DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY AND
CHILD HEALTH

Professor Horace M. Fletcher, BSc, MB BS, DM(O&G),
FRCOG, FACOG – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The main focus of the department is to improve the health and welfare of families, in particular women and children in the region. This is done through clinical (service) work and academic (teaching and research). The department comprises Obstetric and Gynaecological services (reproductive endocrinology, gynaecological oncology and perinatal services) as well as Child Health dealing with medical problems, neonatology and psychological disorders (development and behavioural Paediatrics).

We teach medical students, postgraduate students (Doctorate Medicus Obstetrics/Gynaecology and Paediatrics) as well as supervise other post Graduate students M Phil and PhD. We also assist in the teaching of Midwives and nurses.

Child Health

This department is comprised of two medical wards, one neonatal intensive care unit and several outpatient clinics. The main subspecialties include infectious diseases, development and behavioural Paediatrics, endocrinology, cardiology, gastroenterology, neonatology, nephrology, neurology and pulmonology. Complications of medical conditions are managed in conjunction with other specialties. Residents and medical students are taught and referrals are accepted from the rest of the islands of the Caribbean. The section of Child Health successfully staged the second Biennial Child Health conference Entitled Issues in Paediatric Endocrinology for General Practitioners May 1-2 2004. This conference saw excellent presentations by a multidisciplinary faculty of esteemed experts from Jamaica and the United States. There were
approximately 150 registrants including paediatricians, general practitioners, nurses physiotherapists, medical and nursing students

**Minority International Research Training (MIRT) Programme**
National Institutes of Health

The MIRT programme, jointly coordinated by Michigan State University (MSU) and the Section of Child Health, and funded by the NIH is now in its eighth year.

**Obstetric Perinatal Service**

The Perinatal service manages high risk obstetric cases and accepts referrals from the rest of the island as well as the rest of the Caribbean. It is run by Drs Kulkarni, Mullings, Simms-Stewart and Samuels. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students. Perinatal Audit for 2007, UWI, Mona, February 9-10, was attended by over 600 delegates. This was a joint effort between Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Neonatology group from Child Health with external review by practitioners from outside units. The theme for the conference was perinatal nutrition.

**Oncology Unit**

This is run by 4 Consultants Professor Fletcher, Dr Rattray, Dr Mitchell and Dr. Ian Bambury. The Unit is also run by Sister Nash and her team of nurses as well as residents who rotate through on a monthly basis. The services offered are consultations for patients with gynaecological tumours, colposcopic diagnosis and treatment, and surgery for gynaecological tumours. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students.

**Sterility & Fertility**

The members of the Sterility & Fertility firm and Fertility Management Unit resumed the In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer Programme for the treatment of infertile patients from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. The programme was restructured to streamline and accommodate the treatment of infertile couples on a continuous basis. Professor Joseph Frederick as director of the programme with Drs. Shaun Wynter, Vernon DaCosta John Harriott and Loxley Christie as clinicians and Dr. Audrey Pottinger and Sister McKenzie as counselors. Two other staff members in the programme are Miss Denise Everett, a senior embryologist (Biologist) and Miss Hillary Walters a staff Nurse as
the coordinator of the programme. Since the resumption, the pregnancy rates have shown considerable improvement as we are also achieving pregnancies from the frozen embryos and donor eggs. A major breakthrough is that all the documents required for the registration of the drugs used in the programme have been submitted to the Pharmaceuticals & Regulatory Affairs in the Ministry of Health.

The unit also undertakes operative and diagnostic laparoscopy, contraception and sterilisation advice and management. Counseling in family planning and family life is also offered.

PAPERS PRESENTED:

Christie CDC


- “Pentavalent Human-Bovine Reassortant Rotavirus Vaccine (PRV) Reduced Healthcare Resource Utilization (HCRU) in Jamaican Infants.” Yale University School of Medicine, Connecticut, USA, April 2007.


Fletcher H.


Bailey, K.

- “Update on Bronchiolitis”. Medical Staff of KSA – Ministry of Health, November 2006.


• “Journey to Total Control” A GINA UPDATE , Western Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica, July 2007

Harriott J.

• “Contraception in Cardiovascular Disease”. Grabham Society Annual Symposium 2007.

• “Impact of Nutrition on Fertility”, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Perinatal Conference 2007


Kulkarni S.


