, November 2007, Kingston, Jamaica. *WIMJ* 2007; 56 (Suppl. 3): 9

• Bodonaik NC, Heslop O, Willis R. Comparative in-vitro evaluation (MICs) of tigecycline with nine other antibiotics against clinical isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* encountered in Jamaica. 13th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (13th ICID), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 2008.

• Bodonaik NC and McMorris N. Methicillin Resistance in Strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*: Periodic surveillance data in 25 years in a Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital of a developing country. 13th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (13th ICID), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 2008.

• Bodonaik NC and Heslop O. Highly susceptible strains of typhoid bacilli encountered in Jamaica. 13th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (13th ICID), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 2008.

• Christie CDC, Steel-Duncan J, Palmer P, Pierre R, Harvey KM, Johnson N, Samuels L, Dunkley-Thompson J, Singh-Minott I,


PUBLICATIONS

* Barton M, Bell Y, Thame M, Nicholson A, Trotman H. Urinary Tract Infection in Neonates with Serious Bacterial Infections admitted to the University Hospital of the West Indies. WIMJ 2008; 57 (2): 101


PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Monica Smikle

– Technical Assessor, National Accreditation Company
– Member, Core Working Group, Influenza (Pandemic) Preparedness

Dr Sandra Jackson

– Member, Surveillance subgroup, Influenza (Pandemic) Preparedness Plan Committee

Dr Ivan Vickers

– Member, Surveillance sub-group, Influenza (Pandemic) Preparedness Plan Committee

Professor John Lindo

– President, Rotary Club of New Kingston
– Consultant, World Bank on the Health of School age children in the Caribbean

Dr Alison Nicholson

– President, Caribbean Association of Clinical Microbiologists

Dr Nabin Bodonaik

– Member, Council of the International Society for Infectious Diseases(ISID)
– Member, Professional Development Working Group of the International Society for Infectious Diseases(ISID)

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate

The department continued to provide undergraduate training in the MBBS, BBMedSci, BSc Nursing and BSc Physical Therapy. The department participated in the preparatory work for delivery of the Microbiology/Pathology Clerkship at the UWI Western campus.
The Louis Grant Prize was awarded to Ephraim Ingram who attained the highest score in the microbiology aspect of the Pathology/Microbiology clerkship examination.

Postgraduate

Ms Nicole Christian and Ms Natalie Smith were awarded the MSc (Medical Microbiology) and Dr Karen Shaw was awarded the DM (Medical Microbiology).

Six candidates were registered in graduate programmes in medical microbiology.

These included two PhD and three MSc candidates. A review of the regulations and syllabus of the MSc (Medical Microbiology) has begun to bring the program in line with similar degrees offered by the UWI.

OBITUARY

Dr Geoffrey Lance Saunders - Lecturer (November 2001 to October 2007)

AWARDS

Principal’s Research Award for “The Best Publication Faculty of Medical Sciences” for “Plasmodium malariae in Haitian Refugees Jamaica” John Lindo and collaborators Research Day 2008.