



MONA

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Year Ending July 31st, 2021



Dr. Tomlin J. Paul • Dean

MB, BS, MPh, DFPHM, FAcadMED



DEAN'S OVERVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORK IN THE FACULTY

The academic year began with the Faculty facing a number of operational challenges and having to be constantly vigilant in the management of its operations so as to remain steadfast in the delivery of teaching, research and service. The Faculty has had to make numerous adjustments particularly to the delivery of teaching across all health professions' programmes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an academy that is at the frontline of service and managing service-learning in the health sector, our teachers and students faced significant stress and strain on their physical and mental health. Our members of staff must be applauded for their efforts for reaching out and for facilitating mental health sessions for our students along with the support of the University's counselling unit. Our efforts to achieve balance and continuity despite the constant threat of pandemic disruption were well supported through cross agency collaboration. The Faculty extends its gratitude to many agencies that lent support to our operations over this year among which were the team at the University Health Centre, the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) and its Occupational Health and Safety Unit, the Office of Student Services and Development, the Ministry of Health and Wellness team, the Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre, the American Foundation for The UWI and the Guild of Undergraduate Students. The collaborative efforts allowed us to have an early and effective response to student and staff immunization against COVID as well as support for personal protective equipment for students. The Faculty worked closely with the UHWI and the National immunization programme to facilitate vaccines for all clinical students and clinical faculty in all programmes. Given these interventions we were able to press forward with clinical training for the majority of programmes over this period with less than substantial disruption. A special mention must be made of Dr. Alison Nicholson and her team in the Department of Microbiology at the UHWI for what has been yeoman, dedicated and high quality service in strengthening our pandemic response.

The MBBS programme was scheduled for an accreditation review but this exercise was suspended by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other

Health Professions (CAAM-HP) due to restrictions placed on travel and other challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, the Faculty continued its preparation in addressing areas requiring attention in anticipation of the visit once announced.

The rehabilitation of the repairs to the Mary J Seivwright Building our home for the UWI School of Nursing remained a major challenge during the period. The process extended beyond expectation due largely to the financial challenges faced by The UWI, which inhibited the timeliness and quality of the work that was to be undertaken. However, with the rehabilitation process near completion we have been able to facilitate a staged reopening of the school following the submission of a Sectional Rehabilitation Certificate verified by the Projects Office, Estate Management Division and UWISON. It was hoped that the re-location of UWISON to the Building would be completed by October 2021.

The Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre (MAWC) which was under the immediate oversight of the Faculty of Medical Sciences was re-established in the Office of the Principal, effective November 1, 2020. The Faculty commended the MAWC on its continued excellent contribution in its field of work and look forward to continued collaboration with the MAWC in addressing research, service and training on matters of population ageing.

The Faculty congratulated Professor Minerva Thame on her appointment as Dean, FMS with effect from August 1, 2021. Professor Thame who was no stranger to the Faculty Executive having served prior as a Head of Department and Deputy Dean made history to become the first female Dean for the FMS. The Faculty management team stands ready to facilitate and support her during the transition period and during her tenure.

ACCESS

AC1 - TO BE A UNIVERSITY FOR ALL

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Table 1: Undergraduate Enrollment for the Academic Year 2020/2021

Programme	Majors and Minors	No. of Students 2019/2020	No. of Students 2020/2021
BBMedSc	Bachelor of Basic Medical Sciences	138	119
BSc	Diagnostic Imaging	83	78
	Nursing (Post RN) Online Delivery	73	67
	Nursing (Generic)	1325	1321
	Physical Therapy	139	123
DDS	Doctor of Dental Surgeon	72	78
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery	1524	1349
	Specially admitted students from offshore universities for clinical rotations/overseas	63	71
PharmD	Doctor of Pharmacy	99	114
Total		3453	3320

Table 2: The MBBS Examination Results - Academic Year 2020/2021

Nov/Dec 2020 Examinations						
Subjects	Pass	Hons	Dis	Fail/FA	Total	No. of students who sat each exam
Medicine (MDSC5553)	43	1	2	11	57	54
Obstetrics/Gynaecology (MDSC5554)	47	10	2	4	63	51
Surgery (MDSC5555)	42	2	-	18	62	60
Overall Total no. of students for Nov/Dec 2020						65

July 2021 Examinations						
Subjects	Pass	Hons	Dis	Fail/FA	Total	No. of students who sat each exam
MDSC5553	185	37	2	31	255	216
MDSC5554 197		24	19	12	252	209
MDSC5555	212	37	7	11	267	223
Total for July 2021 sitting						228

