WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The main focus of the department is to improve the health and welfare of families, in particular women and children in the region. This is done through clinical (service) work and academic (teaching and research). The department comprises Obstetric and Gynaecological services (reproductive endocrinology, gynaecological oncology and perinatal services) as well as Child Health dealing with medical problems, neonatology and psychological disorders (development and behavioural Paediatrics).

We teach medical students, postgraduate students (Doctor of Medicine Obstetrics/Gynaecology and Paediatrics) as well as supervise other post Graduate students MPhil and PhD. We also assist in the teaching of Midwives and nurses.

Child health

This department is comprised of two medical wards and one neonatal intensive care unit. The main subspecialties are infectious diseases, psychological disorders (development and behavioural Paediatrics), cardiology, gastroenterology neonatology, nephrology, pulmonology and other medical conditions managed in conjunction with other specialties. Residents and medical students are taught and referrals are accepted from the rest of the Caribbean.
Minority International Research Training (MIRT) Programme

National Institutes of Health

The MIRT programme, jointly coordinated by Michigan State University (MSU) and the Section of Child Health, and funded by the NIH is now in its eighth year.

Obstetric Perinatal Service

The Perinatal service hosts an annual conference in February of each year run by Drs. Mullings, Kulkarni, Johnson and Simms-Stewart. This service manages high risk obstetric cases and accepts referrals from the rest of the island as well as the rest of the British West Indies. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students. Perinatal Audit for 2008, UWI, Mona, was attended by over 600 delegates. This was a joint effort between Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Neonatology group from Child Health with external review by practitioners from outside units. Special emphasis was placed on topics such Counseling, Premature Birth and Neonatal Neurological Outcome

Oncology Unit

This is run by four Consultants Prof Fletcher, Dr Rattray, Dr Mitchell and Dr Bambury. The Unit is also run by Sister Nash and her team of nurses as well as residents who rotate through on a monthly basis. The services offered are consultations for patients with gynaecological tumours, colposcopic diagnosis and treatment, and surgery for gynaecological tumours. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students. Dr Bambury has obtained a fellowship to go to Ontario Canada to study Gynaecological Oncology as of July 2008 for two years

Sterility & Fertility

The members of the Sterility and Fertility firm and Fertility Management Unit resumed the In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer Programme for the treatment of infertile patients from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. The programme was restructured to streamline and accommodate the treatment of infertile couples on a continuous basis. Professor Joseph Frederick as director of the
programme with Drs. Shaun Wynter, Vernon DaCosta John Harriott and Loxley Christie as clinicians and Dr. Audrey Pottinger and Sister McKenzie as counselors. Two other staff members in the programme are Miss Denise Everett, a senior embryologist (Biologist) and Miss Hillary Walters a staff Nurse as the coordinator of the programme. Since the resumption, the pregnancy rates have shown considerable improvement as we are also achieving pregnancies from the frozen embryos and donor eggs. A major break through is that all the documents required for the registration of the drugs used in the programme have been submitted to the Pharmaceuticals and Regulatory Affairs in the Ministry of Health.

The unit also undertakes operative and diagnostic laparoscopy, contraception and sterilisation advice and management. Counseling in family planning and family life is also offered.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Pottinger AM.** The changing face of bullying”. Paediatric Association of Jamaica 17th biennial conference, Main Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Mona, Jamaica, April 24-26, 2009

- Gordon Stair A, Brown S and **Pottinger AM.** “Psychological First Aid, responding after a disaster”; Jamaica Red Cross, Two-day training workshop conducted with mental health professionals; Golf View Hotel, Mandeville, June 17-18, 2009


• **Mullings A.** Ethical Issues in Managing Medical Conditions during Pregnancy and the Neonatal Period – Justice and the Double Effect. Perinatal Ethics Workshop, Department of Obstetrics Gynaecology and Child Health’s annual Perinatal Annual Perinatal Audit and Symposium, Feb 2009


• Jackson ST, **Mullings A,** Khan C, Willis R, McMorris N. Practices among Doctors In The Diagnosis And Classification Of Dengue And Severe Dengue Infection. 25th Clinical Virology Symposium, April 19-22, 2009 Daytona Beach, Florida, USA

• **Pierre RB.** Adherence in the Adolescent with HIV:” How to come to Terms. Platform Presentation at the Adherence & Psychosocial Support Workshop, National HIV/STI Programme, September 4-5, 2008, Starfish, Trelawny, Jamaica.

