



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, RADIOLOGY, ANAESTHESIA & INTENSIVE CARE

Departmental Report August 2020 - July 2021

Prof. Joseph Plummer · **Head of Department**

DM, FASCRS, FACS

WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (SURRADIC), in the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) has four divisions, namely: Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine was at the forefront of the University of the West Indies and Jamaica's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it affected all aspects of our operations. The Department did well to build on some of the lessons gained from the previous academic year in managing this pandemic, but it was obvious that both students and faculty were impacted, and in addition to survival, we returned to core functions with a view to excelling in the core areas of teaching and research. The blended mode of delivery was now fully honed by the full complement of staff and appreciated by our students. The reduction in the number of face-to-face encounters in the clinical space was reciprocated by an increase in the virtual world including the introduction of newer modes of teaching such as telemedicine for clinical consultations and the increase in the availability and use of technology allowed for greater consultation and collaboration, again to our advantage of cost savings while maintaining quantity and quality. The COVID-19 challenges, while accepting that they affected some of the Department's plans, strategic ally we remain firmly grounded on the pillars of: teaching and education, research, clinical services, and outreach and infrastructure aligned with the University of the West Indies' guiding pillars of, Access, Alignment and Agility. Our research output, albeit may not actually be reflected in the absolute number of manuscripts published, took

the greatest hit from the Covid-19 pandemic. This is based on the noticeable reduction in ongoing research and access to funding for such activities. Still the potential opportunities presented were not lost including exploring options for greater outpatient therapy, greater efficiency of care and attention to the smoldering epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases. Care was also taken to mitigate the impact of burn-out of staff and our postgraduate students while also putting appropriate support mechanism to ensure for their mental health. This included seminars for the optimisation of coping skills, access counselling services and where necessary, greater support for 'mental health' days.

ACCESS

Teaching and Education

During the year under review our attention to our students focused on the use of competency based training in the clinical and simulated clinical environment (the use of the FMSTRC Skills Laboratory), and at the undergraduate level greater emphasis was placed on strengthening our clerkships, including the assessment processes. Throughout the academic year there were some Covid-19 induced delays in the clinical clerkships resulting in the final MBBS examinations being approximately six weeks later than usual. These were nonetheless successful with greater than 95 percent of students achieving a pass and several with honours and distinction.

The following students were awarded DM degrees:

DM Anaesthesia and Intensive Care

Rashida Darville
Renee Nesbeth
Anna Lisa Miller
Jodi-Ann Brown
Keisha Hoyte

DM General Surgery

Chapman Longmore
Garriel Barker
Shaun Smith
Shakera Guyah

DM Neurosurgery

Ronette Goodluck
Mikhail Harty
Peyton Lawrence

DM Orthopaedics

Bruce Blagrove
Darren Fray
Richard Reynolds
Kijana Barrett
Stephen Babolal

DM Plastic Surgery

Carlos Neblett
Miguel Johnson

Research

There was a deliberate effort to reignite clinical research in the Department with the appointment of a Director of Research to coordinate interdepartmental projects, motivate efforts at obtaining grants and to reengage regional and international partners for collaborative studies. Our ongoing research efforts in the management of NCDs in partnership with the Southern University of New York (SUNY) led to the application of one NIH grant, with others in the pipeline. Data entry in the various Registries (Trauma, Colorectal Cancer, Brain Tumour) maintained by the Department continue at a reduced pace due to Covid-19 induced staff changes. It is however hoped that as we adapt to living with the pandemic and with the increasing use of electronic medical records at our institutions, this process will become less labour intensive, and may even be outsourced. The year under review also saw us collaborating with partners for one clinical trial which is ongoing: Use of Dibenzyl Trisulphide (active ingredient in Guinea Hen Weed) as a Chemotherapeutic Agent in the treatment of Stage Four Cancer

