The Department of Pathology saw the changing of the guard on August 1, 2013, from Professor Carlos Escoffery to Senior Lecturer, Dr. Gilian Wharfe who previously headed the Sub-Department of Haematology. Professor Escoffery must be commended for his six years of stewardship during a period of financial constraints. He, however, was able to refurbish and expand the infrastructure and obtain much needed equipment such as computers and microscopes. His achievements are essential particularly as we have attracted a growing number of postgraduate candidates and seek international accreditation.

Dr. Wharfe now heads a staff complement of approximately 100 persons comprising 5 Professors, 6 Senior Lecturers, 7 Lecturers, 1 shared Lecturer (with Medicine) 2 Associate Lecturers and other categories of staff comprising medical and laboratory technologists, miscellaneous administrative, secretarial and clerical staff, research nurse, medical photographers, laboratory attendants, and office attendants.
The core of the Department’s work involves teaching, research and service and is carried out through the various subdepartments and units, the major ones being Anatomical Pathology (Autopsy, Cytogenetics, Cytology, Histology, Immunohistochemistry), Chemical Pathology and Haematology (Blood Bank, Flow Cytometry and Routine Haematology).

**WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT**

**Laboratories and Autopsy Service**

The financial constraints faced by the University continues to hamper the work of the department as there is a constant shortage of reagents and other important supplies necessary for the efficient functioning of the Department. Credit hold from suppliers continue to hamper the Department’s work and will definitely make accreditation impossible. It also hampers the ability to earn revenue from laboratory services.

The fees collected from patients help to supplement the UGC budget, but the amounts are still woefully inadequate as currently we are only able to collect out-patient fees and some sections, Anatomic Pathology in particular will have most of their revenue generated from in-patient work.

Despite the shortcomings, the laboratories and autopsy services continued to provide invaluable support to the care of the in- and outpatients of the UHWI, as well as to patients from other medical facilities and institutions, both national and regional.

The Histopathology Laboratory accessioned and processed 8,742 surgical cases which generated 45,455 tests (including routine histology and immunohistochemical requests). The Cytology Laboratory processed 4,609 pap smears and 736 non-gynaecological cases. A total of 190 autopsies were performed, including 30 perinatal autopsies. The Chemical Pathology Laboratory performed a total of 764,444 tests while Routine Haematology Laboratory received and processed 138,110 specimens. The Blood Bank processed 3490 blood donors and performed 29,247 tests.
The process for accreditation of our laboratories continues in earnest but without the appointment of a Quality Manager to lead, coordinate and monitor the process our efforts are greatly stymied rendering us unable to attract international collaborators on research projects.

The international standard for accreditation is CAP and this is the goal that the department seeks to have for accreditation.

**Laboratory Information System**

The full implementation of the Laboratory Information System (LIS) is near completion with three (Blood Bank, Haematology and Chemical Pathology) of the five labs almost fully utilizing the system while two (Histology and Cytology) are still having challenges.

**TEACHING & LEARNING**

**Undergraduate Programmes**

The Department continued to be very heavily involved in the teaching of all aspects and sub-specialties of Pathology in both Stages I and II of the MBBS programme. Dr Elaine Williams continued as our Departmental Academic Administrator of Undergraduate Affairs, overseeing and coordinating all aspects of medical student education in the Department, including Clerkship coordination, as well as representing us on the Stage I & Stage II Committees, Assessment & Examination Committee and the Curriculum Committee.

Our lecturers continued to perform their assigned tasks commendably and achieved consistently high positive feedback ratings from the medical students.

Elective students also came to the Department during their training.

**Graduate Programmes**

The DM Programmes in Pathology are becoming more and more attractive with Anatomical Pathology which had a record number enrolled
(18), necessitating an active cap on enrollment. One resident has successfully completed the programmes and others are progressing well. The candidate who completed training has been awarded a fellowship position at the Toronto General Hospital. The training has been sponsored by UWI through the Dean’s office.

