

A portrait of Professor Joseph Plummer, a Black man with short dark hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a blue patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, RADIOLOGY, ANAESTHESIA & INTENSIVE CARE

Professor Joseph Plummer, DM, FASCRS, FACS – Head of Department

WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT

The period under review saw the Department of Surgery, Radiology, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (SURRADIC), like the rest of the University of the West Indies, enter the endemic phase of the COVID-19 with adaptation of our population to this new normal. We achieved the mandate of return to face-to face, nevertheless, there were some Departmental activities such as our multi-disciplinary meetings and some cross-teaching facilities lectures where the hybrid format persisted. Undergraduate teaching, fortunately, went back to full face-to-face teaching and this was reflected in the final MBBS examinations results with Mona being awarded the overall best MBBS Surgery performance across all campuses. More importantly, gratitude for the return of face-to-face teaching was also expressed by our students and lecturers who all know the importance of bedside clinical teachings to the MBBS outcome. The blended mode of delivery was honed by the full complement of staff and appreciated for its convenience and cost savings, especially our distributive method of clinical teachings to seven teaching hospitals across the island. The advance and cost savings of a virtual format was taken advantage of including some of our postgraduate examinations that are only written and oral components. It is therefore true that some increase interactions in the virtual world will remain a gift from the COVID-19 compared to the pre-pandemic era including the various multidisciplinary meetings. The same can be said about the widely used Zoom platform. This increase in the availability and use of technology allows for greater consultation and collaboration in teaching, clinical care, and research, again to our advantage of cost savings while increasing quantity and maintaining quality.

Our research efforts continue to lag behind the Campus average and this is recognised not only by the Department members but also by the Faculty and Campus leaders. Nevertheless, our collaborative research activities saw three members of the Department being honoured by the Campus for outstanding research activities. There are several Faculty wide initiatives that once active, will bear fruit in the upcoming years.

Again we continue to amass data in our various databases and the small but continued increase in publications of residents' clinical research projects is a good and welcome development, reflecting and reinforcing the academic nature of these programmes. The Department is actively engaging in funded inter-departmental and inter-university funded collaborative research and we are sure that with this and increased faculty and postgraduate student engagement, our research output will not only increase in numbers but also in impact factor.

One major initiative launched during the year under review was the Prof Hon Sir John Golding Endowed Chair in Surgical Leadership and Education in conjunction with the Golding Family and the Ministry Health and Wellness. This aims to be a fully funded endowment that will guide postgraduate surgical training, and should be a catalyst for similar initiatives in this our 75th anniversary year. Based on the commitment by the various stakeholders, we are well on our way for achieving the targeted \$150 million needed to install this professor.

Care was also taken to reduce the impact of burn-out and mental health issues in staff and our postgraduate students with a liberal 'time off' approach. Additional measures included publicising information about seminars for the optimisation of coping skills and regular reminders about access to counselling services. Gender issues were also ventilated and in keeping with the University's policy, we aim to create a safe workspace where all rights are respected.

Now with the COVID-19 pandemic firmly behind us, its lessons learnt, and its induced advantages retained, the Department of SURRADIC is now appropriately poised and returned to its core functions: 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.

ACCESS

TEACHING AND EDUCATION

During the year under review our attention to our students focused on ensuring that we were graduating the student with the clinical skills the medical fraternity had grown to expect from the UWI. Emphasis was placed on face clinical teaching for our undergraduate students and more emphasis on competency based training in the clinical and simulated clinical environment for our postgraduates. Again at the undergraduate level emphasis was placed on strengthening our clerkships, including the assessment processes. The various clinical clerkships progressed well culminating with the final MBBS examinations which were a success with

greater than 90 percent of students achieving a pass and several with honours and distinctions. Mona students once again received all the significant Surgery Prizes across the Campuses.