Clinical Services

The Department's overall activities were negatively impacted by the waves of the Covid-19 pandemic and this led to changes in the clinical distribution of patients and resources. The University Hospital and members of SURRADIC faculty continue to lead the national effort against the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, our Emergency Medicine and Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Divisions were stretched, with there being a corresponding reduction in elective surgeries and demands on Radiology. Interventional Radiology saw an uptick in its services. Overall this led to some rotational re-deployment in staff to assist the internal medicine team as we all worked together to navigate the disruptions with minimal impact. The surgical emphasis was on cancer care and emergencies, with some reduction in planned activities such as renal transplants and advanced laparoscopic cases. Recognising the negative impact on surgical services, all efforts are being made to reduce this on the experience of residents by ensuring an even greater need for a fully functional surgical skills laboratory.

Staffing

Promotions

Dr William Aiken: Professor

Dr Hilary Brown: Senior Lecturer

Dr Kenneth Vaughan: Senior Lecturer

Employee Developments

Dr Jean Williams-Johnson – Diploma in Medical Education from the University of Dundee

Dr Akil Baker - Masters of Science in Applied Statistics, University of Delaware

Ms. Laurel Bennett – Legal Education Certificate, Norman Manley Law School

Dr Belinda Morrison-Blidgen - PhD candidate in Epidemiology at CAIHR

Dr Ingrid Tennant - PhD candidate in Epidemiology at CAIHR

Dr Gareth Reid - reading for the Masters of Science in Epidemiology at CAIHR

Dr Derria Cornwall - reading for the Masters of Science in Epidemiology at CAIHR

AWARDS

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

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Sawh R, **Mowatt L**. "An unusual cause of visual loss: Subfoveal, motile angiostrongyliasis". Trop Doct. 2021 Jul;51(3):441-443. Burton MJ, Ramke J, Marques AP, Bourne RRA, Congdon N, Jones I, Ah Tong BAM, Arunga S, Bachani D, Bascaran C, Bastawrous A, Blanchet K, Braithwaite T, Buchan JC, Cairns J, Cama A, Chagunda M, Chuluunkhuu C, Cooper A, Crofts-Lawrence J, Dean WH, Denniston AK, Ehrlich JR, Emerson PM, Evans JR, Frick KD, Friedman DS, Furtado JM, Gichangi MM, Gichuhi S, Gilbert SS, Gurung R, Habtamu E, Holland P, Jonas JB, Keane PA, Keay L, Khanna RC, Khaw PT, Kuper H, Kyari F, Lansingh VC, Mactaggart I, Mafwiri MM, Mathenge W, McCormick I, Morjaria P, **Mowatt L**, Muirhead D, Murthy GVS, Mwangi N, Patel DB, Peto T, Qureshi BM, Salomão SR, Sarah V, Shilio BR, Solomon AW, Swenor BK, Taylor HR, Wang N, Webson A, West SK, Wong TY, Wormald R, Yamin S, Yusufu M, Silva JC, Resnikoff S, Ravilla T, Gilbert CE, Foster A, Faal HB. "The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health: vision beyond 2020." Lancet Glob Health. 2021 Apr;9(4):e489-e551 C Neblett, **R Venugopal**, M Johnson, **D Mitchell** and V Kunc. "Gestational Gigantomastia- A Rare Entity complicated by life threatening haemorrhage". Journal of Surgical Case Reports vol. 2021, issue 4 April 2021. Antoine, C. M., **Morrison, B. F.**, & Brooks, M. E. "Complications of Prostate Biopsy: A Prospective, Single-institution Study." Journal of Advances in Medicine and Medical Research. 2020. 32(24), 271-279. <https://doi.org/10.9734/jammr/2020/v32i2430779> Whyte N, **Morrison-Blidgen B**, Asnani M. "Priapism in Sickle Cell Disease: An Evaluation of the Knowledge of an at risk Population in Jamaica". Sex Med. 2021 May 11;9(3):100339. doi: 10.1016/j.esxm.2021.100339. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33991817 Willie-Tyndale D, Donaldson-Davis K, Ashby-Mitchell K, McKoy Davis J, **Aiken WD**, Eldemire-Shearer D. "Sexual Activity and Depressive Symptoms in Later Life: Insights from Jamaica". Clin Gerontol. 2021 May-Jun;44(3):316-330. doi: 10.1080/07317115.2021.1882636. Epub 2021 Mar 8. PMID: 33685368. Dubey B, Jackson M, Zeigler-Johnson C, Devarajan K, Flores-Obando RE, McFarlane-Anderson N, Tulloch-Reid M, **Aiken W**, Kimbro K, Reed D, Kidd LR, Gibbs D, Kumar S, Ragin C. "Interactive effect of TLR SNPs and exposure to sexually transmitted infections on prostate cancer risk in Jamaican men". Prostate. 2020 Nov;80(15):1365-1372. doi: 10.1002/pros.24067. Epub 2020 Sep 7. PMID: 32894795; PMCID: PMC7710572.

