



THE UWI SCHOOL OF NURSING, MONA

Departmental Report August 2020 - July 2021

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PhD, M.A., RN, RM

WORK OF THE UWI SCHOOL OF NURSING, MONA (UWISON)

The academic year 2020/2021 began with an acute awareness of the unprecedented challenge of increasing access to quality nursing and allied healthcare education within the context of a global pandemic and its profound impact on human life and resources. Amidst disquiet, the UWISON team approached the year with commitment, imagination and innovation in keeping with our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.

ACCESS

Student Enrolment

The operations of the School placed emphasis on increasing enrolment in graduate, undergraduate and micro-credentialing programmes, and harmonizing pedagogical practices with remote learning demands. We doubled efforts towards aggressive, but low-cost marketing of our suite of MSc Nursing degrees and individualized follow-up of new applicants. In addition, for the first time, participants enrolled in the Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services (PHEMS) certification courses were afforded the opportunity to access remote learning through OurVLE.

Table 1: Student Enrollment

Programmes	New	Returning	Total
BSN	190	444	634
BSN Post RN	17	15	32
MSN	20	22	42
MPhil/PhD	4	12	16
PHEMS*	267*	N/A	287
Sub-Total (Mona)	498	493	1011
Total BSN Franchise Programmes	184	496	680
GRAND TOTAL	682	989	1691

Note: Enrollment in the PHEMS suite of courses combines the total of participants from the EMT, EMT Recertification, EMR, EMR Recertification, AEMT and BLS Training

Teaching and Learning

To refine the skillset necessary to harmonize pedagogical approaches with remote learning platforms, staff attended tutorials and courses offered by MITS and the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Formal training was augmented by experiential learning. For example, Administrative staff pivoted rapidly to guide and manage online faculty and student engagement sessions throughout the year, and peer to peer competency exchange enhanced delivery of courses via Black Board Collaborate (BBC). Course evaluation outcomes revealed that most lecturers achieved a student rating of ≥ 4.0 . One innovation in clinical teaching was realized through the creation of practical demonstration videos in collaboration with MITS. These videos, which applied the model of simulation using standardized patients, demonstrated simple to complex techniques involved in physical assessment of patients. Students would gain access to such videos remotely but would attend face to face clinical learning sessions to complete return demonstrations and refine their clinical skills. The effectiveness of demonstration videos will be evaluated through systematic enquiry. Anticipated immediate benefits include students' unlimited access to videos as a learning tool, the availability of a context-specific clinical teaching tool and efficient utilization of resources. Whereas innovations in simulation were aimed at strengthening clinical preparation of students, there were several threats to the delivery of clinical aspects of programmes. First, there were interruptions in clinical practicums for all programmes resulting from restricted access to hospitals and health centres. Restrictions followed rapid increases in the population of patients with COVID-19, strategies to limit students' exposure to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines. To mitigate shortfalls in clinical experiences, clinical practicums which would normally end in July, were ex-

tended to August 2021. In addition, progression waivers for finalizing students effected in the 2019-2020 academic year were applied to the 2020/2021 period to afford eligible undergraduate students the opportunity to complete the programme within the graduation timeline. A second challenge to clinical practicums was the unprecedented demand for personal protective equipment (PPE). Fiscal constriction within the wider University limited the School's capacity to absorb the excessive cost of providing students with PPE. This reality generated conflicting responses within the student body. Whereas students expressed dissatisfaction, student leaders galvanized support from corporate Jamaica and were successful in securing donations of PPE valued at approximately \$600,000.00. Donations were also obtained through the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The issue of PPE continues to be vexing one for staff and students. Finally, the lack of access to the Clinical Learning Centre (CLC) at the Mary Jane Seiwright Building in tandem with delays in obtaining laboratory supplies for the CLC at both the Kingston and Western Jamaica campuses affected the quality and efficiency of clinical simulation experiences. Where possible improvised equipment were utilized; however, these could not sustain the level of preparation of students necessary to equip them to adequately function in clinical practice. Responses to these challenges highlighted the resilience, creativity and resourcefulness of the students and staff of UWISON.