Melbourne Chambers R.

• “Normal Sleep and Sleep Disorders in Childhood.” Spanish Town Hospital, April 2007.


• (with Donaldson D, Trotman H, Barton M.) “Results of Laboratory Investigations In Children Presenting With Seizures And Fever, University Hospital of The West Indies. 15th Annual Research Conference and Workshop, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Mona, November 2006.

• (with Donaldson D, Barton M, Trotman H.) “Outcome of Children Presenting to the University Hospital of the West Indies with a Diagnosis of Febrile Seizures,” 15th Annual
Research Conference and Workshop. Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Mona, November 2006.


Mullings, A.


• “A Case For Discussion - Aneuploidy - To Screen Or Not To Screen,” Clinico-Pathological Conference, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona, March 2007.

• “Prophylactic Antibiotics in Gynaecology,” ACOG District IV (West Indies Section) Annual Symposium, March 31, 2007.


Pierre RB.

• “Breastfeeding and the HIV infected infant.” 6th Annual Perinatal Conference 2007, Main Medical Lecture Theatre, University Hospital of the West Indies, February 2007.


Pottinger, Audrey

Thame, Minerva


Trotman H.

- (with Garbutt A.) “Outcome of infants with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy admitted to the neonatal unit, University Hospital of the West Indies.” Caribbean Health Research Council 52nd Annual Council and Scientific Meetings, Jamaica, May 2007.

Wynter S.

- “Tic Toc goes the Reproductive Biology Clock, Time is Running Out.” Advanced Training and Research in Fertility Management Unit Conference, The Courtleigh Hotel, Kingston, October 2006

- “Infertility Treatment for Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome- The way forward.” MAJ Annual Conference, Meridien Pegasus Hotel Kingston Jamaica, June 2007

Posters


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• Tomlinson T, Scott C, Trotman H. The epidemiology of cardiac lesions seen in children with Trisomy 21, Bustamante Hospital for Children. FMS 15th Annual Research Conference November 2006.

• Donaldson D, Trotman H, Barton M, Melbourne-Chambers R. Results of laboratory investigations in children presenting with seizures and fever at the University Hospital of the West Indies. FMS 15th Annual Research Conference November 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal

WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal


management" for gastroschisis: a preliminary report. WIMJ, 2005 Mar; 54(2):152-4


* Pepple DJ, Mullings AM, Reid HL. Fetal Haemoglobin Level in Pre-eclampsia. WIMJ, 2006; 55: 130

* Mullings AM. Research Ethics Committees - preserving research integrity and the public trust. Editorial - WIMJ, 2007; 56: 105-7


* Trotman H, Bell Y, Thame M, Nicholson A, Barton M. Predictors of poor outcome in neonates with bacterial sepsis admitted to the University Hospital of the West Indies. WIMJ, 2006; 55(2):80-83.


Books and Monographs:

Technical Report

* Development and implementation of the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils Registration Examination. RB Pierre, A McDonald (Editors). Office of the Dean, Faulty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Mona, Jamaica, May 2007. Report submitted to the Board of the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils.


Non-referred

ABSTRACTS:
Peer-reviewed Abstracts


* Pilgrim N., Kershaw T., Pierre RB., Moore J., Palmer P., Davis D., Christie CDC. HIV positive adolescents in Jamaica: Do they differ by guardian status. WIMJ, 36; 55(4); 2006


* Watt A, Ragin C, Younger N, Garwood D, Jackson M, Smikle M, Fletcher H, McFarlane-Anderson N. Human Papilloma-
virus (HPV) Infection in Jamaican Women, WIMJ, (Supp 4) 2006 55:23


* Simms-Stewart D, Ennis A, Bambury I, Williams N and Fletcher H. A Review of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease at the University Hospital of the West Indies during the years 2002-2005 and a Comparison with the Data for the years 1994-1998. WIMJ, (Supp 4) 2006 55:42


* Fletcher H, Mitchell S, Bennett F, Simms-Stewart D, Scott P, Reid M, Williams N, Wharfe G and Wilks R Difference in Cardiovascular disease risk profile and Osteoporosis in Jamaican black women with surgical and natural menopause. WIMJ, (Supp1) 2007 56:40


**INCOME GENERATION**

Research Grants:

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2007
“Pediatric HIV/AIDS Leadership Initiative in Kingston, Jamaica”
International Leadership Award, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation – Extension. US$50,000.00

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Christie CDC (Principal Investigator)
"A prospective observational study of HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants at Clinical sites in Latin America and the Caribbean" March 1, 2006 through October 31, 2007, and "A prospective, observational study of HIV-exposed and HIV-infected children at clinical sites in Latin America and Caribbean Countries" Mar 1, 2006 to Oct 31, 2007; National Institutes of Health, (NIH), National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), WESTAT grant N01-HD-3-3345; – US$538,588.00

Feeney M. (Principal Investigator), Christie CDC, Co-investigator. Elizabeth Glaser Scientists Award, January 2006 to December 2011; "The Immune Response to Acute Perinatal HIV Infection", Dr. Feeney's project will involve detailed longitudinal studies of the HIV-specific immune response and viral evolution during the early years following perinatal infection and will build upon the existing collaboration with Dr. Celia Christie's Perinatal AIDS Program in Kingston, Jamaica. The project compares the HIV-specific immune response during early HIV infection among adults and children, to elucidate developmental differences in the antiviral response of CD4 and CD8 T cells. US$112,000.

Feeney M. (Principal Investigator), Christie CDC, Co-investigator. "The impact of CD8 T cells on viral control and evolution in HIV-infected infants. National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, total amount to UWI, $135,000 USD's December 1, 2006 through November 30, 2011 (ie., $19,285.71 USD's per annum for 7 years). In collaboration with Dr Celia Christie's Perinatal and Pediatric AIDS Program in Kingston, Jamaica, this project will address the CD8 T cell response and viral evolution during the first 18 months following perinatal transmission, with an emphasis on CD8 responses restricted by class I HLA alleles associated with good and bad outcome in clade B HIV infection. US$19,285.71 per annum for 7 years.

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2002 - 2006
"Mega-trial of Safety and Efficacy of Pentavalent (G1, G2, G3, G4, and P1) Human Reassortant Rotavirus Vaccine in Healthy Infants", Merck and Co., USA. Grant amount -US $1,861,020.00. This is a RCT 1:1 trial of the human bovine reassortant rotavirus vaccine in 70,321 infants, from 11 countries. We enrolled 1,805 subjects (the world's largest enrolling site, and none were lost to one year follow-up for intussusception); N Engl Jour Med, 2006; 354:23-33. Underwent (and
survived) a one-week FDA inspection of the records for this project; which was performed because of the large volume of subjects enrolled in this trial. US$1,861,020.00.

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2002 - 2005

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2003 - 2005

Professor Horace Fletcher – 2006 Research Grant from PAHO to Population council/Ministry Health/UWI for the study Emergency Contraception Provider Knowledge Attitude and Practices in the Caribbean (Co-investigator) US$10,909.51.

M Gossell Williams, Co-Investigators: M. Samms-Vaughan, H Fletcher, Gerber Baby Foods & University of North Carolina. Choline and neuro-development in humans. 1/1/05 – 30/6/08. US$ 155,000.00

H Fletcher, Principal Investigator (2006)
Cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis in women who use Depo-Provera long term. UWI Research and Publication Fund, J$300,000

"Knowledge, attitudes and practices among health care workers and students, to occupational exposures at the University Hospital of the West Indies" UWI Mona Research and Publications Fund, S Jackson, A Mullings, E Williams, J Williams-Johnson, J Farr, G Gordon-Strachan. J$50,000

Simms-Stewart, Donnette
Twin Birth Study. (Principal site investigator) Data Coordinating Centre: University of Toronto. Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Research Unit. US$8,000

R. Wilks, Co-Investigators: D. Ashley, F. Bennett, T Ferguson, T Forrester, M. Jackson, J. Knight-Madden, M. Samms-Vaughan, K. Vaughan, N. Younger. National Health Fund, CHASE Fund, Caribbean Cardiac Society, Caribbean Health Research Council, UHWI. The impact of early-life experiences on cardio-vascular risk in Jamaica: 1/1/05 - 30/6/06 J$14,000,000.00
M. Samms-Vaughan. UNICEF. The evaluation of a community based parenting programme in Jamaica. 1/1/05 – 30/6/06. Phase I J$1,775,250.00