• **Pierre R.** National ARV Treatment Guidelines – Children/ Adolescents. The Ministry of Health and Environment, National HIV/STI Programme in collaboration with UNICEF; Capacity Building Workshop, December 10-12, 2008, Rose Hall Resorts & Spa, St. James, Jamaica

• **Pierre R.** Adherence and the HIV infected adolescent. The Ministry of Health & Environment, National HIV/STI Programme in collaboration with UNICEF; Capacity Building Workshop, December 10-12, 2008, Rose Hall Resorts & Spa, St. James, Jamaica


• **Pierre R.** The HIV-infected adolescent; what are the issues? The Ministry of Health & Environment, National HIV/STI
Programme in collaboration with ERTU-CHART; 6th Annual NHP HIV Workshop, Hilton Kingston Hotel and Iberostar Rosehall Beach Resort in Montego Bay on July 27-28 and 30-31, 2009 respectively

- **Fletcher H.** Vulval Lesions. Royal college of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist International conference Port of Spain Trinidad 2009

- **Johnson J.** Update on ultrasonography in pregnancy. Royal college of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist International conference Port of Spain Trinidad 2009


- **Christie CDC.** The international campaign against gastroenteritis: advancing the rotavirus vaccine. Annual Research Day Activities of the UWI, Bahamas Campus, 16th April at Freeport, Grand Bahama and Friday, 17th April, 2009 at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau, Bahamas.

- **Christie CDC.** Pediatric Disease and Vertical Transmission of HIV in the Caribbean; XIV Pan American Congress of Infectology, in Sao Paolo, Brazil, on 27th April, 2009.

- **Christie CDC.** Current practices in pMTCT HIV. Ministry of Health, Jamaica, Jan, 2008

- **Christie CDC.** Update on Perinatal HIV/AIDS. Preinatal Symposium, UWI, Feb 2008.


• Christie CDC. Making progress in treating children living with HIV. 6th Annual CHART/CCAS/CDC Conference. Marriott Hotel, St Kitts, August 2009.


• Chambers R. Management of Neonatal seizures. Perinatal Conference, February 15, 2009


PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal


* Harriott, J., Fletcher H and Reid M. Misoprostol to prevent post partum haemorrhage *WIMJ* 2009 58: 200-5


* Donaldson D, Trotman H, Barton M, Melbourne-Chambers R. Routine laboratory investigations in infants and children presenting with fever and seizures at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *WIMJ*, 2008; 57: 369-372.


* Bell Y, Barton M, 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):101-105.


* Samms-Vaughan M. Comprehensive longitudinal studies of child health, development and behaviour in Jamaica: findings and policy impact. WIMJ. 2008 Dec; 57(6):639-44.

* Skeete D, Char G Fletcher H and Bolt C. West. Intra abdominal Lymphangioma: Case Report and review of the literature. WIMJ. 2008 57:418-9(Letter)


**Books and Monographs**

**Monograph**

* Pottinger AM (Ed) Helping children cope with the emotional effects of naturalDisasters: A guide and manual for community caregivers and managers (75 pages). Project of McCam Child Development Centre/Dudley RB Grant Memorial Trust (2008)

* Kulkarni S, Roseelo D. Confidential enquiry in certain Perinatal deaths in Belize;

**Book chapters**


**Technical Report**


Abstracts

Peer-reviewed Abstracts and Major Scientific Presentations


ICAAC/IDSA 46th Annual Meeting; Washington, DC; October 25-28, 2008 [abstract 964].


* Frederick S, Frederick J, Fletcher H and Reid M. A Trial comparing the use of rectal misoprostol plus perivascular vasopressin with perivascular vasopressin alone to decrease myometrial bleeding at the time of abdominal myomectomy. WIMJ. (Supp 4)2008, O 7 57:23

* Allen Davis, Davis C, Fletcher H, Frankson M. Commonly used botanicals and vitamins and their impact on intra-operative blood pressure and blood loss in the surgical gynaecological patient. WIMJ. (Supp 4)2008, 09 57:24


* Frederick S, Frederick J, Fletcher H and Reid M. A Trial comparing the use of rectal misoprostol plus perivascular vasopressin with perivascular vasopressin alone to decrease myometrial bleeding at the time of abdominal myomectomy. WIMJ. (Supp 2)2009 05 58:16.

* Buchanan K, Fletcher H, Reid M. Prevention of Striae gravidarum with Cocoa Butter cream, a placebo controlled randomized double blind trial. WIMJ. (Supp 2)2009 028 58:29.

