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 Special Care Unit which comprises of a neonatal intensive care unit. The main subspecialties are infectious diseases, development and behavioural paediatrics, cardiology, gastroenterology, neonatology, nephrology, neurology, endocrinology, 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 island and the Caribbean. The section of Child Health successfully staged the 4th
The conference saw excellent presentations by a multidisciplinary faculty of esteemed experts from Jamaica and the United States. There were approximately 150 registrants including paediatricians, general practitioners, nurses physiotherapists, medical and nursing students.

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, 2005 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 as Counselling, 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.
Sterility & Fertility

The members of the Sterility & 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 breakthrough is that all the documents required for the registration of the drugs used in the programme have been submitted to the Pharmaceuticals & 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.

Income Generation: External Research Funding and Grant Support

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator), Pierre RB. (Co-Principal Investigator). “Protecting our future generations: Born free of HIV in the Caribbean”. Caribbean Multi-Country Proposal, submitted by the UWI as the Principal Recipient, collaborating with Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through it PAHO HIV/AIDS Caribbean Office (PHCO) and Caribbean Medical Laboratories Foundation (CMLF) as sub-recipients, To the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Round 10. Grant amount to UWI: US$29,084,106.00

Pierre RP and Christie CDC. (Co-Principal investigators). National Institutes of Health/Fogarty Research Fellowship (Dr Samantha Walker), between Vanderbilt University Global Health Program and the UWI to
study “Neuro-cognitive Function in HIV-Positive Children in a Developing Country”, from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Total grant amount to the UWI, **US$66,156.00**.

**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 (2 years). Total grant amount to UWI $58,352,335.00 Jam (**About US$700,000**).

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 > US$650,000, total amount to UWI **US$112,000**.

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, **US$189,000**, (US$27,000 per annum for 7 years).

**Dr. R. Melbourne Chambers**, Research Grant from LeBonheur Children’s Hospital Memphis Tennessee; Title; Validation of a new Questionnaire for detection of epileptic seizures in children: **Funds US$9,182.75**

**Primary Investigator: AM Pottinger** - Impact of infertility and in vitro fertilization treatment on child development and quality of parenting.

**Professor M. Samms-Vaughan**, 2009-2011Epidemiological Research on Autism in Jamaica. Collaborative Project with the University of Texas at Houston. Funded by National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Child Health and Development and Fogarty International Centre. **US$108,00.00**

Principal Investigator: M. Thame; Co Investigators: Professor F. Jahooor and Professor Alan Jackson. Source: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna; Title: Relationship between maternal nutritional status and pregnancy outcome. Protocol 3. **Funds: £10,000.00**
Principal Investigator: M. Thame Co Investigators: Professor F. Jahoor and Professor Alan Jackson. Source: Caribbean Health Research Council. Title: Relationship between maternal nutritional status and pregnancy outcome. Protocol 3; **Funds: US$8,680.00**

**PAPERS PRESENTED**


- **Fletcher H** 2009. Knowledge Attitudes of Doctors toward abortion in Jamaica. FMS Conference UWI


- **Fletcher H** 2010. The Ethics of Abortion what do Jamaican Doctors know. Presentation to Doctors in Clarendon at Juicy beef centre

- **Fletcher H** 2010. Update on the management of cervical cancer. Caribbean Association of Clinical Haematologist and Oncologists Holiday Inn Montego Bay

- **Fletcher H** 2010. Fibroids in Pregnancy. Clinico Pathological Conference UWI


- **Pottinger A.** “Rebuilding lives after divorce”. Jamaica Psychiatric Annual Workshop, The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica, August 16th 2009

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Conference (AIDS 2010), Vienna, Austria, July 19-22, 2009 [Abstract MOAB0401].


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

- **Christie CDC.** Pediatric, Perinatal and Adolescent HIV/AIDS in Jamaica. Regional Conferences in Mandeville (November 2009), Ocho Rios (December 2009), Montego Bay, (January 2010) and Kingston and St Andrew (February, 2010), Jamaica.

- **Christie CDC.** “Ja-Youth” (Jamaican Teens) and HIV: The New Challenge. Montego Bay, (Jan 2010) and Kingston and St Andrew (Feb 2010), Jamaica.


- **Samms-Vaughan ME.** Gender Differences in Achievement at the Early Childhood Level. World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat and UWI Conference on Boys and Education. Mona Visitors Lodge. UWI, June, 2010.


