WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Community Health and Psychiatry provided undergraduate and post graduate instruction in public health, family medicine and psychiatry; collaborates with the Faculty of Science and Technology to deliver courses in occupational and environmental health and with the Faculty of Social Sciences in psychology instruction. Clinical services include ambulatory primary health care delivered at the Hermitage August Town Community Health Centre, and adult in-patient and out-patient psychiatric services, specialized services for children and adolescents, forensic services, and day treatment facilities to rehabilitate persons with drug dependency. Faculty published 40 peer-reviewed papers, 4 book chapters, 14 abstracts, participated in 56 presentations at scientific meetings and provided technical advice.
voluntary service and held leadership positions in professional organizations, local, regional and international organizations.

The department convened a strategic development meeting in April 2013 to seek faculty and staff consensus on the department’s direction and to ensure that current and future activities would be consistent with the strategic objectives outlined by the University of the West Indies. Faculty and staff agreed on a vision for the department that it should produce academic pioneers and leaders in public and mental health in the Caribbean as part of its mission to improve social, mental and physical health by enabling solutions to Caribbean and global health challenges, through effective management and leadership, excellence in teaching, innovative research and public service.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

Department faculty delivered five pre-clinical undergraduate courses to medical and dental students while clinical training was restricted to medical students. Community health rotations occurred in years 3, 4 and 5 and psychiatry rotations in years 3 and 4. With the growth in class sizes, various strategies have been devised to accommodate the increasing numbers for the primary care urban and rural rotations and also on the psychiatry ward. Efforts are underway to install video equipment to enable lectures to be transmitted between the two available psychiatry classrooms to address the problem of crowding on the ward. Another rural site (Westmoreland) has been added for exposure of fourth year students to public health for a total of eight parishes for the two week rural primary care experience.

Final year medical students are assigned to eleven primary care facilities for three weeks of clinical exposure to ambulatory patients. Space constraints make it difficult for each facility to accommodate more than two students per rotation. Primary care staff advised that they are receiving increased requests for field experience for not only medical students, but also under-graduate and graduate nursing, midwifery and pharmacy students among others, which reduces the efficiency with which they can deliver their routine services.
The larger class size is also impacting the quality of field visits and some sites/institutions, e.g. Family Court, and the Hope Oncology Unit, have been experiencing difficulties seating the larger groups. Transportation is also challenging as the department’s vehicles only seat 14 and 15 students each. With rotations now averaging 25–30 students, this has required multiple trips, use of the Dean’s office bus, and private rentals.

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Enrollment in the Master of Public Health course continues to face competition as similar courses are offered at other UWI campuses (Cave Hill, St Augustine) as well as Northern Caribbean University and the University of Technology. Intake in 2012–13 declined 43% to 17 new students, 14 full-time, three part-time. Efforts are advanced to introduce a specialty track in Health Systems Management, in collaboration with the Mona School of Business. This will complement the general programme and provide an additional option to the Health Education/Health Promotion track.

**MPHIL /PHD (PUBLIC HEALTH) AND DOCTORATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH (DRPH)**

Eight students were enrolled in the MPhil/PhD in 2012–13. The DrPH had 22 registered students in years 2–4 as there was no intake in 2012–13. There were no graduates from either programme.

**Family Medicine**

The Family Medicine Programme is offered from four UWI campuses; namely, Mona, Cave Hill, St. Augustine and the Bahamas School of Clinical Medicine which was administratively linked to Mona in 2010 while Cave Hill supervises students from the Eastern Caribbean. Mona/Bahamas offer the Diploma in Family Medicine after two years, with the option to continue to complete the four-year Doctor of Medicine
(DM) in Family Medicine. Of 11 Diploma candidates sitting the end of year examination from Mona and the Bahamas, seven graduated with the Diploma in Family Medicine, two with distinction. Five persons were enrolled in the DM; there were no graduates.

**Psychiatry**

Ten candidates were enrolled across the four years of DM psychiatry programme and one graduated.

**Other programmes**

The joint University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) – University of the West Indies summer course Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance (40 hours) resumed after a three year suspension. It is intended to allow MPH students and practitioners from both centres to learn together and share experiences while exposing UAB students to health conditions in a Caribbean setting. The course ran from July 21–31, 2013 with 11 students (7 from UAB, 3 from UWI MPH class and 1 PHI from St. Catherine). Highlights included a workshop for persons living with HIV/AIDS at the Spanish Town Hospital and a community survey of Gregory Park by the Water/Sanitation group.