P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan. Dudley Grant Memorial Trust (through EFJ), World Bank. A proposal for the review and selection and/or development of instruments to assess the physical, cognitive and emotional development of children 0-6 years, including those with special needs. 1/2/04 - 31/1/06. Phase I J$2,500,000.00

M. Samms-Vaughan. E. Le Franc. PI Jamaican Site: Wellcome Trust. Migration, Family Structures and Morbidity from External Causes 1/1/04 - 30/6/06: US$338,130.00

P.I.: M. Lambert, Co-Investigators M. Samms-Vaughan, F. Hickling. Michigan State University Grant. Measuring the co-morbidity of substance abuse, violence, psychopathology, help-seeking behaviour and attitudes towards substance abuse, violence, mental illness and the afflicted: A project aimed at providing culturally relevant Jamaican assessment instruments and empirical data to inform Jamaican health policy and program decisions. 1/1/03 - 30/6/06: J$720,000.00

P.I.: Children's Issues Coalition, UWI. Founding Members: E. Leo-Rhynie, Prof. S. Walker, M. Samms-Vaughan, Rose Davies, J. Meeks-Gardner, Janet Brown, Sian Williams. UNICEF and The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. Development of a regional Children's Journal and regional database on children's issues. 1/1/02 - 31/12/05; US $15,000.00 and J$2,286,387.00

Minerva Thame. A comparison of anthropometry of mothers and infants within the puerperium with respect to maternal age. Caribbean Health Research Council. US$ 8,604.00

Minerva Thame. Congenital Cardiovascular Malformation in Jamaican Children with Down's Syndrome (DS) The Caribbean Cardiac Society Cardiovascular Health Research Grant, US$10,000.00

Minerva Thame. Relationship between maternal nutritional status and pregnancy outcome. Baylor College. US$30,000.00

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor C Christie

– Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America
– Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
– Founding Member, HIV Medicine Association of America
– Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
– Non-Executive Board Member, Scotia Group Jamaica Limited; Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited; Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Life Insurance Company Ltd

Professor Horace Fletcher

– Chairman, West Indies Section, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District IV
– Reviewer, West Indian Medical Journal
– Reviewer, Obstetrics and Gynecology, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Professor Joseph Frederick

– Member, Grabham Society, Jamaican Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
– Member, Pacesetters Toast Masters Club

Dr John Harriott

– Facilitator, Lions Club Youth Life Skills Programme 2007

Dr Santosh Kulkarni

– Sitting Member, Jamaica National Mortality Committee Service Area
– Member, Maternal Mortality Committee, MOH, Jamaica

Dr. Roxanne Melbourne Chambers

– President, Paediatric Association of Jamaica
– Council Member, Medical Association of Jamaica Council
Dr Doreen Millard

- Chairman, Adoption Board
- Chairman, Bustamante Hospital for Children Management Committee
- Chairman, Regional Technical Subcommittee of SERHA
- Adviser, Ministry of Health Rheumatic Fever / Rheumatic Heart Disease Prevention Programme
- Advisory Board Member, Child Development Agency
- Member, Medical Association of Jamaica
- Member, Paediatric Association of Jamaica

Dr. Sharmaine Mitchell

- Examiner, Caribbean Medical Council

Dr Anthony Mullings

- Member, Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of a National Bioethics Committee for Jamaica
- Member, Board of Jamaica Cancer Society Service Area
- Reviewer, West Indian Medical Journal
- Director, Caribbean Research Ethics Initiative

Dr Yomi Olugbuyi

- Member of the Pediatric Association of Jamaica

Dr Russell Pierre

- International Editor, Journal of HIV/AIDS Prevention for Children and Youth
- Reviewer, West Indian Medical Journal

Dr Audrey Pottinger

- Board Member, Child Development Agency Advisory Board
- Volunteer, Disaster Mental Health Responder, Jamaica Red Cross
- Board Member, McCam Child Development Centre
Obstetrics & Gynaecology

This was the fifth year of the introductory lectures to the preclinical students which is part of the urogenital module.

Eighty-two candidates were successful in the May-June 2006 MBBS examinations. Three candidates failed. Eleven students obtained distinctions and two obtained honors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

One candidate was successful in the Doctor of Medicine part II in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the May/June examinations and three were successful in the DM part I two failed.