Condappa A, McGrowder D, **Aiken W**, McLaughlin W, Gossell-Williams M. "Evaluation of Plasma Circulating Cell Free DNA Concentration and Integrity in Patients with Prostate Cancer in Jamaica: A Preliminary Study". *Diseases*. 2020 Sep 7;8(3):34. doi: 10.3390/diseases8030034. PMID: 32906694; PMCID: PMC7564624.

Angela Rankine-Mullings, Marvin Reid, **Deanne Soares**, Carolyn Taylor-Bryan, Margaret Wisdom-Phipps, Karen Aldred, Teresa Latham, William H. Schultz, Jennifer Knight-Madden, Asha Badaloo, Adam Lane, Robert J. Adams, and Russell E. Ware "Hydroxyurea treatment reduces Transcranial Doppler (TCD) velocity in the absence of transfusion support in children with sickle cell anaemia, elevated TCD velocity, and cerebral vasculopathy: The EXTEND trial" *British Journal of Haematology* i.f. 5.5, ID: BJH17698, DOI: 10.1111/bjh.17698, Article ID: Published 21 July 202117144678 Steele O, Duncan AL, Simms LN, Duncan SA, **Dundas Byles SE, Duncan ND**. "Splenectomy in Jamaican Children with Sickle Cell Disease: Outcome of Selective Blood Transfusion". *Trop Doct*. 51(2) 2021:150-155 **Palmer W, Christmas M**. "Conversion to Online Teaching of a Clinical Clerkship during the Covid-19 Pandemic". (*Carib. Med. Journ*. 2020 Dec 12; Supp Issue. doi: 10.48107/CMJ.2020.12.008 Ulanda Singh, **Akil Baker**. "Midgut rotation: a rare presentation of bowel obstruction in an adult". *Journal of Surgical Case Reports* 2021; 7,1-3. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jscr/rjab309> **Blidgen JL**, McGaw CD (2020) "Essential Thrombocytosis and Fatal Coronary Graft Occlusion: A Case Report". *World Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery*, 10, 187-191. <https://doi.org/10.4236/wjcs.2020.1010021>

Blidgen JL, Pinkney PA (2021) "Metachronous, Ipsilateral Primary Lung Cancer: A Case Report". *Journal of Cancer Therapy*, 12, 65-70. <https://doi.org/10.4236/jct.2021.121007>

Cawich SO, **Johnson P**, Gardener MT, Pearce NW, Sinanan A, Gosein M, **Shah S**. "Venous Drainage of the Left Liver: An Evaluation of Anatomic Variants and their Clinical Relevance". *Clinical Radiology*. 2020: DOI 10.1016/j.crad.2020.07.039.