Dr Nadia Williams continued as the Director of the Post Graduate (DM) Programme in Anatomical Pathology and Section Representative on the FMS Committee for Graduate Studies. Other members of the graduate studies committee are Drs. G. Wharfe and D. McGrowder. Dr. Williams continued the restructuring of the DM programme which included:

- Interviews for selection of candidates for post graduate training in Anatomical Pathology
- The “End of First Year Aptitude” Evaluation, continuing to ensure that Residents progressing in the programme have the necessary skills and aptitude to complete the programme
- Updating of the core curriculum for the DM Pathology programme
- Updating of the regulations for the DM Pathology programme
- Improved rate of completion of Supervisors’ 6-monthly Resident Evaluation Forms
- Rotations of Fourth Year Residents to the Cornwall Regional Hospital, Department of Pathology and the National Public Health Laboratory with the mutually beneficial effects of broadened experience for the Residents and assistance and elevation of the level of academia for the service institution
- Reorganization and reactivation of Journal Clubs as bi-monthly conferences
- Forensic Pathology Electives – As a direct benefit from the inaugural International Forensic Medicine Conference, May 26–27, 2012 hosted by the Pathology Department, in association with Dr Michael Pollanen of the Centre for Forensic Science & Medicine at the University of Toronto, Residents with special interest in Forensic Pathology have
been able to obtain observerships at the Office of the Chief Coroner and Ontario Forensic Pathology Services.

Several members of staff were involved in the supervision and teaching of MPhil, MSc and PhD candidates registered in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences, as well as teaching postgraduate students in the DM Surgery, DM Psychiatry and DM Internal Medicine Programmes.

The DM Programme in Haematology/Oncology has ten registered candidates. Unlike previous years, a number of candidates have received Government sponsorship for their training. This is commendable as it means that these persons will be employed post completion of their degree and so facilitate the teaching of Haematology Oncology at sites other than UHWI.

The DM in Chemical Pathology has one trainee.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Jamaica Cancer Registry

The registration of cancers continues, with the registrars having now finalized the collection of cases for the 5-year period 2008–2012. Verification of these cases by pathologists in the cancer registry, in preparation for the next 5-year cancer incidence report (2008–2012), has commenced, and should be completed by the end of 2014, at which time data analysis will begin.

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Commitments

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) published the electronic version of the tenth volume of “Cancer Incidence in Five Continents”, which covers the period 2003–2007, in October 2013, and the print version will be published in late 2014. The Jamaica Cancer Registry (JCR) submitted data for Jamaica for this time period, which appears in this publication.

IARC is still analyzing data submitted from various countries for publication in the third volume of “International Incidence of Childhood Cancer”.

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Personnel

Ms. Nadeen Waugh, Senior Registrar, resigned in December 2013 and efforts are being made to employ a new registrar to work along with Mrs. Dawn McNaughton, Registrar.

Research

The epidemiology of specific cancers is also analyzed and published by the registry, with the most recent publication being that on Childhood Malignancies.

The JCR also continues to support the Elective programme in the undergraduate M.B., B.S. curriculum, accommodating medical students, who participate in supervised research projects.

Two of these students, Ms. Auvarhenne Howell and Mr. Jason Lofters presented posters of their research papers entitled “Renal malignancies in Jamaica: a 30-year review” and “A review of salivary gland malignancies in Jamaica: 1978–2007”, at the Annual Research Conference of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at UWI, Mona in November 2013, and were awarded the JACP Prize for the Best Presentation of a Research Conducted in Pathology.

In July 2014, another elective medical student Mr. Brian Kazaara, embarked on a research project concerning gastric cancer. Data collection is still in progress at the time of this report.

In keeping with tradition, the Registry continued to provide information on cancers to members of the medical community, the Ministry of Health, and to assist in various research projects.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, COURSES

Poster presentations


**Publications**


**Jamaica Colorectal Cancer Registry**

The Jamaica Colorectal Cancer Registry was established, in collaboration with Dr. J. Plummer from the Section of Surgery, UWI and Drs G. Wharfe and S. Chin from the Department of Pathology. There will be collaboration where necessary with Dr. Steven Gallinger, Senior Research Scientist at the University of Toronto, Canada. A grant of JD$1.5M was approved.