Undergraduate Prizes

Prizes awarded in the BSc Physical Therapy Programme - 2020/2021

Best Performance in Anatomy	-	Majel De Coteau
Best Performance in Physiology	-	Durward Stewart
Best Performance in Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation 1	-	Abigail Hutchinson
Best Performance in Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation 2	-	Durward Stewart
Best Performance in Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Best	-	Chaz-Anthony James
Performance in Neurological rehabilitation and Divina Mahtani	-	Sangeeta Maharaj
Outstanding Performance in Clinical Practice	-	Divina Mahtani
Best Performance in Medical Science 1	-	Divina Mahtani
Best Performance in Medical Science 2	-	Divina Mahtani
Best Performance in Medical Science 3	-	Divina Mahtani

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Table 4: Postgraduate Students Enrollment – 2020/2021

Programmes	No. of Students
CERF: Clinical Fellowships	12
Diploma	59
DM	525
DPH	31
MPH	40
Taught Masters	141
MPhil	56
PhD	44
Total	908

New Programmes

The B.Sc. in Biomedical Radiation Science was approved for offer in academic year 2021/2022. The programme represents an excellent example of cross-Faculty collaboration and would be offered through the Faculty of Science and Technology in partnership with the Faculties of Medical Sciences and Engineering. It included courses across these faculties and represented a great opportunity for students to work in the Medical Sciences through another avenue. The M.Sc. in Clinical Medical Physics was also approved (with specializations in Radiotherapy and in Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine) for offer in academic year 2021/2022. This has allowed us to add clinical training to Medical Physics following the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Guidelines.

AC2 - TO BE THE UNIVERSITY OF FIRST CHOICE FOR ALUMNI AND NON-STUDENT CUSTOMERS SEEKING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR ALL THINGS CARIBBEAN

The Faculty continued to provide a wide array of options for health professions training with seven undergraduate programmes and a large number of post graduate offerings in both clinical and non-clinical areas. Our involvement in support of the national COVID response through public education (teleconferences) and representation on national com-

mittees and service for example in immunization campaigns enhances our competitiveness as a dynamic and relevant arm of the University with credible and attractive offerings and experiences.

AC3 - IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Teaching and Learning

The Faculty continued over the period to manage its teaching and learning operations around the COVID-19 waves. There had been interruptions in the flow of the programmes resulting from suspension of classes at intervals during the period with clinical and practical face-to-face components being most affected. However, upon resumption of classes, teaching continued to be delivered with a mix of online and face-to-face modalities. It was anticipated that the Faculty would plan for the new academic year using similar approaches to delivery of online and remote teaching except for clinical courses. There had been adaptation to the delivery and approaches but this required more internal adjustments and re-allocation of resources – rooms, technology and staff which was becoming embedded in the academy. Courses were delivered and examinations conducted repeatedly, using alternative approaches with measures that provided a layer of quality assurance to support the efforts. The Board for Undergraduate Studies approved at its May 2021 meeting, changes in assessment methods for all Stage 1 courses of the MBBS programme to a 70:30 assessment mix with 30 percent coming from in-course assessment and 70 percent final examinations. This was an important achievement for cross-campus harmonisation with respect to assessment for the programme. We have had successes with using the Campus Call Centre for proctored online examinations. This was done for the Caribbean Association of Medical Examinations (CAMC) and the MBBS clerkship and Final examinations, along with computer labs across other Faculties. These spaces complemented our computer lab space and facilitated social distancing. We continued the management of the end-of-semester and exit examinations while also processing the selection and admission of new students.

The Health Professions Education Unit (HPEU) in the Faculty collaborated with the programmes/schools in the FMS to enhance the transition to emergency remote teaching,

learning and assessment in the face of COVID-19 pandemic. This was facilitated through workshops, seminars, group and individual consultations during the period August 2020 to July 2021. As such, through hosting of Faculty Development Workshops, such as the “Administration of Online Clinical Examinations: a primer for the DM Programme Virtual Clinical Examinations”, students were indirectly impacted. Additionally, Professor Russell Pierre, the HPEU’s Director played a key role in the harmonization of delivery and assessment of graduate training. Overall, the level of anxiety among students had declined and on the whole the systems for managing the risk to staff and students, though not perfect, were successful.