The following students were awarded DM degrees:

Anaesthesia and Intensive Care

Dr Gabrielle Scarlett
Dr Natalee Meikle-Henry
Dr Nicolette Thompson
Dr Sonjay Reid

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr Ramon James

Emergency Medicine

Dr Denise Hibbert
Dr Elesia Powell-Williams
Dr Jarema Patrick
Dr John Haye

General Surgery

Dr Chris-Wayne Swaby
Dr Cordell Green
Dr Eli McDaniel
Dr Kemba Peters
Dr Richard Shaw

Neurosurgery

Dr Renee Cruickshank
Dr Tasha-Kay Walker-Palmer

Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr Mario Thomas
Otolaryngology
Dr Celois Lawrence
Dr Davinia Passley
Dr Josemar Cuffe
Dr Ryan Lodenquai

Paediatric Surgery

Dr Odayne Steele
Dr Orville Morgan

Radiology

Dr Aundre Roberts
Dr Chinelo Holder
Dr Erica Shaw
Dr Lianne Levy
Dr Nasheva Palmer
Dr Nikkara Gibson
Dr Wendy Campbell

Urology

Dr Nichelle Whyte

RESEARCH

Our efforts at clinical research in the Department remains at an active effort and actively making efforts to ensure that each clinical research project produced by our residents is published in conjunction with the clinical supervisor.

Data entry in the various Registries (Trauma, Colorectal Cancer, Brain Tumour) continues as did our efforts to convert all the captured data into Redcap. As these databases continue to accumulate data, it is hoped that we shall see increased publications by virtue of awareness and usage.

Our collaboration with partners for two clinical trials are ongoing:

- *Use of Dibenzyl Trisulphide (active ingredient in Guinea Hen Weed) as a Chemotherapeutic Agent in the treatment of Stage Four Cancer, and*
- Management of chronic leg ulcers in patients with sickle cell disease.

Registries

Trauma Registry/Redcap

A total of 1,394 patient records have been entered in the Redcap database. Data entry and edits are ongoing.

Colorectal Cancer Registry

A total of 2,282 patients have been entered.

Intracranial (Brain) Tumor Registry

A total of 1,418 cases have been entered.

Clinical Services

The Department's overall activities are back to pre-Covid-19 levels, with the important difference being an emphasis on more efficient care, especially with the resource pinch that we continue to experience. The University and members of SURRADIC faculty remain firmly committed in providing evidence- based high quality health care at the tertiary and quaternary level. Our Radiology Division saw increased investments in modern diagnostic and interventional technologies while Emergency Medicine and Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Divisions continue to provide the high quality service expected. There continues to be success in major surgeries such as our involvement in liver transplantation and should be commended, however, leveraging these successes remains a challenge. In order for the faculty to excel, this must happen, and the Department is aware of this.

STAFFING

Promotions & Retirements

- Dr Jean Williams-Johnson – Professor of Emergency Medicine
- Dr Lizette Mowatt – Professor of Ophthalmology
- Dr Marina Scarlett – Retirement
- Dr Wayne West – Retirement

Employee Development

- Dr Belinda Morrison-Blidgen – 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

- Dr Ingrid Tennant – PhD in Epidemiology
- Dr Akil Baker – MS in Applied Statistics
- Professor Williams Aiken – UWI Research Award
- Dr Deanne Soares – UWI Research Award.
- Dr Kelvin Ehikhametalor – UWI Research Award

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- **Newnham MS**, Dan D, Maharaj R, **Plummer JM**. “Surgical training in the Caribbean: The past, the present, and the future”. *Front Surg*. 2023 Jun 16;10:1203490. doi: 10.3389/fsurg.2023.1203490. PMID: 37396294; PMCID: PMC10311995.
- Magan P, Chin See C, **Clarke D**, Patel F, Senn D. “Correction: Rupture of the Tibialis Posterior Tendon with Associated Bimalleolar Ankle Fracture”. *Cureus*. 2023 Jan 15;15(1):c95. doi: 10.7759/cureus.c95. Erratum for: *Cureus*. 2022 Nov 25;14(11):e31886. PMID: 36655158; PMCID: PMC9841553.
- Valentine H, **Aiken W**, **Morrison B**, Zhao Z, Fowle H, Wasserman JS, Thompson E, **Chin W**, **Young M**, Clarke S, Gibbs D, Harrison S, McLaughlin W, Kwok T, Jin F, Campbell KS, Horvath A, Thompson R, Lee NH, Zhou Y, Graña X, Ragin C, Badal S. “Expanding the prostate cancer cell line repertoire with ACRJ-PC28, an AR-negative neuroendocrine cell line derived from an African-Caribbean patient. *Cancer Res Commun*. 2022 Nov;2(11):1355-1371. doi: 10.1158/2767-9764.crc-22-0245. Epub 2022 Nov 7. PMID: 36643868; PMCID: PMC9836004.
- Magan P, Chin See C, **Clarke D**, Patel F, Senn D. Rupture of the Tibialis Posterior Tendon With Associated Bimalleolar Ankle Fracture. *Cureus*. 2022 Nov 25;14(11):e31886. doi: 10.7759/cureus.31886. Erratum in: *Cureus*. 2023 Jan 15;15(1):c95. PMID: 36579223; PMCID: PMC9790175.
- Cunningham-Myrie C, Theall KP, Younger-Coleman N, Wiggan J, McFarlane S, Francis D, Bennett N, Tulloch-Reid M, Ferguson TS, Davidson T, Govia I, Guthrie-Dixon N, **Aiken W**, Grant A, Webster-Kerr K, Wilks R. Who moves in vulnerable Caribbean neighborhoods? Positive deviance for physical activity: Findings from the Jamaica health and Lifestyle Survey 2017 (JHLS III). *Prev Med Rep*. 2022 Sep 21;30:101998. doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2022.101998. PMID: 36189127; PMCID: PMC9519374.