Students' Achievements

Students' performance in the first and second semesters were comparable to previous academic years and the School continues to excel at the Regional licensure examination. The undergraduate graduating class of 2020 sat the Regional Examination for Nurse Registration (RENr) in April 2021. Of the 113 candidates, 111 were successful: 99 (96%) from Mona Kingston and 14 (100%) from Mona Western Jamaica. This success rate is in part, attributed to a robust RENr review programme implemented by the UWISON team. Another highlight of the period under review is the historic achievement in the MPhil/PhD nursing programme. Two candidates from the first cohort were awarded the degree; both of whom are members of the UWISON academic staff. One of these candidates also achieved high commendation. One student from the MSc Nurse Practitioner programme received a distinction.

Academic and Special Awards

Students are rewarded for overall academic performance, professionalism, interpersonal interaction and leadership. Rewards included letters of commendation, gift certificates, certificates of achievement, enrollment into the Dean's list and Faculty Honour Roll, and scholarships. Eighty-four (84) students were added to the Dean's list based on their achievement of a GPA of 3.6 and above. Of this number, 18 were inducted into the Honour

Roll of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, having attained the highest overall GPA for their respective year groups (Table 2). The Top Graduand award was achieved by Miss Dionne Henry and Miss Cassandra Russell. Students were also awarded scholarships based on overall academic performance and engagement in community-based activities. Scholarships were donated by Governmental entities such as: Members of Parliament, PATH and the JAMVAT programmes; private entities such as financial institutions, international charities, company bursaries/grants and Nursing Alumni. Some USD scholarships covered up to 1 year's tuition. For the 2020/2021 period, scholarships totaled approximately **\$10,177,348.52 (JMD)**, with the largest sum being awarded to second and third year students (Table 2).

Table 2: Students' Accomplishments

Year Group	AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE				SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES		
	Letter of Commendation	FMS Honour Roll	Outstanding Graduand		USD	CAD	JMD
1	24	11	n/a		-	-	
2	31	7	n/a		11,500.00	7,500.00	
3	50	0	n/a		8,500.00	2,500.00	
4	13	0	2		-	-	
TOTALS	118	18	2		20,000.00	10,000.00	

PUBLICATIONS

Fostering a research culture among staff remained high on the School's agenda. This commitment was evident in continued activities of nine (9) research hubs formed in collaboration with Dr. Jasneeth Mullings of the Research Mentorship and Empowerment Initiative of the Research Support Unit (RSU) of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Whereas the goal of significant research output in 2020/2021 was only partially met, 15 members of the hubs are now enrolled in doctoral programmes. This pursuit of terminal degrees is expected to expand the collective capacity of the team for research and publications.

Peer Reviewed Articles

Patrice Whitehorne-Smith, P., Mitchell, G., Bailey, A., **Agu, C.F.** Campbell Williams, K., Oshi, D., Joy Harrison, J., & Wendel, A. (2021). "Socio-demographic correlates of depressive and anxiety symptoms among Jamaicans during the COVID-19 pandemic: A rapid online survey". Caribbean Medical Journal doi: 10.48107/CMJ.2021.05.002

Agu, C. F., Stewart, J., McFarlane-Stewart, N. & Rae, T. (2021). "COVID-19

Pandemic effect on nursing education: Looking through the lens of a developing country". *International Nursing Review (INR)* 00, 1–6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/inr.12663>

Deborah Udoudo, D., **Pitter, C., & Agu, C.F. (2021).** "The use of herbal remedies among breastfeeding mothers in selected health centers in Kingston". *International Journal of Childbirth*, 11(1). doi: 10.1891/IJCBIRTH-D-20-00002

Emanuel-Frith, M., Pitter, C & Agu C.F. (2021). "Nursing students' attitude towards teenage pregnancy". *International Journal of Childbirth*, 10(2). doi:10.1891/IJCBIRTH-D-19-00017

Leslie, K., Brown, K., & Aiken, J. (2020). "Perceived academic-related sources of stress among graduate nursing students in a Jamaican university". *Nurse Education in Practice*, 53(May 2021), 103088. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nepr.2021.103088>