MBBS Curriculum Review

A Curriculum review committee had been reconstituted to drive a process focussed on content and delivery. The MBBS Programme had an integrated curriculum that was multidisciplinary, systems-based and comprised a series of courses which integrated the disciplines of Human Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology, Pathology, Microbiology, Pharmacology and Community Medicine & Psychiatry, with input from the clinical disciplines. It also included early exposure to basic clinical skills. This curriculum was adopted in 2001 and had not undergone any formal review, though there had been modifications such as converting modules into courses and adopting the GPA system. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic affected the planned formal review for 2020, its exigencies and its negative effect on face to face encounters for teaching and learning in the MBBS programme at Mona forced the adoption of a model for teaching via distance learning. This required course coordinators to review course content and streamline content for online delivery. There were also several innovations by faculty in an attempt to deliver clinical content via online modalities e.g. mounting online OSCE’s, virtual online history taking and the use of clinical scenarios in a vive voce format. A positive effect noted was increased student engagement with high attendance rates at academic sessions. The recommendation therefore, in moving forward, was that a streamlined blended curriculum delivery be adopted with delivery of didactic lectures online and the use of face to face encounters for laboratory work, tutorials and clinical patient encounters. This would allow for contact time with lecturers to be used for smaller tutorial type interaction with students and in the clinical years would facilitate longer clinical attachments at affiliate sites. This format would also enable the allocation of more time for self-directed learning. The time was opportune to complete the

previous attempt at curriculum review and curriculum mapping to enhance student critical thinking and reasoning, learning and progression. This required departments and course coordinators to commence internal reviews of course content and delivery in preparation for the curriculum review process.

BSc Diagnostic Imaging Curriculum Review

The School of Medical Radiation Technology had taken further steps to implement the recommendations of the 2018 Quality Assurance Review of the programme to include the review of the curriculum for BSc Diagnostic Imaging programme, with a view to developing a 4/5 year programme to include the specialized modalities, and alignment of programme's mission, vision, core values, goals, and student outcomes with the strategic direction of The UWI. The exercise would include: an analysis of courses with high failure rates; adjunct staff participation in CETL Bootcamp training; representation at the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee meetings; and Monthly Coordinator/Student Body meeting.

Donations in support of Teaching and Learning

The Faculty obtained support for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through donations, as follows.

Donors	Gloves	N95 masks	Disposable masks	Bandana masks	Face Shields	Medical Isolation gowns	Hand Sanitizer	Alcohol Wipes	Digital Thermometers
Manpower & Maintenance Services Ltd. Group	1000	250	250				100		
Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce		1460	400	1800					120
Consulate General of Jamaica in New York			1600						
American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI)	2000		200			300		1000	
Novamed Inc.			2000						
UWI Student Guild			800		12	75	3		
Total	3000	1710	5250	1800	12	375	103	1000	120

The Faculty worked in collaboration with the departments/programmes to ensure distribution of the PPE to staff and students. Effort was made to ensure that each student presenting to the clinical area was provided with a set of the items received. This was also in support of the initiative of the campus to manage the COVID-19 risk through a mixed strategy of reducing student numbers for face-to-face teaching and following safety and infection control protocols. The Faculty had been vigilant in monitoring and implementing the various guidelines but sustaining PPE was a challenge and students were encouraged to provide their own supply. Additionally, the NCB Foundation donated laptops to assist with the teaching and learning in the Department of Child & Adolescent Health.



Student Development

Personal and Professional Development. Activities geared towards the development of students continued to play a vital role in providing much needed mental health and social support to them across the Faculty. This was more evident with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in students becoming more anxious about their professional and personal status, stemming from financial challenges and other uncertainties brought on by the pandemic to the disruption of classes. With limited or no face-to-face contact much of these related activities were delivered online, which included acculturation sessions online during the online FMS Orientation week in August 2020, followed by continuous one-on-one sessions with students. Anecdotal feedback continued to reveal the benefits derived by students from their involvement in these sessions.

Empowerment Sessions. Other measures were taken to ensure greater integration of all students in Faculty-wide activities, resulting in students, particularly those in the Diagnostic Imaging programmes assuming leadership roles in the school, halls of residence, and University clubs and societies. Peer counselling/mentorship drive among students of SMRT continued to be a dominant feature. Additionally, a Senior Seminar for the Graduating Class 2021 was conducted to address issues such as preparedness for employment in private and public sector diagnostic imaging services, as well as the sensitizing them on the functions of, and registration with the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine and the Society of Radiographers, Jamaica

Harmonization of the DM Paediatrics Programme. Professor Russell Pierre, the University Examiner for the DM Paediatrics Programme facilitated Cross Campus Examiners consultations to enhance the harmonization of the DM Paediatrics Programme across the campus sites in the FMS, and oversaw the implementation and administration of the virtual DM Paediatrics clinical/oral examinations held Nov/Dec 2020 and May/June 2021.