**CLINICAL SERVICES**

Clinical services are offered by the Hermitage August Town Health Centre, a Type 3 Primary Care Centre in Zone 6 of the Kingston and St Andrew Health Department (KSAHD), serving twelve communities. The KSAHD staffs the preventive services, while the Section of Community Health is responsible for the curative services. Between August 2012 and July 2013 over 8,800 visits were made for curative and 6,400 for preventive services. Curative services include screening, health promotion, general medical care, hypertension-diabetes care, dressings and other acute care. Preventive services include family planning, cervical cancer screening, antenatal, postnatal and well-baby care, including immunizations.
The section of Psychiatry provided adult in-patient and out-patient psychiatric services, specialized services for children and adolescents, forensic services, and day treatment care for persons with drug dependency.

**PAPERS PRESENTED**


- **Abel W.** Psychological First Aid Workshop (PAHO/Ministry of Health) – March 2013.


- **Eldemire H.** Motivational Interviewing for Substance Abuse. CICAD-OAS Training and certification programme on drug and violence prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, February, 2013.

- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** The Ageing of Jamaica and its Implications for the next 50 years. SALISES 50/50 Conference, August 2012.


- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Overview of Ageing. Age Friendly Guidelines for Care in Primary Health Care four days’ Workshop, Bahamas, November 27–December 1, 2012.

- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Clinical Aspects & Assessments. Age Friendly Guidelines for Care in Primary Health Care four days’ Workshop, Bahamas, November 27–December 1, 2012.

- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Age-Friendly Primary Health Care clinical Toolkit. Age Friendly Guidelines for Care in Primary Health Care four days’ Workshop, Bahamas, November 27–December 1, 2012.

- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Vascular Dementia. Heart Foundation of Jamaica’s Medical Symposium, Knutsford Court Hotel, February 19, 2013.


- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** The Aging Jamaican population: Health of Older Persons. Advancements in Medicine and Healthcare Conference, Teaching and Research Complex, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, April 26, 2013.

- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Ageing in the Caribbean (An Overview). The Canada-Caribbean Exploratory Meeting to Establish Partnerships
on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, Hilton, Barbados, April 30–May 01, 2013.


- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Epidemiology and public health burden of Alzheimer’s Disease. Caribbean College of Family Physicians Workshop, Alhambra Inn Hotel, May 19, 2013.

- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Disasters and Older persons presented at the International Federation on Ageing Workshop on Older Persons at Cameroon on May 27–28, 2013.

- **Eldemire-Shearer D.** Psychological & Health Aspect of Retirement (Quality of Life) presented at the WIGUT Retirement Brunch on Alhambra Inn & Restaurant.

- **Figueroa JP.** The role of local health research in guiding the HIV response in Jamaica. Panel on Jamaica’s Post Independence Health Development at the UWI 50/50 conference. Kingston, Jamaica, 22 August 2012.


- **Figueroa JP.** An overview of the HIV epidemic and response in the Caribbean. Keynote address, HIV research symposium, Barbados, 3 December 2012.


- **Jackson S, Nagassar, RP, James K, Gibson R, Rhoden T.** Evaluation of rapid HIV antibody assays in the diagnosis of neurological HIV.


- Iballaboh H, De La Haye W, **Gibson R**, Abel WD. Co-occurring substance misuse in clients presenting to a psychiatric unit in a general hospital in Jamaica. 21st European Congress of Psychiatry, Nice, France, April 6–9, 2013.


among adolescents in Four Caribbean countries. The Jamaica Psychiatry Association Conference, University of the West Indies – Mona, August, 2013.


- **McCaw-Binns A.** Linkages between maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) and violence against women: gender and MNCH. International Conference on maternal, newborn and child health in Africa. August 1–3, 2013, Johannesburg, South Africa.


- **Scarlett HS.** (Keynote Speaker). Time to focus on occupational health issues of health care workers. Clarendon Health Services Inaugural Staff Health & Wellness Expo, May Pen Hospital. April 30, 2013.
• **Sewell CA.** In Search of the Jamaican Paedophile. Jamaica Psychiatric Association Conference, August 12, 2012.

• **Sewell CA.** Coping with Lupus. Lupus Foundation of Jamaica Conference, October 28, 2012.

• **Sewell CA.** Mental Illness and Violence in Jamaica. Black Psychiatrists of America Conference, November 12, 2012.

**Other International Meetings**


PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Books


**Peer Reviewed Journal Articles**

**Joint Community Health and Psychiatry**


• **Holder-Nevins D, James K**, Bridgelal-Nagassar R, **Bailey A**, Thompson


**Community Health**


- **Jackson MD, Tulloch-Reid MK, McFarlane-Anderson N, Watson A, Seers V, Bennett FI, Egleston B, Ragin C.** Complex interaction between serum folate levels and genetic polymorphisms in folate


PSYCHIATRY


**Student Led**


**Technical Reports**


**PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS**

**Caribbean Public Health Agency Meeting (CARPHA)**

• WD Aiken, K Jones, K James. Rural/Urban Differences in the


**Student led**

PUBLIC SERVICE

Faculty sit on a range of technical and advisory groups and provide voluntary service to government agencies, non-governmental organizations and hold leadership positions in professional organizations.