**UHWI Childhood Cancer Registry**

The Caribbean Sick Kids initiative for the treatment of cancer and blood disorders in paediatrics has started with the hiring of a research nurse. This will facilitate the documentation of these disorders in children, assist in diagnosis of difficult cases as well as in the management of these cases with twice monthly rounds. This is funded by the Sick Kids Foundation in Toronto and will run for 5 years. This project will also fund the cost of flow cytometry in children with leukaemia so facilitating the capture of all cases islandwide as well as reduce the spending by the department for the cost of the relevant reagents. The initiative also saw the training of technical and medical staff in flow cytometry, cytogenetics and haemostasis at the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto.
Dr. Wharfe was successful in obtaining a grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation for research in Haemophilia A. This grant is valued at 130,000 Swiss Francs and the project will run for two years. Part of the funds will be used to purchase new equipment for the Haematology laboratory.

**Cytogenetics Laboratory**

The Cytogenetics Laboratory continues to process peripheral venous blood samples for the purpose of karyotyping. The laboratory processed and reported on ten (10) samples.

In September 2013, Ms. Loraine Gardner, technologist in the Cytogenetics Laboratory, embarked on a course of study in the United Kingdom, which she is expected to complete in September 2014. During her absence, samples have been processed by Dr. Kamali Carroll.

Shortly following Ms. Gardner’s return, the laboratory should commence validation procedures for karyotyping on solid tissue and amniotic fluid samples, while continuing to process peripheral venous blood samples.

**Surgical Pathology Conference**

The second biennial joint Surgical Pathology Conference between the Pathology Department of Mona and the Department of Pathology at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, was held on April 11, 2014. The meeting which focused mainly on Gastroenterology combined local presenters as well as six presenters from the USA, mainly Mayo Clinic Faculty members.

The local planning committee comprised Dr. Karen Bishop, Dr. Tracey Gibson, Prof. Barrie Hanchard, and Dr. Jacqueline Jaggon.

The conference was attended by Pathologists (from Jamaica and other Caribbean Islands), Surgeons, Physicians and Medical Laboratory technologists. Medical students were also represented.

Based on its success and recognized importance to continuing medical
education and presentation of local research, it is agreed that we should continue to host this conference biennially.

**PhD Thesis**

One staff member successfully completed and submitted her PhD Thesis: “The detection of all high-risk human papillomavirus DNA in archival formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded cervical and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma tissue using immunohistochemistry and polymerase chain reaction” by SR Harrison, Dept of Pathology, UWI; Principal Investigator/Supervisor: Professor C Escoffery, Dept of Pathology; Co-Investigator/Supervisor: Professor N McFarlane-Anderson, Biochemistry Section, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, UWI.

**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

**Dr S Shirley**

- The Jamaican Breast Disease Study (Protocols I & II), Collaborators: Department of Pathology, UWI; Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthetics & Intensive Care, UWI; TMRI, UWI. Medico-legal Autopsy Pathology
- Optimization of extraction of DNA from archived formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) breast and lymph node tissues from surgical specimens in Jamaican patients

**Dr T Gibson (WA Mclaughlin, G Gordon-Strachan, CA McKenzie, CT Escoffery)**

- Exfoliative and Aspiration Cytopathology, including:
  - Trichomonas Survey, Cytology Unit, Dept of Pathology, July 2012 to current
  - PAHO HPV Surveillance Study for the Eastern Caribbean, March 2014 to current
PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Poster presentations abstracted into peer-reviewed journals


Presentations

• **G Wharfe**. “Managing with limited or no CFC’s, What is possible.” World Federation of Haemophilia Conference, Melbourne, Australia, May 2014.