AC4 - IMPROVING THE QUALITY, QUANTITY AND IMPACT OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Research and Innovation

West Indian Medical Journal

The first Issue of the backlog of articles from the West Indian Medical Journal was published at the end of May 2021. This represents a major milestone in the resuscitation of the journal which had a backlog of over 600 articles. The board of the journal which included all Deans and the Director of the SCMR Bahamas has pushed aggressively to have full cross campus inputs in resourcing the journal. We were in the process of developing a business plan for WIMJ and we were also asking academic staff to volunteer as reviewers which will be needed as we roll out the additional backlog. The issues are accessible online at no cost.

The UWI Mona 3MT/The Three Minute Thesis (3mt™) Competition

Mr. Kemmoy Lattibeaudierre, a PhD Biochemistry student was the second place winner in "The Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) competition. This was an academic competition developed by the University of Queensland (UQ), in 2008 for Australian research students. Since its inception, the 3MT concept has grown exponentially as a multi-national event held in over 900 universities across more than 85 countries worldwide. The UWI Mona Library collaborated with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research and hosted The UWI, Mona Campus Edition of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) Competition. This competition was a celebration and recognition of excellence in research within The UWI community." Professor Gossell-Williams, Department of Basic Medical Sciences served as chief adjudicator with four other judges. (link to video

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FYHWhOfgpg5FtRRyvu5yRu6s_J6di8q0/view?usp=sharing).

Publications

- The Faculty congratulates **Dr. Nwokocha** and team on their recent publication in the highly respected Nature Research Journal Scientific Reports. The study — 'Hypoten-

sive and antihypertensive effects of an aqueous extract from guinep fruit (*Melicoccus bijugatus* Jacq) in rats’ — showed, among other things, that guinep reduced blood pressure in rats through its effects on cardiac output and heart rates. The study’s authors noted that it did this by way of “its endothelium dependent vasorelaxation properties involving the nitric oxide (NO) and guanylyl cyclase, but not prostaglandin signalling pathways”. This guinep study was led by Dr Chukwuemeka Nwokocha, Department of Basic Medical Sciences with UWI collaborators from The Natural Products Institute, the Department of Chemistry, and the Department of Pathology. Advanced analysis further revealed the presence of several medicinal compounds in guinep extracts with exciting cardiovascular and biological activity responses. These included antioxidants like vitamin C and related compounds, phenolic acids, flavonoids, fatty acids (oxylipins), and terpene derivatives. Research such as this also provided a base for building academic industry partnerships and revenue generation.

- **D. Walker, T. Paul, T. Taylor.** The growth potential for diagnostic imaging training in the English-speaking Caribbean. *Radiography* 2021; 27 (3): 956-96.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radi.2021.01.006> .
Radiography Journal. Science Direct. Year, 2021.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1078817421000067?dgcid=coauthor>
- Majumder, M. A. A., Cohall, D., Ojeh, N., Campbell, M., Adams, O. P., Sa, B., Khan, K., **Pierre, R.**, & Trotman-Edwards, H. (2021). Assessing online learning readiness and perceived stress among first year medical students during COVID-19 pandemic: a multi-country study. *Canadian Medical Education Journal*, 12(2), e131-e133. <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.71609>
- **Pierre R**, Trotman H, Garbutt A. Evaluation of emergency remote teaching and learning in the MBBS programme, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona - students’ perspective. *UWI Quality Education Forum*. The Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, The University of the West Indies. 2021 May;25: 38-50. ISSN:799-1487
- Blanc J, Briggs AQ, Seixas AA, **Reid M**, Jean-Louis G, Pandi-Perumal SR. Addressing psychological resilience during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic: a rapid review. *Curr Opin Psychiatry*. 2021 Jan;34(1):29-35. doi: 10.1097/YCO.0000000000000665. PMID:

33230041; PMCID: PMC7751836.

- Moore J, Richards S, Popp C, Hollimon L, **Reid M**, Jean-Louis G, Seixas AA. The Moderating Effect of Physical Activity on the Relationship between Sleep and Emotional Distress and the Difference between Blacks and Whites: A Secondary Data Analysis Using the National Health Interview Survey from 2005-2015. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2021 Feb 10;18(4):1718. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18041718. PMID: 33578959; PMCID: PMC7916647.
- Ferguson, Trevor & Younger, Novie & **Mullings, Jasneth** & Francis, Damian & Greene, Lisa-Gaye & Lyew-Ayee, Parris & Wilks, Rainford. (2020). Neighbourhood socioeconomic characteristics and blood pressure among Jamaican youth: a pooled analysis of data from observational studies. *PeerJ*. 8. e10058. 10.7717/peerj.10058.
- Bailey A, Harris MA, Bogle D, et al. Coping with COVID-19: health risk communication and vulnerable groups. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep*. doi: [https:// doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2021.225](https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2021.225)

Technical Report:

- Walters Christine & Mullings, Jasneth. Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC) - A Study of the Incidence, Risk Factors and Outcome of Prematurity in the Jamaican Population (Final Technical Report – September 30, 2020.