Sheray N Chin, **Derria Cornwall, Derek I Mitchell, Michael E. McFarlane, Joseph M. Plummer**, "Breast cancer screening patterns in Jamaican women; review of the largest national mamamography clinic". *BMC Women's Health* (2021) 21: 176: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-021-01295-4>

Tiffany R. Butterfield, Alrica Bruce-Mowatt, Yakima Z.R. Phillips, Nicole Brown, Keisha Francis, Jabari Brown, Jerome P. Walker, Niel A.L. McKnight, **Kelvin Ehikhametalor**, Devon K. Taylor, **Carl A. Bruce**, Donovan McGrowder, Gilian Wharfe, Simone L. Sandiford, Tamara K. Thompson, Joshua J. Anzinger. "Assessment of commercial SARS-CoV-2

antibody assays, Jamaica”

International Journal of Infectious Diseases. Volume 105, April 2021 , Pages 333-336

ALIGNMENT

PAPERS PRESENTED

MAJOR CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

Professor J. Plummer. “Colon cancer in Jamaica 2020; what’s the story”? The Jamaica Cancer Society and the Heart Foundation of Jamaica in association with the Association of West Indies Gastroenterologists and Apex Radiology; Colon Cancer Medical Symposium, (Zoom meeting) March 14, 2021.

Dr Kelvin Ehikhametator, “Ministry of Health & Wellness Conference on Covid-19,” Ministry of Health & Wellness, online (2021), https://Zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Al-Wlfc0Q8COCFBXcn-Igw

Dr Kelvin Ehikhametator, “Review of the Severe Critically Ill Covid-19 Patient”, Ministry of Health & Wellness, online via Zoom (2021),

Dr Kelvin Ehikhametator, “Pathophysiology of Covid-19 Conference” Ministry of Health & Wellness, online (2021) <https://zoom.us/j/92661101901?pwd=QnpWcGzz0x-lemx2yW5HcDFPaEY1QT09>

B Morrison “New Hope in the management of prostate cancer.” Medical Association of Jamaica Annual Virtual Conference- September 17, 2020

B Morrison “Medical treatment of prostate cancer.” Jamaica Urological Society Annual Meeting- Virtual- September 27, 2020

B Morrison “Management of sexual dysfunction and male infertility” Caribbean College of Family Physicians Virtual Conference- October 4, 2020

B Morrison “Erectile dysfunction and management in the primary care setting” Kingston and St. Andrew Primary Care Doctors Meeting- October 8, 2020

B Morrison "Hypogonadism- much more than erectile dysfunction" Jamaica Urological Society Annual Conference- March 7, 2021

B Morrison "Management of prostate cancer" Andrew's Memorial Hospital, Nurses' Week- July 20, 2021

William D. Aiken "Social Media and the Physician", Online, Association of General Practitioners of Jamaica, Thursday, August 27, 2020

William D. Aiken "New MOHW local screening guidelines for prostate cancer" Medical Association of Jamaica Annual Conference, Online, Thursday, September 17, 2020

William D. Aiken "Midlife Crisis in Men and Women (Andropause)" Online, Caribbean College of Family Physicians, Sunday, October 4, 2020

William D. Aiken "From genes to survivorship: cancer awareness & prevention in the Caribbean and the US Black population: an honest discussion" Jamaican Nationals Association & the African Caribbean Cancer Consortium, Online webinar, October 18, 2020

William D. Aiken "Guidelines for social media use by dental practitioners" Online, virtual Global Dental Summit by Dental Association of Jamaica, February 13, 2021

William D. Aiken "Responsible use of social media by medical professionals" Online, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica Annual Conference, May 23, 2021

Mowatt L. "Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy".. 31st Annual Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI) Conference (Virtual), August 25, 2020

Mowatt L. " COVID 19 and the Eye".. 11th Annual Ophthalmological Society of Jamaica (OSJ) conference (Virtual), March 21, 2021

Mowatt L. "Practising Ophthalmology in the Covid 19 era". 11th Annual Ophthalmological Society of Jamaica (OSJ) conference (Virtual), March 21, 2021.