• **G Wharfe**. “Chemotherapy for Breast cancer with emphasis on neoadjuvant chemotherapy”. Associations of Surgeons Meeting, Kingston, Jamaica, May 2014.


• **NP Williams**. “Update on Carcinoma of the Colon”. UWI Health
Centre Continuing Medical Education Course, Kingston Jamaica, September, 2013.

- **B Hanchard.** “40 years of liver biopsies in Jamaica: What have we learnt?” 2nd Biennial UWI Surgical Pathology Conference Kingston, 2014

- **M Bromfield.** “An approach to the Renal Biopsy for the General Pathologist” Jamaican Association of Clinical Pathologists Annual Symposium, Kingston, June 2014

- **D Lowe.** “Colon Cancer Treatment – Downstaging advanced Disease”, Colon Cancer Awareness Symposium, Golf View Hotel, Mandeville, Manchester. March, 2014

- **D Lowe.** “Approach To The Evaluation Of The Anaemic Patient”, Department of Medicine Annual Summer Workshop, Main Medical Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Mona. July 2014.


- **A Facey, R Irving and L Dilworth.** “Can Basal Lactate be used as a Biochemical Marker for Type 2 Diabetes Development?” University of the West Indies Diabetes Outreach Project Conference, Kingston, March, 2014.

- **K Bishop,** “New bronchopulmonary dysplasia (pathology)” 13th Annual Perinatal Conference on “Hot Topics in Perinatology”, University of the West Indies, February, 2014

**Reports**


**REFEREEED (PEER-REVIEWED) JOURNAL ARTICLES**


• Dilworth LL, McGrowder DA, Thompson RK. “Identification of
pre-analytical errors in the Chemical Pathology Laboratory at the University Hospital of the West Indies”. Indian Journal of Clinical Biochemistry 29, 2 (2014):227–231


REFEREED (PEER-REVIEWED) JOURNAL ABSTRACTS

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. D. McGrowder
– President, Jamaican Association of Clinical Pathologists
– Vice President, Laboratory Association of Jamaica.
– Member, Accreditation Evaluation Committee, Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC)

Professor B. Hanchard
– Member of Executive Board, International Society of Retrovirology
– Member of Board of Directors, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr. N. Williams
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society
– UWI Medical Alumni Association – Executive Member
– UWI Mentorship Programme
– ICHS Alumnae Association Scholarship Committee
– MRC Learning Centre, “Introduction to the Medical Sciences: Summer Programme 2013”

Dr S Shirley
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society
– Reviewer, West Indian Medical Journal
– Member, Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation Council (JANAAC) Technical
– Advisory Committee ISO 15189 for Medical Laboratories

Dr K Bishop
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr M Bromfield
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society
Professor C Escoffery
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr T Gibson
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr J Jaggon
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society
– Member, Jamaica League Against Epilepsy

Dr D Lowe
– Executive Member, Leukemia CARE

Dr E Williams
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Professor F Bennett
– Editorial Board Member, West Indian Medical Journal

Dr L Dilworth
– Member of the Rotary Club of New Kingston

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR TO THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Robert Riddell, Head of Section, Gastrointestinal Pathology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

AWARDS

Staff

• Professor Kathleen Coard – “Best Research Publication” in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, at the University of the West Indies, Research Day 2014 Awards Ceremony.
• Professor Kathleen Coard – “Greatest Multidisciplinary Collaboration,” in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, at the University of the West Indies, Research Day 2014 Awards Ceremony.

• Dr. Lowell Dilworth – The Principal’s Research Award for “Most Outstanding Research Activity” for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Research Day 2014 Awards Ceremony.

• Dr. Donovan McGrowder – Principal’s Award: “Most Outstanding Research Activity” for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Research Day 2014 Awards Ceremony.

Students – Undergraduate

• Auvarhenne Howell – Pathology/Microbiology Medal - Best Overall Performer

• Auvarhenne Howell – Professor Stanley Brooks Book Prize – Best Overall Performer (Pathology)