- Fisher LA, **Stephenson S**, Reid MT, Anderson SG. Acute kidney injury following cardiopulmonary bypass in Jamaica. *JTCVS Open*. 2022 May 31;11:161-175. doi: 10.1016/j.xjon.2022.05.012. PMID: 36172431; PMCID: PMC9510884.
- **Tennant IA**, Hull DM, Fagan MA, Casaletto KB, Heaton RK, James Bateman C, Erickson KI, Forrester T, Boyne M. Assessment of cross-cultural measurement invariance of the NIH toolbox fluid cognition measures between Jamaicans and African-Americans. *Appl Neuropsychol Adult*. 2022 Sep 27:1-9. doi: 10.1080/23279095.2022.2126939. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36167328.
- Peters KA, **Roberts PO**, **Cornwall DA**, **Mitchell DI**, Thompson RK. Clinico-pathological Factors Affecting Breast Cancer Survival in Jamaican Women: A Retrospective Review. *J Racial Ethn Health Disparities*. 2023 Apr;10(2):844-858. doi: 10.1007/s40615-022-01273-y. Epub 2022 Mar 9. PMID: 35266120.
- Thompson DS, Francis-Emmanuel PM, **Barnett AT***, Osmond C, Hanson MA, Byrne CD, Gluckman PD, Forrester TE, Boyne MS. The effect of wasting and stunting during severe acute malnutrition in infancy on insulin sensitivity and insulin clearance in adult life. *J Dev Orig Health Dis*. 2022 Dec;13(6):750-756. doi: 10.1017/S2040174422000034. Epub 2022 Mar 1. PMID: 35229708.
- Hlaing SS, Field AY, **Mowatt LL**, Yee HL, Noguera CM, Palmer GL, Mattis AC, Nelson CC, Fleming JC. “Pachydermoperiostosis with bilateral ptosis and its associated systemic comorbidities: a rare case report”. *Pan African Medical Journal*. 2023 Jun 20;45:88. doi: 10.11604/pamj.2023.45.88.38964. PMID: 37663630; PMCID: PMC10474806.
- Jordan VA, **Mowatt LL**. “Vision-related quality-of-life in Jamaican glaucoma patients at Kingston Public Hospital”. *Int J Ophthalmol*. 2022 Nov 18;15(11):1791-1797. doi: 10.18240/ijo.2022.11.09. PMID: 36404962; PMCID: PMC9631198.
- **Mowatt L**, Foster T, Mullings J. “The Impact of Visual Impairment on the Quality of Life of Diabetic Patients Attending the University Hospital of the West Indies”. *West Indian Med Journal*. Jan 2023; 69 (9):599-605.
- Debbie Thompson, Kimberley McKenzie, Asha Badaloo, Carolyn Taylor-Bryan, **Ingrid Tennant**, **Deanne Soares**, Terrence Forrester, Michael Boyne “Faster rehabilitation weight gain is associated with liver fat in adult survivors of childhood severe acute malnutrition.” *World Nutrition* (2022) 13 (4), 5-14, <https://doi.org/10.26596/wn.20221345-14>

Non-Refereed Publication

- **Professor Jean Williams-Johnson**- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/how-to-improve-care-for-the-elderly> Developed in conjunction with the Office of Online Learning and the Office of Global Affairs; Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of the West Indies.

