WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Medicine continued its mission of excellence in teaching, engaging in research which is relevant, providing service work and outreach while experiencing several challenges during the period August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013.

TEACHING

Undergraduate

The increased number of Undergraduate students in the MBBS program continues to be one of the major challenges for the Department. The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), which is the main teaching facility for clinical teaching, has limited space and facilities with
limited patient numbers. In addition, the shortage of resources at the UHWI is causing major challenges for patient care which affects teaching. However, the dedicated staff managed the challenges and coped with the increased number of students in the Introduction to Medical Practice (IMP) and the third year clinical clerkship.

Most of the clinical students were assigned to the UHWI, which includes all of the second year IMP students and two thirds of the third year clerkship students. In addition to UHWI, the 5th year students were assigned to the peripheral hospitals including; Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), the Cornwall Regional Hospital and the Mandeville Regional Hospital. Teaching began, albeit slowly at the Spanish Town Hospital in 2012, but problems with inadequate staffing continues to pose a challenge. The Associate Lecturers at the peripheral institutions, despite their busy clinical schedule, continue to do an excellent job in teaching the students. The feedback from the students at the peripheral teaching sites remains good.

The 3rd year clinical students were divided between KPH (one-third) and the UHWI (two-thirds). The majority of Associate Lecturers at KPH have performed extremely well despite their heavy service load.

The teaching for the MBBS clinical programme in Medicine has transformed from a mixture of large class didactic teaching to predominantly small group teachings with an emphasis on patient and problem oriented learning. In addition to the small group assignments there are scheduled teachings to students at the different sites on a daily basis. The guidelines for the clerkships have been updated and the topics for the daily teachings standardized.

The Introduction to Medical Practice (IMP 2) had a class size of approximately 310 students. Although there were problems with adequate space and staffing for the small group activities, the clerkship was completed satisfactorily.

The main May/June (2013) MBBS final examination was conducted very successfully and of the 142 students taking the Medicine examination 133 (94%) passed with 1 obtaining Honours. For the November/December
2012 final MBBS examination all 19 students from the Mona campus passed the Medicine examination.

The increased number of students doing the clinical examination is creating challenges with increasing time and personnel needed and an increase in expenditure.

**Postgraduate**

The postgraduate DM programme in Medicine has been training specialists in Internal Medicine for Jamaica and the Caribbean for over forty years despite a lack of funding for the programme. The success of the programme is due mainly to the staff being committed to training these postgraduate students.

With the increasing number of undergraduate students in the MBBS programme there is an urgent need to increase the number of DM students but the UHWI is presently financially constrained to implement this increase. Also, Government sponsored postgraduate students have diminished.

There is a need to train subspecialists and the department is to start Fellowship subspecialty training as soon as qualified applicants are available. Nephrology Fellowship training has started and there has been four graduates. Approval has been obtained to start training in Cardiology and Gastroenterology. There are advanced plans for starting Fellowship training in Infectious Disease.

**RESEARCH**

Research which is relevant is a priority. All members are encouraged and expected to do research and publish papers. The research output has been variable but has increased over the past two years.

There is an urgent need to refurbish the non-functional laboratory in the department but this has been delayed because of financial constraint.
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Department of Medicine hosted a successful Cardiology week culminating in a Cardiology Symposium in February 2013. The Theme was ‘Heart Disease in Women”. Two visiting Cardiologists from the USA gave lectures at the symposium.

In March 2013 the department hosted a Symposium on Stroke which highlighted thrombolytic therapy in patients with ischaemic stroke. There were three visiting lecturers from the University of Miami who participated.

The annual summer review in July 2013 was successful with an increased attendance from students, residents, general practitioners, nurses and consultants.

OUTREACH

The department is active in several outreach projects. The Nephrologists staff have established Nephrology clinics at the Mandeville Regional and St Ann’s Bay Hospitals. The department was instrumental in establishing the renal dialysis unit at the Mandeville Regional Hospital and staff members continue to service the clinic and dialysis unit.