Papers Presented

- Jasneth Mullings. Technical Report - A Study of the Incidence, Risk Factors and Outcome of Prematurity in the Jamaican Population - PROMAC Ministry of Health and Wellness Steering Committee/ Planning Institute of Jamaica - October 22, 2020

Research Contribution by Departments/Schools/Units

Department	Refereed Journal Articles	Presentations -Conferences/ Scientific Meet- ings	Books & Mono- graphs (b)/ /Book Chapter (bc)	Techn- ical Re- ports
Basic Medical Sciences				
Child & Adolescent Health	17	46	1 (bc)	2
Community Health & Psy- chiatry	37	-	1(bc)	6
Medicine	14	11	2 (bc)	-
Microbiology				
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	-	-	-
Pathology	21	7	4 (bc)	-
Surgery, Radiology, An- aesthesia & Intensive Care	17	27	-	-
Caribbean Institute for Health Research	60	40	2 (bc)	3
Dean's Office	5	1	-	1
School of Dentistry	16	-	-	-
UWI School of Nursing	7	13	1 (bc)	-
Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit	4	4	-	-
Total	200	149	11(bc)	12

ALIGNMENT

AL1 - PROMOTE GREATER ACTIVISM AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Vaccination

The Faculty continued to answer the call to action by providing assistance with the vaccination process, through the Ministry of Health & Wellness (MOHW). In March 2021 the MOHW rolled out the vaccination drive against the COVID-19, under the National Immunization programme with the Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre (Department of Community Health & Psychiatry) and the UHWI. Since then both medical staff assigned to the Faculty had volunteered their services to cause. This, however, was not possible with the assistance of students across all programmes in the Faculty. These services continued and had also extended to the various blitz sites.

Approval for COVID- 19 Testing by CARIGEN

The CARIGEN received approval from the Ministry of Health & Wellness to provide RT-PCR Testing for suspected SARS-Cov-2 (COVID-19) cases. This approval which greatly assisted in the detection of COVID-19 cases in order to aid in mitigation activities. It was also a testament of the work being done by the lab and the visionary leadership of Prof Wayne McLaughlin.

AL2 INCREASE AND IMPROVE ACADEMIC/INDUSTRY

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS: PARTNERSHIP WITH NOVAMED INC.

On January 21, 2021, the Faculty, Through the Office of the Principal, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Novamed Inc., a company that drives healthcare venture and innovation, founded by Dr. David Walcott, a Rhodes Scholar and First Class Honors Degree graduate of the MBBS Class of 2010. The MOU supports collaboration for the development of a comprehensive and efficient learning ecosystem for the Faculty to drive improved outcomes for students. It will take on curriculum review and look at new strategies for student engagement and development. It was a delight to enter into this is academic-industry partnership with a company run by one of the Faculty's graduates and which fits within the FMS' strategy to promote alumni engagement and at the same

time to engage private sector in the Faculty's operations. The collaboration would see the Faculty working on strategies to improve the performance of students in the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) which was significantly important for the strategic growth of the medical training programme. Broader post-medical school opportunities, enhancement of collaborative learning across health profession programmes and an improvement in The UWI's ability to meet the requirements of the US Title IV, Higher Education Act are among the benefits to be derived from this partnership.



Caption: (L-R) Dr. David Walcott – Founder & Managing Partner; Mr. Kirk Anthony Hamilton – Founding Partner (Novamed) & Professor Trevor McCartney –Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences Clinical Affairs; Professor Dale Webber, Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal, UWI, Mona

Dr. Walcott along with his business partner was excited for this opportunity stating that this partnership would be valuable in contributing to the longstanding legacy of training medical students of The University of the West Indies as a beacon of progress and “are both happy to see and support the evolution of the regional medical educational system in their mandate to meet the health care needs of the public and to function in emerging modes of health care delivery”. Novamed also partnered with The UWI through supporting research done by the institution to augment COVID-19 testing efforts at the University Hospital of the West Indies through pool-testing. As a gesture of goodwill and an initiation of the collaboration, Novamed donated 2000 masks to support personal protective

equipment (PPE) coverage for students of the FMS and commit to providing continued support in response to the pandemic. The Faculty looks forward to the successful outcome of this partnership.

University of California San Francisco (UCSF) collaboration

The Faculty accepted an invitation to join with the University of California San Francisco in an application to the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau for the Health Workforce for Capacity Building for Sustainable HIV Services for funding to support pre-service training in HIV/AIDS. Professor Russell Pierre would lead this initiative on behalf of the Faculty which would be collaborating with the University Health Centre.