ALIGNMENT

PAPERS PRESENTED

Major Conferences/Seminars

- **J. Plummer** “Development of a Cancer Centre in Jamaica”. 10th Annual Scientific Meeting, Caribbean Society of Endoscopic Surgeons (CASES) Nov 10–12, 2022
- **J. Plummer** “Residency Training and its Future” Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium, Half Moon Resort, Montego Bay, Jamaica, Feb 9–12, 2023
- **J. Plummer** “Surgical Training at the UWI” The 14th Annual University of the West Indies’ Medical Alumni Association (UWIMAA) Meeting, June 2023
- **W. Aiken** “Practical Approach to the Management of Chronic Male Pelvic Pain”, Jamaica Urological Society Annual Symposium, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, March 5, 2023
- **Newton D. Duncan** “Attending to the Caribbean’s Child Health Needs through Surgical Education”. 35th Annual Sir Harry Annamunthodo Memorial Lecture: Association of Surgeons in Jamaica 64th Annual Scientific Symposium, The Summit, May 21, 2023
- **Mowatt L.** “Ophthalmological Profile of patients with Sickle Cell disease at the University Hospital of the West Indies”. 34th Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies, July 14, 2023, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Florida
- **Mowatt L.** “DM Ophthalmology 20 years strong”. 34th Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies, July 13, 2023, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami
- **Mowatt L.** “Retinopathy of Prematurity – The next mountain to climb”. Pediatric Preventable Blindness Symposium (PPBS). July 12, 2023. Bascom Palmer Institute, Miami, Florida
- **Mowatt L.** “Sunlight, Light Pollution and the Eye”. Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ) Conference (Virtual) June 10, 2023
- **Mowatt L.** “Retinopathy of Prematurity; Then and Now”. 13th Annual Ophthalmological Society of Jamaica (virtual), March 19, 2023
- **Mowatt L.** “Ocular Signs of Stroke”. 21st Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium, Half Moon Resort, Montego Bay, Jamaica, Feb 9–12, 2023
- **Mowatt L.** “Retinal Manifestations of the Covid 19 vaccine”. 33rd Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies, July 9, 2022, Antigua

- **Mowatt L.** “Choroidal Imaging: What lies beneath?” 33rd Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies, July 8, 2022, Antigua
- **Deanne Soares** “Self Care: Burnout and other maladies afflicting physicians, healthcare workers and other humans” Global Health Research Workshop, Wayne State University, Detroit, U.S.A., Global Health Research Collaborative, (virtual) July 2022
- **B. Morrision-Blidgen** “Prostate Cancer and Sickle Cell Disease – Is there an Association?” Jamaica Urological Society Annual Symposium, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, March 5, 2023
- **Shuvra Dasgupta** “Pain in Sickle Cell Disease”. Sickle Cell Unit in association with the Caribbean College of Family Physicians, (virtual symposium) Sept 3, 2023
- **Romayne Edwards** “Management of Cardiac Arrest in the Emergency Department”. (virtual), Heart Foundation of Jamaica’s symposium. August 23, 2023
- **Simone Dundas Byles** “Reclaiming our Time 2: Better Time management for Busy Medics”. Spanish Town Hospital CME Meeting. March 30, 2023
- **Simone Dundas Byles** “Neonatal Circumcision”. Winchester Surgical & Medical Institute, Kingston, October 29, 2022
- **M Christmas** “Platelet-Rich Plasma versus Corticosteroid Injections in the Management of Rotator Cuff Tendinopathies”. Jamaican Orthopaedic Association 25th Annual Conference May 6–7 2023, Jamaica Conference Centre
- **W Palmer** “Rotator cuff tears” Jamaican Orthopaedic Association 25th Annual Conference May 6–7 2023, Jamaica Conference Centre
- **W Palmer** “Reverse Shoulder Arthroplasty”. Jamaican Orthopaedic Association 25th Annual Conference May 6–7 2023, Jamaica Conference Centre
- **A Ameeraly** “Management of Extra-articular Deformities in Total Knee Replacement” Jamaican Orthopaedic Association 25th Annual Conference May 6-7 2023, Jamaica Conference Centre
- **A Ameeraly** “Stiffness after Total Knee Arthroplasty”. The Caribbean Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons 17th Annual Conference, Oct 2022
- **O Samuels** “The Utilisation of the trochanteric Cable plate in Hip Arthroplasty and Reconstruction” The Caribbean Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons 17th Annual Conference Oct 2022
- **P. Roberts** “Genetic testing for Breast Cancer in Jamaica” The Association of Surgeons in Jamaica, 64th Annual Clinical Symposium, The Summit, May 19–21, 2023
- **S. Stephenson** “Renal Failure post open-heart procedures at UHWI”, The Association of Surgeons in Jamaica, 64th Annual Clinical Symposium, The Summit, May 19–21, 2023