Mowatt L. "Heads Up 3 D Vitrectomy surgery. My experience", Virtual. Annual Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI) conference. (Virtual), July 17, 2021

Mowatt L. "Update on Optical Coherence Tomogram Angiography in Sickle Cell Reti-

nopathy". 32nd Annual Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI) conference (Virtual), July 18, 2021.

Palmer W. "Shoulder Instability: Management of Bony Defects" The Caribbean Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons 15th Annual Conference (Virtual: November 2020)

Carl Bruce, "Patient first Strategy for 2021-2023". The University of the West Indies (UWI) & the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Technical Advisory Council (TAC). Presentation of Biennial Estimates, March 2, 2021

Carl Bruce, "Neurosurgery Intervertebral Disc Prolapse, Uncommonly Common in Health Professionals". Southern Region Health Authority. Health Professional Third Annual Symposium, Thursday, April 29, 2021.

Carl Bruce "Vaccination & Quarantine". UTech, Jamaica - Workplace Safety and Wellness: The Implications for Employee Productivity in Jamaica - Virtual Conference -. May 5, 2021

Carl Bruce "The Coronavirus Pandemic: Lessons learnt to chart a way forward", Medical Association of Jamaica Annual Symposium - Impact of Covid-19 Related Delays and Complications on Quality of Care, June 12, 2021.

Carl Bruce "Ageing & Longevity Conversations", Healthy Ageing and Longevity Dialogues: Regional Outlook on Ageing. World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Healthy Ageing and Longevity. July 27, 2021.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Joseph Plummer

Council Member, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica

Dr Derek Mitchell

Board member, Tony Thwaites Wing Ltd

Professor Newton Duncan

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Family Life Ministries, Jamaica

Professor William Aiken

Board member, Medical Council of Jamaica

Member, Expert Panel of Physicians, National Health Fund

Member, Clinic Committee, Jamaica Cancer Society

Immediate Past President, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica

Committee member, Caribbean College of Surgeons

International Surgical Advisor for Jamaica, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Assistant Governor for Jamaica South Central, Rotary District 7020

Dr Mark Newnham

Chair, Specialty Board in Surgery

Governor, American College of Surgeons (Jamaica Chapter)

Course Director, Advanced Trauma Life Support (Jamaica)

Past President and Council Member, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica

Member, Caribbean Collage of Surgeons

Vice President, Jamaica Golf Association

Multi Division and National Representative - Golf – Jamaica

Defending Senior Golf Champion, Caribbean Golf Champion

Dr Lizette Mowatt

Co-Chairman - National Technical Working Group on Eye Health (NTWG), Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) – (2018-present)

Chairman - Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) Sub Committee of the NTWG, MOHW

Member - Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) sub-committee of the NTWG, MOHW

Member - Amendments of the Optometry Act sub-committee of the NTWG, MOHW

Member - Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) sub-committee of the NTWG, MOHW

Dr Belinda Morrison

President, Caribbean Urological Society

Dr Jeffery East

President, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica

Dr Kelvin Ehikhametalor

Member – National Clinical working group of the Ministry of Health and Wellness
COVID-19 Taskforce

Dr Kenneth Vaughan

Chairman, Medical Council of Jamaica

Dr Wayne Palmer

President, Jamaica Cycling Federation

Dr Carl Bruce

University Hospital Board of Management

Executive member, Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association

Chairman, Medical/Clinical Committee, UHWI

Representative for Athletic Integrity Commission of International Amateur Athletics Federation

Board member, Mona Health Services, UWI

OUTREACH & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department's outreach and capital infrastructural spending were challenged as globally available funding was consumed with the management of the Covid-19 pandemic. In keeping with the thrust of the UWI our plans for income generation and various cost reduction measures remain a priority and should increase our standing as a Department and University in the new academic year. Our continued function in the midst of this pandemic, including the resumption of clinical teaching, speaks to the depth and adaptability of our Faculty and augurs well for the future.