* Allen Davis, Davis C, Fletcher H, Frankson M. Commonly used botanicals and vitamins and their impact on intra-operative blood pressure and blood loss in the surgical gynaecological patient. WIMJ. (Supp 2)2009 039 58:60.


**AWARDS and HONOURS**

**Christie CDC, Mullings M, Johnson N**

Member of the Pediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS in team awarded the Principal’s Research Award for **Most Outstanding Research Activity, Faculty of Medical Sciences**, University of The West Indies, Jamaica”, for Special Compendium of 20 original research manuscripts, West Indian Medical Journal 2008; 57(3);187-320.


**Thame M.** Outstanding contribution in the field of Child Health from the Jamaica Medical Foundation 2009

**Thame M.** The Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Club of New Kingston 2009

**Christie CDC.** Nomination and invitation formally accepted, “David Karzon Lecturership”, Department of Pediatrics, Grand Rounds, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA 2009

**Christie CDC.** Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research Accomplishments, UWI 2008

**Christie CDC.** Elected Member, Governing Council of the International AIDS Society, representing Latin America and the Caribbean 2008.
RESEARCH GRANTS

Funded Grants, Contracts – Income generation:

INCOME GENERATION

Johnson N. Donation of ultrasound machine and computers by CHASE foundation $12.9 Million (JAD) for formation of Fetal Diagnostic and Therapeutic Unit

Johnson N. Recipient New Initiative Grant for $1,830,000 to fund research project “Universal Screening for Subclinical Hypothyroidism during Pregnancy in a Jamaican Cohort”

Christie CDC. (Principal Investigator) Jamaica Pediatric, Perinatal and Adolescent HIV/AIDS Programme- University of the West Indies, From the Jamaican Ministry of Health and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, July 2009 to July 2011. Total grant amount to UWI $58,352,335.00 Jam.

Feeney M. (Principal Investigator), Christie CDC, (Co-investigator), Elizabeth Glaser. Scientists Award, January 1, 2006 to December 30, 2011; “The Immune Response to Acute Perinatal HIV Infection”, Total grant amount > $650,000 USD’s, total amount to UWI $112,000 USD’s (ie., $16,000 USD’s per annum for seven years).

Feeney M. (Principal Investigator), Christie CDC, Co-investigator. “The impact of CD8 T cells on viral control and evolution in HIV-infected infants. National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant # 1R01AI068497 - 01A2, total amount to UWI, $189,000 USD’s December 1, 2006 through November 30, 2011 (ie., $27,000 USD’s per annum for 7 years).
PUBLIC SERVICE

Pottinger AM
- Board Member, McCam Child Development Centre
- Volunteer responder and trainer, Jamaica Red Cross, Disaster Mental Health programme
- Reviewer, Journal of School Health
- Reviewer, Evaluation and Program Planning

Mullings AM
- Chairman, National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica
- Reviewer, for journal “Value in Health”, the journal of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)
- Member, Ministry of Health, National Guidelines for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Review Committee
- Member, Board of the Jamaica Cancer Society
- Director, Caribbean Research Ethics Initiative

Christie CD
- Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Member, HIV Medicine Association of America
- Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
- Member, Governing Council of the International AIDS Society, representing Latin America and the Caribbean
- Member, International Society for Infectious Diseases
- Member, Scotia Group Jamaica Limited

Prof Maureen Samms-Vaughan
- Chairman, Early Childhood Commission
- Board Member, National Council on Education
- Board Member, National Advisory Board on Disability
- Board Member, Family Life Ministries
- Board Member, Promise Learning Centre
– Board Member, Vaz Preparatory School
– Board Member, Queens High School

Professor Horace Fletcher
– Reviewer, *West Indian Medical Journal*

Dr Russell Pierre
– Reviewer, *West Indian Medical Journal*

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Professor Celia Christie

Dr Indira Singh-Minott, DM Pediatrics, is completing her second year of a Fellowship in Infectious Diseases with Special Emphasis on Pediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS.

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

This year was the fifth year of the introductory lectures to the preclinical students which is part of the urogenital module.

One hundred and thirteen candidates sat the May June 2009 MBBS examinations. Seven candidates failed Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Three students obtained honors and one obtained a distinction in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Five candidates were successful in the Doctor of Medicine part II in Obstetrics and Gynaecology held November December 2008 and in the May/June examinations five were successful in the DM part 1 none failed.