Monthly consultation service and gastrointestinal procedures are performed at the Princess Margaret Hospital, St. Thomas by a staff Gastroenterologist. The department has started a Gastrointestinal Service at the Spanish Town Hospital and has trained nurses for the unit. Gastroenterologists from the department continue weekly consultations and procedure lists at Spanish Town Hospital.

A Cardiologist from the department has a monthly Cardiology clinic at the St Ann’s Bay Hospital.

The staff at CHARES monitor individuals with HIV infection in a homeless resident home in downtown Kingston.

Several members of staff are resource personnel on non-governmental...
organizations concerned with public health and charity. Other members of staff sit on various boards.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Professor Ralph Sacco, Professor and Head of Neurology, University of Miami, Florida met with Head of the Department and discussed collaborative work. He delivered a special Lecture entitled “Facing the Challenge of the Stroke Pandemic”.

Dr. Jose Romano, Professor of Neurology, University of Miami, Florida, met with Head of the Department and discussed collaborative work with the Department. He delivered two Lectures entitled “Systems of Acute Stroke Care” and “Medical Management of Acute Ischemic Stroke”.

Dr. Beverley Barnett, Pan American Health Organization, gave the Rolf Richards Distinguished Lecture.

Professor Frans Van de Werf, Leuven University, Belgium, gave a special lecture on the “Treatment of acute myocardial infarction” in February 2013.

Dr. Michelle Johnson, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Cornell University, New York, gave a special Lecture on the “Heart in Cancer therapy” in April 2013

Professor Ellen Ginzler, State University of New York, gave the Erick Cruickshank Distinguished Lecture in June 2013.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

August 2012 to July 2013


• Koenig, Serena P; Rodriguez, Luis A; Bartholomew, Courtenay; Edwards, Alison; Carmichael, Tracie E; **Barrow G**; Cabié, André; Hunter, Robert; Vasquez-Mora, Giselle; Quava-Jones, Avion; Adomakoh, Nicholas; Figueroa, J Peter; Liautaud, Bernard; Torres, Magaly; Pape, Jean W. Long-Term Antiretroviral Treatment Outcomes in Seven Countries in the Caribbean. *Journal Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*. 2012;59(4):e60-71. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0b013e318245d3.


• R Alfred, SN Chin, E. Williams, C Walters, EN Barton, D Shah, The Prevalence and significance of Oestrogen Receptor (ER) Positively in Breast Cancer at the University of the West Hospital Indies, Jamaica West Indian Medical Journal 2012; 61: (8): 795.


• Barrow CR, Clare-Pascoe N, Bahadur A, Atkinson N, Browie C, Clarke TR, Barton EN. A review of the HIV infected homeless sub population at the Centre for HIV-AIDS Research and Services, University Hospital of the West Indies. West Indian Medical Journal 2013, 62.


Abstracts in Peer Reviewed Journal


- Morgan AN, WD Abel, AFD Coore, L Simms, Gilbert DT. The prevalence of depression amongst patients admitted to the medical wards at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica. *West Indian Medical Journal* Vol. 61 (Suppl 6): 35


• Penn KA, Whittle DO, Lee MG. Inflammatory bowel disease at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *West Indian Medical Journal* Vol. 61 (Suppl 6): 55


• Bonadie K, SoTwe Y, Arthurs M, Murphy T, Cawich SO, Simpson LK, Isaacs MS, Williams EW, Harding H. Critical Analysis of a Peri-
Operative Management Protocol in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease.  
*West Indian Medical Journal* 2012; 61(S4): 49.

**SCIENTIFIC PAPERS PRESENTED**

Dr. F Gayle

- Stroke in Jamaica – 21st Annual Research Conference Faculty of Medical Sciences Research Day, 2012
- Physicians’ Knowledge and Practice regarding Acute Stroke Care at University Hospital of the West Indies 21st Annual Research Conference Faculty of Medical Sciences Research Day, November 4, 2012.
Dr. M. Lawrence-Wright

- Uncontrolled hypertension: Overcoming Physician Inertia and Patient Noncompliance. CME Conference November 2012
- Approach to the Patient with Rheumatic Heart Disease. Advancements in Cardiovascular Care 2012 Conference
- Gender and Cardiovascular Disease – Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus. Heart Foundation of Jamaica Heart Month 2013, February 2013
- Peripartum Cardiomyopathy. Cardiovascular Week 2013 Cardiovascular Symposium.