Indicators of Social Accountability Tool Pilot

The Faculty has been chosen by the Pan American Health Organisation as one of a few select Universities to pilot the Indicators of Social Accountability Tool (I-SAT). The Faculty played a role a few years ago in the development of the tool and continue to provide representation and inputs in this initiative. Our Faculty was also recently ably represented at the Beyond Flexner Conference by Dr. Carron Gordon and Dr. Thaon Jones sharing their work on social outreach and interprofessional education.

Bioprist Partnership in Medical Education

The Faculty signed a MOU with the Bioprist Group to participate in a health tourism project to be set up in Ironshore, Montego Bay. The JMD\$40 billion development was pioneered by the Montego Bay based Bioprist Group, controlled by Dr. Guna Muppuri, a businessman, real estate developer and medical doctor. Bioprist Group also owns pharmaceutical products developer and distributor Indies Pharma Jamaica Limited, as well as the Bioprist Knowledge Park business process outsourcing enterprise. The project was slated to be developed in Montego Bay over the next five years and would include setting up the Bioprist Institute of Medical Sciences with which the Faculty was expected to contribute as a business partnership.

Curriculum development on issues affecting the LGBT community and VAWG

The Faculty completed a study in partnership with JFLAG to look at curriculum gaps in relation to caring for members of the LGBT community. It is expected that the results of

this study will help inform curriculum review for the professional programmes. The Faculty also through the EU Spotlight initiative partnered with UNFPA in a project to develop curriculum in relation to Violence against Women and Girls.

Cannabis and Psilocybin

The Campus had been reviewing its work in the area of research on cannabis and psilocybin. The UWI Medicinal Cannabis Research Group chaired by Dr. Lauriann Young-Martin and Professor Abel had been meeting to review our involvement as a Faculty in these two areas.

H3E Caribbean (Human Heredity, Environment, and Health in the Caribbean)

The H3E Caribbean Initiative was launched on Thursday, April 8, 2021 via a blended retreat (zoom and small face-to-face). This was a signature “One UWI” initiative for the FMS with co-leads being Dr. Tomlin Paul, Professor. Alexandra Shields of the Jamaica Cancer Care and Research Institute (JACCRI), and the Harvard/MGH Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities) and Professor Simon Anderson of the Sir George Alleyne Research Centre at the Cave Hill Campus. The initiative was aimed at ensuring representation of persons from the Caribbean in cutting edge global health research. It was modeled after H3Africa (Human Heredity and Health in Africa) which was a successful initiative that had received substantial funding from the NIH and the Wellcome Trust. In addition to NIH funding other such support would be sought from the Caribbean Development Bank and regional philanthropists.

SUNY-UWI Workshop

The SUNY-UWI Center for Sustainable Leadership Development and the SUNY Global Health Institute held the 2nd joint session of the SUNY-UWI Health Research Consortium and the SUNY Global Health Institute Workshop on Friday, April 16, 2021. The workshop engaged faculty, government agencies and industry partners to discuss the next phase of the SUNY-UWI Health Research Consortium, building on recent programme development and pending opportunities for the coming years, and to consider the impact of COVID-19 on Caribbean societies. This symposium was geared at building research capacity through subgroups with specific interests.

Integrative Medicine Strategy

The Indian High Commissioner has opened a link for the Faculty to collaborate with the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) in India. This was as a result of an expression of interest in developing an integrative medicine strategy for the Faculty. One of our faculty members, Dr. Kerian Mahlee, Medical Officer in the Department of Community Health & Psychiatry holds a Fellowship in Integrative Medicine and wishes to expand this area.

Caribbean Association of Medical Councils Licensing Examination

The Faculty continued to play a critical role through the conduct of the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils Examinations (CAMC) under the leadership of Professor Russell Pierre as Chairman to conduct examinations to determine eligibility for license to practice for medical graduates who originate from medical schools that were not accredited by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) but desire to practice within the CARICOM region. Though the COVID-19 pandemic affected the traditional approach to evaluation of candidates for this licensing examination. Prof Pierre and team developed and implemented a modified virtual CAMC Part 2 Clinical Examination to evaluate candidates in a safe environment while maintaining the rigor of the assessment process. This modification transitioned the examination to a fully online administration in congruence with COVID-19 restrictions and precautions. This virtual clinical examination has been successfully administered thus far September 21-23, 2020, March 3-4, 2021, and May 19-20, 2021.

AGILITY

AG1 - ESTABLISH A PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF THE UWI ON ALL CONTINENTS

While the Faculty remained supportive of the wider University in its efforts at promoting a global presence, we continued to reach out to our Alumni making greater efforts to promote an actively engaged and diverse alumni body working closely with the Office of the Director of Alumni Relations, UWI.