Brown, K., Walker, M. (2020). "A critical analysis of the use of preceptorship as a clinical teaching methodology". *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 5(5), 1484- 1488. <https://ijisrt.com/assets/upload/files/IJISRT20MAY667.pdf>

Wright, D & Mitchell, S. (2021). "Covid-19 pandemic interrupts didactic learning and clinical practice for nursing students: Universities adapt and move forward". *Jamaica. Links Magazine*, June Issue, 58-59. ISSN: 2175-4144

Books & Book Chapters

Wright, D. A., & Hewitt-Thompson, K. P. G. (2021). "Impact of Nutrition in Spinocerebellar Ataxia. Impact of Nutrition in Spinocerebellar Ataxia." In *Spinocerebellar Ataxia*. (Online First). London: United Kingdom. IntechOpen. doi: 10.5772/intechopen.96904

Editorials

Lyon, S., & **Garriques-Lloyd, S. (2020).** "Journey to a career in nursing". *The Gleaner*. <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/art-leisure/20201025/journey-career-nursing>

Garriques-Lloyd, S. (2020). "Handwashing during, before and after a pandemic". *The Gleaner*. <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/health/20201104/handwashing-during-and-after-pandemic>

Garriques-Lloyd, S. (2020). "Nurses are more than white uniforms". *The Gleaner*.

<https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/health/20200805/nurses-are-more-white-uniforms>

McPherson, A., & Aiken, J. (2020). "Sedentarism: A looming pandemic". The Gleaner, 18 July 2020, pp. A7.

ALIGNMENT

UWISON was redesignated as a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre (PAHO/WHO CC) for Nursing and Midwifery Development in the Caribbean and a Best Practice Spotlight Organisation (BPSO) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) respectively. The PAHO/WHOCC designation spans the period November 2020 to 2024 and the BPSO designation spans the period April 2021 to 2023. Terms of reference of the respective designations align the activities of the School with global health priorities and international best practice guidelines in nursing education. The PAHO/WHOCC workplan addresses interprofessional training in the area of violence against women and children, capacity building for evidence-based practice in nursing, research on clinical education and training of nurses/midwives in a global pandemic and a systematic examination of migration patterns of Caribbean nurses and midwives. The BPSO workplan focuses on integrating six (6) RNAO guidelines into graduate and undergraduate curricula: 1) Prevention of Falls and Falls Injuries in the Older Adult; 2) Assessment and Management of Pressure Injuries for the Interprofessional Team, 3) Person and Family Centred Care, 4) Breastfeeding, 5) Facilitating Client Centred Care and 6) Professionalism in Nursing. These designations have created research and practice partnerships with the UHWI, a BPSO for clinical nursing practice, the University of Ottawa, other BPSOs globally, PAHO/WHO, Health Ministries of the Caribbean, CARICOM, WHO Collaborating Centres globally, Clinical partners and Universities. These partnerships serve to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean nurses and midwives for curriculum development, leadership, policy-shaping engagement, evidence creation and utilization, social accountability and inter-professional collaboration. For example, the PAHO/WHOCC is currently engaged in a PAHO/EU funded Spotlight Initiative for developing pre-service curricula in the area of prevention of violence against women and children. The School, in partnership with The Interprofessional Planning Committee of the FMS, also collaborated with The University of Illinois School of Nursing and Duke University School of Nursing to host an Interprofessional Conference on February 19, 2021. The over 100 attendees hailed from the Region of the Americas and locally, from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Nursing Council of Jamaica, and other Faculties within the wider University. In keeping with the strategic goal to create opportunities for student and staff engagement in representing the UWI locally, regionally and internationally, the School hosted the 31st Annual Nursing

