

**FACULTY OF MEDICAL
SCIENCES
MONA**

Year ending July 31, 2008



**Professor Archibald McDonald, MBBS, FRCSEd, FACS,
DM (Surgery) UWI – Dean**

Dean's Overview

*T*he most significant development in the Faculty of Medical Sciences during the year under review was the development of its five-year operational plan. This plan which was drafted at the annual retreat early in 2007 was discussed at all faculty committees and endorsed by the Faculty Board. It sets out the areas of strategic focus over the next five years. These are in line with the main strategic objectives of the 2007-2012, UWI strategic plan. It forms a solid platform to deepen the transformational process which has already started in the faculty. Annually senior members of the faculty will review the plan and ensure that the goals and objectives set out are being achieved.

To ensure that our graduates remain among the best globally, the curricular reform process continued in most of our programmes. An undergraduate committee was established to provide oversight of all our undergraduate programmes. In the challenging Stage 1, MB BS Programme all examinations are now standard set and course coordinators were encouraged to introduce multi-modal assessments in their courses. Seminars and problem based methods were introduced in two courses. A uniform grading system for the faculty was approved by Faculty Board. To ensure continuation of our philosophy of small group teaching, expansion of clinical training in government hospitals was accelerated and several clerkships are now taught at Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay which now forms a part of the Western Jamaica Campus. Several training seminars were conducted by the Medical Education Unit in the Office of the Dean, to enhance staff development in the areas of teaching, student assessment and course development.

In our BSc Nursing programme several courses were revised and upgraded. Seven courses were converted from face to face to online format. Two new courses in Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing were introduced.

The Curricula of all our professional graduate programmes were reviewed and handbooks and guidelines detailing the required competencies published. A system of student evaluation of programmes and supervisors is to commence in this academic year. Three new Masters Programmes were introduced and several are being developed for commencement in 2008 / 09. During this year emphasis will be placed on quality assurance issues with respect to our research degrees programmes.

Despite our efforts we failed to commence construction of the Basic medical Complex and this could have a negative effect on our programmes and slow our planned development. Inefficient administrative processes and increasing bureaucracy remain major stumbling blocks in the transformational exercise.

Student Enrollment and Access

The Faculty continues to increase annual student enrolment which has almost doubled in the past three years. In 2007 / 2008 undergraduate enrolment increased by fifteen percent and graduate enrolment by thirty percent compared with the previous year. Despite the target of two percent posited for the Mona Campus in the UWT's strategic plan for the period 2007 -2012, this trend will continue for several years as due to the rapid rate of growth of the Health Care industry, there is an increased demand for health care workers globally and regionally.

Undergraduate Student Enrolment

2007 /08 VS 2006 / 07

Programme	Majors and Minors	No. of Students 2007/08	No. of Students 2006/07
BBMedSci	Anatomy	3	5
	Biochemistry	3	10
	Pharmacology	26	25
	Physiology	1	6
	Year 1	21	–
	Subtotal	54	46

BSc	Nursing (Post RN)	27	109
	Nursing (generic)	676	640
	Online Delivery	164	0
	Physical Therapy	75	52
	Subtotal	942	801
MB BS	Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery	733	702
	Total	1729	1503

The Bachelor's programmes in Speech and Occupational Therapy were not started in this academic year as planned but should commence at the start of academic year 2009 / 2010.

Enhancing Quality and Student Centredness

The recommendations of the UWI Internal Quality Assurance reviews of the MB BS programme and UWISON were implemented during the year. The strengthening of curriculum of the Stage 1 of the MB BS programme continued. Didactic lectures were reduced by 15 percent and seminars and problem based methods introduced in two courses. All examinations in this programme are now standard set. A uniform grading scheme for the faculty was approved by Faculty Board.

The expansion of clinical training sites in government clinical facilities is an important quality assurance strategy. This continued during the year and associate (part-time) staff increased in these institutions to cope with the additional workload. Teaching and learning facilities in these institutions were also upgraded and is an area of emphasis for the current year. This initiative is critical if we are to continue our philosophy of small group teaching which has contributed significantly to the production of excellent graduates over many years.

The Enrichment programme started in the previous academic year is now firmly established providing remediation for our students not only in the academic sphere but also socially, culturally and psychologically. Student orientation based on these principles has been implemented at a reduced cost without sacrificing quality.

The expansion and improvement in our physical and Information technology infrastructure continued.