AG4 FOSTER A CREATIVE, CARING, ACCOUNTABLE, MOTIVATED, PROFESSIONAL (CAMP) TEAM; PUBLIC SERVICE/CONTRIBUTION TO UNIVERSITY/SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Members of academic and professional staff in the Dean's Office continued to participate in public service and other university activities. This includes the following:

- **Khadene Campbell**, Personal and Professional Development Officer served as ffacilitator at Vacation Bible School while promoting the University and FMS, as well as presented about health & wellness, spirituality, education, and family life. She also presented at the 2020 Mental Health, Trauma & Suicide Prevention Conference in Puerto Rico, USA.
- **Jasneth Mullings** - National Coronavirus Disease Research Taskforce of Essential National Health Research Committee (ENHRC) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW). This taskforce produced National Research Agenda Roadmap Technical report.

Health Professions Education Unit

The newly rebranded Health Professions Education Unit which began in August 2018 continued to be engaged in activities under its mandate for the promotion, development, implementation and monitoring of health professions' education initiatives with special emphasis on faculty and staff continued professional development, research in health professions education, accreditation and quality enhancement, curriculum development, and interprofessional collaboration. During the period it held a training workshop on the "administration of online clinical examinations" with 29 members attending and receiving very positive feedback from the evaluation with a request for additional workshops. This was one of the pandemic oriented training workshops that the HPEU has conducted, but this kind of training consolidated the perspective of the Faculty's adaptation as an academy to the pandemic. Other such workshops had been encouraged. It was also involved in the conduct of the following developmental activities:

- Implementation and conduct of Faculty Development Workshop [Administration of Online Clinical Examinations: a primer for the DM Programme Virtual Clinical Examinations.
- Online access to archive Faculty Development Workshops [Managing your Online Quiz; Item-writing]

Publication:

- Medulink December 2020 Issue 7; Medical Education Newsletter for the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

[<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aGVSP7ZD3rp6sLWEWi3g7KvAsqarU5Z1/view?usp=sharing>]

- Medulink June 2021 Issue 8; Medical Education Newsletter for the Faculty of Medical Sciences. [<https://bit.ly/3AdmEed>]

Consultations:

- Faculty of Medical Sciences, all programmes: workshops, seminars, group and individual consultations on transitioning to emergency remote teaching, learning and assessment during period August 2021 to July 2021, due to COVID-19 pandemic

Monographs

Damien Brown, **Russell Pierre**. Standard Operating Procedures for Virtual Oral/Clinical Examinations in Doctor of Medicine FMS (COVID-19 Era). Medulink: One Faculty, One UWI. Issue 7, December 2020. pp 26-28. Newsletter on Medical Education for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies; available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aGVSP7ZD3rp6sLWEWi3g7KvAsqarU5Z1/view?usp=sharing>

Pierre R, Editor. Medulink: One Faculty, One UWI. Issue 8, June 2021. Newsletter on Medical Education for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies; available at: <https://bit.ly/3AdmEed>

Pierre R. Editorial – Resilience in the time of COVID-19. Medulink: One Faculty, One UWI. Issue 8, June 2021. pp 3-6. Newsletter on Medical Education for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies; available at: <https://bit.ly/3AdmEed>

Garbutt A, Thomas R, Melbourne-Chambers R, **Pierre R**. Intern-Tutor Programme: competency-based training initiative in child health. Medulink: One Faculty, One UWI. Issue 8, June 2021. pp 7-9. Newsletter on Medical Education for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies; available at: <https://bit.ly/3AdmEed>

Pierre R. Excellence in scholarly achievement at FMS Mona. Medulink: One Faculty, One UWI. Issue 8, June 2021. pp 38-39. Newsletter on Medical Education for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of the West Indies; available at: <https://bit.ly/3AdmEed>

STAFF MATTERS

Special Committee Assignments

- **Dr. Thaon Jones, Director, School of Dentistry** – Appointed The UWI's Mona campus representative to the PIOJ's National Oversight Committee to provide oversight to the monitoring and implementation of the 2030 agenda – development of the roadmap for the sustainable development goals of Jamaica.
- **Professor Jean Pierre Louboutin** - Appointed as The UWI, Mona's representative to the Bureau of Standard of Jamaica Tissue Products Technical Committee to review the Jamaican Standard Specification for paper toilet tissue and labelling of tissue products and wipes.