and Midwifery Research Conference & the 32nd Mary J. Seivwright Day (virtual edition) May 27-28, 2021. The theme for this Conference was "Navigating Evidence-Based Clinical Nursing/Midwifery Education during a Global Pandemic and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities." The conference was attended by over 600 participants from Jamaica, the Caribbean and the world, and over 22 research papers were presented. Among the distinguished attendees were the Dean, FMS, Dr. Tomlin Paul, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, UWI Mona, Professor Dale Webber, the Minister of Education, Youth and Information, the Honourable Fayval Williams, the Local PAHO Representative, Mr. Casimiro Diaz and the Chief Nursing Officer in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Mrs. Patricia Ingram-Martin. The keynote speaker, Professor Marion E. Broome, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Nursing Affairs and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for Nursing at Duke University addressed the conference on current issues and strategies in evidence-based interprofessional collaboration. The Conference was among several avenues through which the School's research output was showcased.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Aiken, J. "Sterilization". (2021) Paper presented virtually at the Sigma Omega Kappa Chapter, Infection Control Webinar Series. April 19, 2021.

Aiken, J. "The Past, present and future of nursing education". Paper presented at The St. Kitts Nurses Association Celebration. May 11, 2021.

Ambroise, W., & Garriques-Lloyd, S. (2021). "Perceptions of 4th Year undergraduate nursing students towards mental health nursing in Jamaica". Paper presented at The Annual Dorrie Patterson Research Day. The University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica. October 20, 2020.

Brown, A. & Munroe, D. (2021). "Sociodemographic and work environment factors influencing self-directed learning readiness of registered nurses at a large hospital in Jamaica". Paper presented at The Biennial Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference, The University of Technology, August 12-13, 2021. Jamaica.

Brown, K. (2021). "Utilizing best practice guidelines in nursing education". Paper presented virtually at The Omega Kappa Evidence-Based Practice Webinar, The UWI School of Nursing, Mona Jamaica. July 29, 2021.

Brown, K. (2021). "The journey to evidence-based practice: Perspectives of a nurse educator". Paper presented virtually at The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario Knowledge Exchange Webinar, Ontario, Canada. April 27, 2021.

Henry-Ferguson V, Holness, N., Udoudo D, Williams A, **Frith M**, Williams D, **Agu C F** & **Pitter C**. (2021). "A proposal: Jamaican adolescent mothers perinatal experiences

during the COVID-19 pandemic". Paper presented at The Annual Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference, The UWI School of Nursing, Mona, Jamaica. May 27-28, 2021

Higgins-Brown, C., **Chisholm-Ford, S.**, & **Garriques-Lloyd, S.** "Adverse reactions and side effects of antipsychotics among patients diagnosed with schizophrenia at a Psychiatric Hospital in Jamaica". Paper presented at The Annual Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference, The UWI School of Nursing, Mona Jamaica. May 27-28, 2021.

Munroe, D. (2021) "Climate change and health: Charting new frontiers in nursing education for improved health outcomes". Paper presented at the Annual Nurse Practitioner Conference July 09, 2021. Jamaica

Munroe, D., Bennett, J., **Kahwa, E.**, Johnson, R. & Anderson-Johnson, P. (2021). "Factors contributing to readiness for self-directed learning among undergraduate nursing students: A mixed methods study". Paper presented at the International Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference (virtual edition), The UWI School of Nursing, Mona, May 27-28, 2021. Kingston, Jamaica.

Richards, C. & **Garriques-Lloyd, S.** (2021). "Knowledge and attitudes of police officers in a

divisional headquarters in Jamaica towards mentally ill individuals". Paper presented at The Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2021. Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. March 9-11, 2021.

Smith, S. & Munroe, D. (2021). "Registered nurses' perspectives on health communication at a hospital in urban Jamaica". Paper presented at The Regional Conference of Sigma Theta Tau International April 7, 2021.