Professor Wendel Abel
- Advisor to Minister of Education – Early Detection Support and Intervention Project for Children and Adolescents with Behavioural Problems
- Working group – Mental health policy, Ministry of Health (Jamaica)
- Chair – National Council and Drug Abuse

Mrs Althea Bailey
- Board – Jamaica AIDS Support for Life
- Designed and tested a cervical screening patient education tool for the Ministry of Health

Mr Norbert Campbell
- Collaborated with the Occupation and Environmental Safety and Health (OESH) team, Faculty of Science and Technology, to conduct indoor air quality assessments on the university campus and in the House of Parliament, Gordon House.
- Assisted the Department of Microbiology National Influenza Centre to meet bio-safety requirements to maintain their CDC registration.

Dr Colette Cunningham-Myrie
- Volunteer service – Diabetes Association of Jamaica

Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer
- Patron – National Council for Senior Citizens
– Chairman – Board of Supervision, Ministry of Local Government and Community Development
– Chairman – Caribbean Community of Retired Persons
– Member – Central Health Committee: Ministry of Health
– Member – Planning Institute of Jamaica Task Force preparing the Vision 2030 Committee on Vulnerable Groups

Professor J Peter Figueroa
– Director, Epidemiology Research and Training Unit (ERTU)

Dr Michelle Harris
– Faculty member – The Caribbean Health Leadership Institute (CHLI)

Dr Jacqueline Martin
– Volunteer Physician & Psychiatrist – Stella Maris Foundation

Dr Henroy Scarlett
– Vice President – Jamaica Occupational Health Professionals Association (JOHPA).
– Member – National Oversight Committee, Ministry of Health’s Wastewater Systems Evaluation Project (Project funded by PAHO and UNEP)

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Faculty served on a range of expert panels and advisory committees with international agencies such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). They are also peer reviewers for over a dozen international journals.

Professor Wendel Abel
– Expert Panel – Strategic and Regional Action Plan for Mental Health (PAHO)
– Advisory Committee –The Training and Certification Program for Drug and Violence Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation (PROCCER; OAS)
– Assistant Editor – *West Indian Medical Journal* (June 2011–June 2014)
– Peer Reviewer
– *Ethnicity and Inequalities in Health and Social Care*
– *West Indian Medical Journal*

**Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer**
– Editorial Board Member – *West Indian Medical Journal*

**Professor J Peter Figueroa**
– Member – WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Vaccine Preventible Diseases
– Rapporteur – PAHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on vaccine preventable diseases
– Chair – Caribbean Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) managers, annual meeting
– Deputy Chair – Pan Caribbean Partnership against AIDS (PANCAP), Executive Board and Regional Coordinating Mechanism
– Chair – PANCAP Priority Areas Coordinating Committee (PACC)
– Editorial Advisory Board – *West Indian Medical Journal*
– Peer Reviewer:
  • *PLOS One*
  • *Vaccine*
  • *West Indian Medical Journal*

**Dr Roger Gibson**
– Member – Section on Conflict Management & Resolution, World Psychiatric Association
Dr Desmalee Holder-Nevins

- Executive committee member – North American Regional Organization of International Union of Health Promotion and education (IUHPE).

Dr Maria Jackson

- Editorial Board Member – *Ethnicity and Health*
- Member – African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium Research Review Committee
- Peer Reviewer:
  - *BMC Public Health*
  - *Cancer Causes and Control*
  - *Clinical and Experimental Metastasis*
  - *Genes and Nutrition*
  - *Nutrition Journal*
  - *Public Health Nutrition*
  - *The Prostate*

Professor Affette McCaw-Binns

- Member – World Health Organization, Maternal Morbidity Working Group to define maternal morbidity, develop tools and indicators to measure maternal morbidity and monitor progress
- Peer Reviewer:
  - *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*
  - *BMC Health Services Research*
  - *Health Policy and Planning*
  - *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*
Promotions

Prof Denise Eldemire-Shearer was promoted to Campus Coordinator, School of Graduate Studies and Research, Mona in August 2012. Prof Affette McCaw-Binns was asked to act as Head of Department in August 2012 and was appointed in June 2013. Dr Wendel Abel was promoted to Professor of Mental Health Policy, effective May 29, 2013.

Movements and achievements

Dr Satnarine Maharaj retired in August 2012 after 31 years of service to the department. Ms Violet Wallen, community health aide, August Town Hermitage Health Centre and Dr Chloe Morris, the Director of the Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre, also retired in 2012.