Promotion

- Dr. Helen Trotman-Edwards, Department of Child & Adolescent Health – October 2020.
- Dr. Monika Asnani, Caribbean Institute for Health Research – October 2020.
- Dr. Maxine Gossell-Williams, Department of Basic Medical Sciences – February 2021.
- Dr. Chukwuemeka Nwokocha, Department of Basic Medical Sciences – February 2021.
- Dr. Audrey Pottinger, Department of Child & Adolescent Health – February 2021.
- Dr. Trevor Ferguson, Caribbean Institute for Health Research – February 2021.
- Dr. Daniel Oshi, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry – February 2021.
- Dr. Gilian Wharfe, Department of Pathology – May 2021.
- Dr. Williams Aiken, Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care – May 2021.

Senior Lecturer

The following members of staff were promoted to the level of Senior Lecturer on August 1, 2020:

- Dr. Pierre-Anthony Leake, Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care

- Dr. Kenneth James - Department of Community Health & Psychiatry.
- Dr. Althea Bailey, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry
- Dr. Winston De La Haye, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry
- Dr. Istar Govia, Caribbean Institute for Health Research

Administrative, Technical & Service

- Charlette Brown, Senior Administrative Assistant I – August 1, 2020.
- Andrea Henry, Administrative Secretary – January 1, 2021.

Transfer

- Dr. Tina Hylton-Kong, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Community Health & Psychiatry was appointed Director at the University Health, reporting to the Principal of the Mona Campus.
- Miss Mellisa Walker, Administrative Secretary, transferred from the Dean's Office to the School of Dentistry, Mona – January 1, 2021.
- Mrs. Joycelin Hyatt-Rowe, Administrative Secretary, transferred from the Dean's Office to the Office of Students Services – April 1, 2021.

Retirement

- Mrs. Donna Beman, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medical Sciences – July 31, 2020.

Resignation

The following members of staff resigned from their positions in the Faculty:

- Miss Kimeka Eastwood, Dean's Office – September 28, 2020.
- Dr. Samantha Longman-Mills, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry – October 31, 2020.

Awards

National Award

- Professor Rainford Wilks received the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (CD) on for exceptional services in the field of Medicine, specializing in Cardiovascular Disease, Epidemiology and Tropical Medicine Research.

Academic Award

- Mrs. Dawn Munroe, Head, The UWI School of Nursing, was awarded the PhD in Nursing Education with high commendation.

Other Awards

- Professor Newton Duncan was elected by the American College of Surgeons to Membership of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. He is the first and sole surgeon from this region to receive this honour.

Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence

The following received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in the areas indicated:

- **Professor Marshall Tulloch-Reid** – Director (CAIHR): All-Round Excellence in two or more areas – Research/Public Service.
- **Mr. Compton Beecher**, Chief Forensic DNA – Service to the University Community
- **The Dean's Office, FMS** – Award for Excellence in the Departmental Award.

Staff Development

The following members of staff successfully completed training as follows:

- Mrs. Kareen Somers-Brown – MSc Public Health-Gerontology
- Miss Janett Russell – MA Higher Education: Student Personnel Administration

Obituaries

The Faculty mourned the passing of the following persons:

- Professor Emeritus Owen Morgan, Department of Medicine
- Ms. Winsome Bryan, Mona School of Dentistry – September 28, 2020.
- Ms. Rita Rose, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medical Sciences – October 26, 2020.

- Ms. Joyce Richards, Office Attendant at The UWI School of Nursing – December 24, 2020.
- Dr. Michael James, Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care – May 5, 2021.
- Dr. Ronald Bourne, Department of Pharmacology (now part of the Department of Basic Medical Sciences – May 13, 2021.
- Dr. Cyril Fletcher, Department of Basic Medical Sciences – June 17, 2021.

As I examine my tenure as Dean over the past four years, I have very positive reflections of the time spent together with the team of the FMS. It was an honour to serve the Faculty and to work with all members of staff across departments, schools, units and programmes. It was a challenging period with the rising hurdle of cash flow affecting the speed at which things get done and the smooth engagement of staff. All of this threatened morale and our productivity. During the past four years, we also had the unique challenge of a pandemic making severe inroads into our operations. But, we were not shy in our responses and have kept the ship floating and moving forward responding in a significant manner to our students as key stakeholders. I am very grateful for all the contributions and support. We had an excellent team of Deputy Deans, Heads of Departments, Unit Directors, Programme Directors, Coordinators and administrators and distinguished academic leadership from our professors. We had excellent administrative support in the Dean's Office led by Miss Sharon Roberts. I am grateful for the support of the Offices of the Campus in particular that of Principal and Registrar. I trust that the Faculty would continue to grow with a collaborative spirit and that it would continue to build a caring and socially accountable community. I thank you all for this opportunity to have served.