- **P. Pinkney** “VATS Lobectomy – A Video Presentation” The Association of Surgeons in Jamaica, 64th Annual Clinical Symposium, The Summit, May 19–21, 2023
- P. Ho and **R. Venugopal** “Comparing Outcomes of Dressings in Sickle Cell Disease” (Winner of Resident Presentation), The Association of Surgeons in Jamaica, 64th Annual Clinical Symposium, The Summit, May 19–21, 2023
- C Heywood, S Ramkumar and **R Venugopal** “Breast Reconstruction Post Mastectomy – Guyana’s First Case”, The 21st Annual Caribbean College of Surgeons’ Scientific Conference, Belize, July 13–16, 2023.

Posters

- Yap J, **Mowatt L.** “To see or not to see. That is the question. (Traumatic optic neuropathy)”. 33rd Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies. Royalton Antigua Hotel, Antigua. July 9, 2022.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Joseph Plummer

- Council Member, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica
- Board Member, University Hospital of the West Indies

Professor William Aiken

- Board member, Medical Council of Jamaica
- Member, Expert Panel of Physicians, National Health Fund
- Member, Clinic Committee, Jamaica Cancer Society
- Past President, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica
- Committee member, Caribbean College of Surgeons
- International Surgical Advisor for Jamaica, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- District Governor nominee, Rotary District 7020
- Volunteer Doctor for the Jamaica Cancer Society Prostate Cancer Screening Outreach

Professor Lizette Mowatt

- Immediate Past President of the Ophthalmological Society of Jamaica (OSJ)
- Co-Chairman – National Technical Working Group on Eye Health (NTWG), Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW)
- Chairman – Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) Sub Committee of the NTWG, MOHW

- Member – Retinopathy of Prematurity 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

Professor Jean Williams-Johnson

- Member Board of Management of the Caribbean Poison Information Network (Deputy Chairman/Hon Secretary).
- Member Board of Management of the John Rufus Williams Education Trust (Hon secretary)

Dr Mark Newnham

- Chair, Specialty Board in Surgery
- Governor, American College of Surgeons (Jamaica Chapter)
- Course Director, Advanced Trauma Life Support (Jamaica)
- Past President, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica
- Member, Caribbean College of Surgeons
- Vice President, Jamaica Golf Association
- Multi Division and National Representative – Golf – Jamaica
- Defending Senior Golf Champion, Caribbean Golf Champion

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

Dr Shuvra Dasgupta

- Board member of the National Resuscitation Council

Dr Rhonda Hutson

- President of Jamaica Association of Sports Medicine

Dr Kelvin Ehikhametalor

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

Dr Wayne Palmer

- President, Jamaica Cycling Federation

Dr Anthony Roberts

- President, Association of Surgeons in Jamaica

Dr Orville Samuels

- President Jamaican Orthopaedic Association

Dr Andrew Ameeraly

- Vice-president Jamaican Orthopaedic Association

AGILITY

GRANT

Research: Corticosteroid vs Platelet-Rich Plasma Intra-articular Injections in the Treatment of Knee Osteoarthritis in Patients Fifty Years and Older: A Look at Pain and Functional Outcomes at a Single Institution.

Researchers: **W Palmer**, R Nelson

Grant Amount received: **JA\$336,153.50**

Institution providing funding: Tony Thwaites Wing of University Hospital West Indies.