Three faculty joined the department, Dr Samantha Longman-Mills, psychologist, Psychiatry section; Dr Colette Cunningham-Myrie, Medical Lecturer in Community Health and Mrs Kathryn Mitchell-Fearon (Community Health section) to coordinate instruction in Health Systems Management and develop a new MPH specialty track in this area. She completed her Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) from the University of Georgia during the academic year. Mrs Jasnet Mullings joined the Department as a research assistant during the academic year, was awarded the PhD in Epidemiology from the University of the West Indies, with high commendation and left the Department to take up an appointment in the Dean’s office, Faculty of Medical Sciences, as the Epidemiologist/Research Scientist in the Health Research Resource Unit.

Dr Tana Ricketts-Roomes, medical officer, earned the Diploma in Family Medicine, with distinction in June 2013 while Dr Jackie Martin
earned the Certificate in University Teaching (CUTL) from the Faculty of Humanities, University of the West Indies, Mona in July 2013.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- **UWI Medical Alumni Association Prize** for the Best Presentation by a Medical Student – 2012, Faculty of Medical Sciences Research Conference.

- Fourth year medical students C Katragadda, A Howell, D Archie, K Barrett, S Betty, A Bhagwandat, T Brooks, S Figueroa, L Gayle, S Gibson, S Harewood, K Kealebale, J Lofters, T Martin, O Matthews, P Ramonna, H Robertson, M Sehunelo, K Selema, S Sterling, D Thomas and N Wade, with Dr M Jackson were awarded the UWI Medical Alumni Association Prize for the Best Presentation by a Medical Student for their paper Health-seeking behaviour for pain in sickle cell disease: The Sickle Cell Unit at the 2012 Faculty of Medical Sciences Research Meeting (*West Indian Medical Journal* 2012; 61(Suppl.6):36).

- **Dr Maria Jackson**, and her collaborators, Professor S Walker, Dr C Simpson-Smith, Mrs C Lindsay, Mr G Smith, Professor N McFarlane-Anderson, Dr F Bennett, Professor K Coard, Dr W Aiken, Dr T Tulloch, Dr T Paul and Dr R Wan received the Principal's Award for Best Research Publication 2013 for their paper “Associations of Whole-Blood Fatty Acids and Dietary Intake with Prostate Cancer in Jamaica” (*Cancer Causes and Control*. 2012 Jan;23(1):23-33. doi: 10.1007/s10552-011-9850-4. Epub 2011 Oct 9).

- **Professor Wendel Abel** received the Award for Excellence in Psychiatry from the Jamaica Psychiatric Association in December 2012 and an Award for Outstanding work in Mental Health Policy and Service System Development, from the Medical Foundation of Jamaica in August 2013.
**RESEARCH**

**New Initiative Grants**

Mrs. Douladel Tyndale, Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre, with Dean Horace Fletcher (gynaecologist) and Dr William Aiken (urologist) have been funded to examine the Sexual Health of Older Persons.

**Other Research Grants**

Professor Wendel Abel is the Principal Investigator of a national study on Suicide in Jamaica, being undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF and aims to measure suicidal ideation and behaviour among adolescents. It will document the socio-demographic and clinical characteristic of patients presenting to Emergency Rooms with attempted suicide and include a psychological autopsy of persons who committed suicide in 2012. He will also coordinate a series of Drug Use and Abuse studies which will include a National Drug Abuse Household Survey and a complementary study which examines Drug Use among Secondary School Students which will be implemented as a National School Survey. Both will be conducted in collaboration with the National Council on Drug Abuse with funding from the Organization of American States (OAS).

Dr. Michelle Harris received a grant from the CHRC/CARPHA to conduct a cluster randomized controlled trial to improve the management of dyslipidemia in primary care.

Dr Holder-Nevins received a grant of J$100,000 from the Jamaica Society for the Blind and the Caribbean Association for the Blind to do a qualitative study among cataract patients in four parishes to examine factors which influence the acceptance of cataract surgery among Jamaicans 50 years and older. The report has been submitted to the Jamaican Society for the Blind.

Dr Jackson is participating in a pooled analysis of Metabolic Gene Polymorphisms among Men 40–80 Years with Prostate Cancer, in collaboration with Fox-Chase Cancer Center (Philadephia, USA) and
will utilize data from the case-control study of diet and lifestyle factors and prostate cancer.

The Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre is collaborating with Case Western University to help introduce Age Friendly Guidelines for Care into Primary Health Care in the Bahamas.

**STUDENTS**

**Postgraduate Students**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Categories of students</th>
<th>Number registered 2012–2013</th>
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<td>Doctorate of Public Health</td>
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Department of Community Health & Psychiatry