PUBLICATIONS

* Trotman H, Garbutt A. Predictors of outcome of neonates with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy admitted to the neonatal unit of the University Hospital of the West Indies. *J Trop Pediatr*. 2010, Jun 4. [Epub ahead of print]


* Samuels LA, Rattray C, Bambury I, Fletcher H, Mitchell S. Outcome of radical hysterectomies performed by general gynecologists in Jamaica. *Int Jour Obstet Gynecol* 2009 107: 111-113


* Allen-Davis W, Fletcher H, Davis C, Frankson M. Commonly used botanicals and vitamins and their impact on blood pressure


* Garbutt A, Trotman H. Outcome of neonates with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy admitted to the neonatal unit of the University Hospital of the West Indies. *Ann Trop Paediatr* 2009; 29: 263-269.


* Pierre RB, Branday JM, Pottinger A, Wierenga A (2010). Students’ perception of the ‘educational climate’ at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica, WIMJ, 59 (1) 45-49.


**Technical Report**

* Report on Administration of October / November 2009 Caribbean Association of Medical Councils Registration Examination. RB Pierre, A McDonald (Editors). UWI


**Non Refereed Journal**

* Fletcher H. Environmental hazards in pregnancy and risks to the baby, *Carib Xplorer,* 2010, 2:27-8

**Book Chapter**

* Pottinger AM (2010). Audience perception of coverage of violence in prime time news and the print media. In M de Bruin

Abstracts

* **Fletcher H,** Gordon Strachan G, McFarlane S, Hamilton P and **Frederick J.** Abortion survey of medical practitioners views. *WIMJ,* (Supp 4)2009 58:21

* **Fletcher H.** Non Obstetric Lower Genital Injuries. *WIMJ,* (Supp 2)2010 P 17 59:45


* P. Murray, M A. Frankson, **M. Thame.** Pregnancy performance of HIV positive compared to HIV negative women *WIMJ,* 2009; 58(Suppl.2):17.


* T. Laughton, G. Gordon-Strachan, **M. Thame.** Breastfeeding challenges in preterm infants compared to full term infants at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *WIMJ,* 2010; 59(Suppl.2):16.
**PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Chambers, MR**
- Past president, Paediatric association of Jamaica
- Member, Medical Association of Jamaica
- Secretary, Jamaican League against Epilepsy
- Chairperson, Serious case review panel- Child Development Agency
- Member, Panel to review of Licences for Residential Child Care facilities (RCCF) Child Development Agency

**Christie CD**
- Elected Member, Governing Council of the International AIDS Society, representing Latin America and the Caribbean
- Co-Chair, Pharmaceutical Industry Liaison Forum, International AIDS Society
- Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Founding Member, HIV Medicine Association of America
- Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
- Member, International Society for Infectious Diseases
- Vice Chancellor’s Representative, UWI, to the Executive, Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Training (CHART)

**Fletcher H**
- Reviewer, *West Indian Medical Journal*
- Reviewer, *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* (UK)

**Pierre R**
- Reviewer, *West Indian Medical Journal*; Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica
Pottinger, A
- Coordinator, Psychological services for In Vitro Fertilisation programme, Fertility Management Unit
- Member, Case Management Committee, Counselling Unit, University Health Centre
- Disaster Mental Health Responder, Jamaica Red Cross, West Kingston civil unrest

Samms-Vaughan, M
- Chair, Early Childhood Commission,
- Director, National Council on Education
- Member, National Advisory Council on Disabilities
- Member, Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Consultant to the IDB. Regional Project on Indicators and Statistics for Early Childhood Development

Thame M
- Reviewer, *West Indian Medical Journal*
- Reviewer, *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*
- Reviewer, *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*
- Reviewer, *Public Health Nutrition*
- Reviewer, Paediatrics and Perinatal Epidemiology
- Reviewer, Archives of Diseases in Childhood

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

**Professor Celia Christie**
- 2010 Co-Chair, Pharmaceutical Industry Liaison Forum, Governing Council of the International AIDS Society, representing Latin America and the Caribbean.
2009 Principal’s Research Award, for Most Outstanding Research Activity, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, “Pediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS in Jamaica”, Special Compendium of 20 original research manuscripts in, West Indian Medical Journal, 2008; 57(3); 187-320, to Professor Celia DC Christie-Samuels and collaborators

2009 “David Karzon Lectureship”, Department of Pediatrics, Grand Rounds, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS:

Post doctoral studies in Pediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS:

Dr Kaye Lewis (Year two) and Dr Samantha Walker (Year one)