The most significant failure in the faculty was our inability to commence construction of the Basic Medical Sciences complex which should now begin during the second semester of the current academic year. The expansion of UWISON is nearing completion. Modernization of the teaching of anatomy through increased use of technology is being pursued aggressively and new audio-visual aids and microscopes were installed in the laboratories during the year.

Staff development is central to our quality assurance initiatives and several training seminars for academic staff were conducted during the year. A member of staff has been identified and will be given primary responsibility for personal and professional development and will provide career guidance for our students.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Undergraduate Programme

The Faculty graduated 364 undergraduate students in Academic Year 2007 /2008:

MB BS	100
BSc Nursing (generic)	221
BSc Nursing (Post RN)	12
BSc Nursing Administration	1
Certificate in Nursing Admin.	1
BSc Physical Therapy	16
BBMedsci	13

Of the 159 candidates of the class of 2010 who sat the Stage I MBB/BMedSci examination, 110 students were successful in the first attempt; one gained honours with distinction, and 20 honours. Twenty six (26) students took the supplemental examination after the remedial programme and 14 passed.

MBBS Examination Results

The MBBS examination results for Academic Year 2007/2008 were as follows:

	Pass	Honours	Distinction	Fail
Medicine (MD500)	83	7	–	–
Surgery (SU500)	78	9	2	1
Obstetrics & Gynaecology (OG500)	75	8	6	1

BSc Nursing Results

Category of Students	Graduating November 2008	Status
BScN (generic) Mona Campus	87	1st Class = 11 Upper 2nd = 52 Lower 2nd = 24
BScN (generic) franchised at Excelsior Community College	52	1st Class = 9 Upper 2nd = 41 Lower 2nd = 2
BScN (generic) franchised at Brown's Town Community College	38	1st Class = 11 Upper 2nd = 24 Lower 2nd = 3
BScN (generic) franchised at Knoc Community College	–	
Sub-Total BScN (generic)		
BScN (post RN) face-to-face	19	1st Class = 5 Upper 2nd = 7 Lower 2nd = 6 Pass = 1
BScN (post RN) online delivery	–	
Grand Total Undergraduates	196	

Prizes Awarded

The following students were awarded prizes in the final MB BS examinations for Academic Year 2007/2008:

Overall Clinical Medal	Shamfa Peart
Medal- Medicine and Therapeutics	Shamfa Peart
Medal- Obstetrics and Gynaecology	None
Medal- Surgery	Christine Nembhard
General Surgery Prize	Christine Nembhard
Sir Harry Annamunthodo Prize in Surgery	Christine Nembhard
Allenbury Prize in Medicine	Sade Bully

Bank of Nova Scotia Prize	Shivon Belle
Professor Owen Morgan Prize	Ephrain Ingram
Aubrey Mcfarlane	Shamfa Peart
Lawson Douglas Prize in Urology	Christine Nembhard
	Timothy Mitchell

Research

As the faculty seeks to enhance international visibility, it is cognizant that this can only be achieved through an increase in the quantity and quality of its research. A failure in this area was the tardiness in identifying a few areas for concentration and emphasis; the UWI should be recognized as world leaders in treatment and research in these areas. However the faculty continues its good performance increasing output for the year by approximately 33 percent. Two hundred and forty five papers were published in peer reviewed journals compared with 185 the previous year resulting in the per capita publication rate increasing to 1.5 from 1.1.

Publications per Department

Department	Publications	Conference Presentations
UWI School of Nursing (UWISON)	4	13
Basic Medical Sciences	35	11
Community Health & Psychiatry	22	54
Medicine	13	45
Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Child Health	47	43
Pathology	18	19
Microbiology	12	5
Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care	50	74
TMRU / Sickle Cell Unit	47	–
TOTAL	248	214

Research Awards

The following papers were judged best publications in the faculty for the academic year and received awards at the Principal's Research Awards Ceremony.

- **Susan Walker**, Susan Chang, Christine Powell and collaborators – “Effects of psychosocial functioning in late adolescence: follow-up of randomized controlled trial”, published in the *British Medical Journal*, September 2006.
- **John Lindo**, Donnette Barrett and collaborators – “Plasmodium malariae in Haitian Refugees, Jamaica”, published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal*, June 2007.
- Joanne Thompson, **Marvin Reid**, Ian Hambleton and Graham Serjeant – “Albuminuria and Renal Function in Homozygous Sickle Cell Disease: Observations from a Cohort Study”, published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, April 2007.