Whitehorne-Smith,P, Oshi, D.C., **Agu, C.F.**, Abel, W., Bailey, A. Harrison,J., & Campbell-Williams., K. (2020). "Socio-demographic correlates of depressive and anxiety

symptoms among Jamaicans during the COVID-19 pandemic". Paper presented at the Annual Ministry of Health National Health Research Conference. November 18 – 19, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE

The following is an outline of the engagement of staff in public service:

Agu, Chinwendu: Member, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Ashman, Chez: Director, Community Service Committee, The Rotaract Club

Brown, Kimarie: Secretary, Sigma's Omega Kappa Chapter

Deslandes, Veroína: Member, Faculty of Medical Sciences' Interprofessional Outreach Committee

Garriques-Lloyd, Sheryl: President Omega Kappa Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing; President, HAS Executive, St. John the Baptist Kinder-Preparatory Home School Association (HSA); Co-opted Member, Policy, Research and Publication Committee (NCJ); Deputy Chair and Council Member, Nursing Education Special Interest Group (NAJ); Mentor, The A-STREAM (Advancement of Secondary/Tertiary Remedial Education for Adolescent Mothers), Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

Pitter, Cynthia: Member of the Women's Health Network; Representative of the Maternal Neonatal and Infant Health project; Counselor for Women in Crisis at Women Inc.; Nursing Consultant at the Golden Age Home; Member of the Nursing Council of Jamaica; Director of the Family Planning Association of Jamaica.

Rae, Tania: Chairman, Simulation in Nursing Education Committee of the Nursing Council of Jamaica; Member, Policy, Research and Publication Committee (NCJ)

Smith, Sheshona: Vice President Omega Kappa Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International

Stewart, Deveree: Key Member Advisory Committee for the Assessment of Midwifery Education in the Caribbean: A UNFPA/PAHO initiative; Member of the Board of Eve for Life, Jamaica; Public Health Educator, The Women's Health Network, Jamaica.

Waite, Mauvette: Member, The Nurses Association of Jamaica Journal Committee; Chair, Membership Involvement Committee (Omega Kappa Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nurses); Member, The Hope Valley Experimental Primary & Infant School (Board of Management).

Walker, Melissa: Co-facilitator of a support group for children diagnosed with diabetes mellitus and their parents; Councilor of the Omega Kappa Chapter of the Sigma International Honour Society of Nursing

Waugh-Brown, Veronica: Ministry of Justice; Justice of the Peace, Lay Magistrate, Association of St. James; Member, Child Diversion Programme, Ministry of Justice; Mentor/Child Protection Committee, Cornwall Regional Hospital; Mentor / Trainer , PAHO Virtual Training on Leadership for Nurses in Jamaica. **Wright-Myrie, Donnette:** Justice of the Peace, member of the Lay Magistrate Association and Parish leader for the Kingston's Governor General Programme of Excellence Coordinating Committee. Member, National Food Industry Task Force; Member, Governor General Achievement Award Review Committee (Kingston); Member, Justice of Peace Interview Committee (Kingston); Mentor, Child Diversion Programme (Kingston); President, Ardenne Preparatory and Extension High School PTA; Chair, WIGUT Public Relations and Promotions Committee

AGILITY

The School's operations focused on AG4 "Foster a creative, caring, accountable, motivated, professional (CAMP) team" and AG2 – "Restore financial health to the UWI".

INCOME GENERATION (AG2)

The School's major income generation is achieved by the provision of nursing education through self-financing programmes. Of the five (5) programmes offered by the School, 80% are self-financing; one of which – the Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services (PHEMS) is a micro-credentialing programme which earned approximately 10 million dollars (Jamaican). In addition, franchising of the BSc programme has raised over 80 million dollars (Jamaican) in franchise fees. The local and global presence of the School has also created opportunities to obtain funding to support students' ability to pay tuition fees. For the period under review, there was an approximate cash investment from scholarships and bursaries to the tune of **\$10,177,348.52 (JMD)**. Cost-cutting measures contributed savings of **\$11.5M (JMD)**.

CREATION OF A "CAMP" TEAM (AG4)

The School boasts a mixture of highly skilled, qualified, creative individuals that comprise the three-pronged Service, Administrative and Academic UWISON team. This team, amidst the challenges, maintained high levels of engagement and commitment to the key operational functions of the School. The lack of permanent access to a safe physical space at the Mary Jane Seivwright Building resulting from protracted remediation exercises, unprecedented burden to life and living associated with the global pandemic and resource constraints were among the main threats to the collective morale of the team.