Three persons received awards in the category “The Most Outstanding Researchers”. These were:

- **Professor Terrence Forrester** from the Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI)
- **Professor Helen Asemota** – Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences
- **Professor Affette McCaw-Binns** – Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry.

The selection in the category “The Project Attracting the Most Research Funds” was:

- “The Jamaica Youth Risk and Resiliency Behaviour Survey” (JYRRBS), with **Professor Rainford Wilks**, as Principal Investigator, Dr Georgianna Gordon-Strachan of the Dean’s Office FMS, Drs Novie Younger and Jan Van den Broeck of the Epidemiology Research Unit and their collaborators.

There was also an award for the project with the greatest business/economic impact and this went to:

- “Mega-trial of Safety and Efficacy of Pentavalent (G1,G2,G3,G4 and P1) Human-Bovine Reassortant Rotavirus Vaccine in Healthy Infants”, managed by **Professor Celia Christie-Samuels**.

Research Grants

The Faculty attracted over US \$1.3 million in research grants during the year. Details can be found in the individual departmental reports.

Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

The Faculty hosted several conferences and seminars during academic year 2007/2008. These are listed in the individual departmental reports but included:

- The 19th Annual Nursing Midwifery Research Conference and 20th Mary Seivwright Day, hosted by the UWISON and held under the theme “Facing the Challenges of Nursing through Research” was held on May 29 & 30 2008.
- The 2nd Annual Advancement in Medicine Conference held at the Jamaica Sunset Jamaica Grand from February 20-24, 2008. This was a collaborative effort between The Mayo Clinic, The University of Minnesota, The Hennipen county Medical Centre, Vanderbilt University and the organization for Strategic Development of Jamaica, Minnesota, USA.
- The 15th Annual Research Conference and Workshop with theme “Sports and Exercise Medicine” November 14-16, 2007.

Graduate Studies

The work of strengthening our graduate programmes continued during the year under review. The revision and publishing of regulations in the DM programmes have been completed and the emphasis will be on the research degree programmes this year. Resident (graduate student) evaluation of supervisors and lecturers also commenced and will be expanded to the research programmes.

In UWISON all graduate students are now required to do a research project. Through international collaboration, supervision in the graduate programmes in the school has been enhanced through staff and student exchanges with reputable institutions such as New York University and University of Pennsylvania. A number of seminars and workshops for training staff and to expose students to reputable international scholars were held.

The Faculty awarded the following postgraduates Degrees during the academic year:

DM Anaesthetists	6
DM Emergency Medicine	3
DM Medicine	3
DM Internal Medicine	4
DM Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1
DM Paediatrics	3
DM Psychiatry	1
DM Surgery	2
DM Urology	4
MPhil Pharmacology	1
PhD Biochemistry	1
PhD Pharmacology	1
MSc Nursing (Administration)	5
MSc Nursing (Clinical Nurse specialist)	2
MSc Nursing (Education)	9
MSc Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner)	2
MSc Nutrition	3
MSc Sport Medicine	0
MPH	25

Five hundred and ninety six (596) graduate students were registered in the Faculty during the academic year. This included 52 PhD and 53 MPhil students. The number of graduate students registered in each programme is shown below.

DM Programmes	272
MPH	51
MSc Programmes	157
MPhil	53
PhD	52
Others	11

Income Generation and Diversification

The Faculty receives approximately J\$1 billion in government funding annually through the UWI. Very little money is allocated for capital projects. This level of funding cannot support the faculty's expansion and therefore the deficit has to be met through income generation. The main income generating project for the faculty was again its MB BS full fee paying and Baccalaureate nursing programmes. Significant income was also generated from clinical trials, projects and consultancies mainly through the Mona Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS).

Conclusion

The need for the UWI to undergo strategic transformation in order to reposition itself to deal with the challenges of the new dispensation is well recognized. The Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona, has undergone significant transformation in recent years. Curricular review and revision is well entrenched and new programmes to satisfy the needs of the Caribbean and to produce professionals who can function anywhere internationally continue to be developed. Measures to ensure quality assurance and nurture a culture of accountability have been implemented. The physical and information technology infrastructure is being expanded and developed. New sources of funding have been developed to finance this transformational exercise and to ensure financial viability in the future. The five -year operational plan forms a solid foundation on which the faculty will now go forward to ensure that it leads the way as the UWI increases its international visibility and reputation and takes its place among the best universities globally by 2012.