Dr. A. Ali

- Neuropsychiatric Masquerades – Common Neurological disorders that present with psychiatric symptoms. Annual Mental Health Conference, October 2012
- Choosing the Right Anti-Seizure Drug: Get it Right the First Time! Annual Neurosciences conference. February 2013

Dr. V. Elliott

- Rate, Rhythm, Ectopics – Caribbean Cardiac Society annual meeting July 2012

Dr. K. Maloney

- The use of NSAIDs in treating chronic pain – Caribbean Council of Family Physicians. March 2013
- Lupus and alternative and complementary medicine – Annual Lupus Symposium September 2012
Dr. C. Collie


Dr. A. Soyibo

- Caribbean Renal Registry – Annual Data Report.
- 5th Annual Conference of Nephrology and Hypertension
- Jamaica Renal Registry ADR.5th Annual Conference of Nephrology and Hypertension
- Glomerular Changes in Children with Sickle Cell Disease – Clinicopathological Correlates.
- 5th Annual Conference of Nephrology and Hypertension

PUBLIC SERVICE & OUTREACH

Professor Michael Lee
- Member, Board of Executive, Food for the Poor
- Chair, Medical Committee, Food for the Poor
- Member, Medical Review Panel Ministry of Health. Jamaica
- Member, Board of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica

Dr. Trevor Murphy
- Secretary, Association of West Indian Gastroenterologists

Dr. Dwight Whittle
- Volunteer, Gastroenterology Clinic and procedures, Princess Margaret Hospital, Morant Bay, St. Thomas.
Professor Everard Barton
- Renal clinic outreach Mandeville Regional Hospital and St Ann’s Bay Hospital.
- Outreach services to develop renal care services in Tobago and public education on prevention of causative diseases.
- Working with CHEF (Caribbean Health and Education Foundation) to do a Caribbean wide screening for Kidney disease in the English speaking Islands/countries.
- Arranged with Global links for visiting teams of Healthcare professionals to work with local teams in surgery and medicine in Kingston, Manchester and St. Ann.
- Obtaining from Global links (USA) dialysis material: fluid, chemicals, machines which were distributed among University of the West Indies, St. Joseph Hospital and Mandeville Regional Hospital.

Dr. A. K. Soyibo
- Outreach to Rural areas: Preventing Life style related disease.
- Education and Policy for Renal Unit in Tobago.
- Renal clinic in two major government hospitals: Mandeville Regional Hospital and St. Ann’s Bay Hospital.

Dr. Lisa Hurlock
- Cardiologic evaluation Physician for swimmers for Jamaica.

Professor R. Wright–Pascoe
- Chairman, Jamaica National Committee on Non-Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health
- Member, Council of the Medical Association of Jamaica
- President, Association of Consultant Physicians of Jamaica
- Chairman, Board of Management of Central Medical Laboratories.
- Member, Medical Tribunal Unit of the Medical Council of Jamaica
Dr. C. Collie
– Chairman, Board of Directors, Pre-University School, Taylor Hall, UWI, Mona
– Chairman, Board of Directors, Ayrton Distributors Limited

Dr. M. Lawrence-Wright
– Treasurer – Caribbean Cardiac Society
– Board Member, Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission
– Member, Bustamante Hospital for Children Development Committee

Dr. G. Barrow
– Consultancy for UNICEF
– Consultant services for the Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis.
– Ministry of Health, providing technical support to the National HIV/STI Programme as the Director for the Treatment Care and Support (TCS) component
– Representative to the Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to Jamaica.
– Member, Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group, National HIV/STI Programme.
– Member, Academic Sub-Committee of the National AIDS Committee.
– Member, Civil Society Forum of Jamaica.

Dr. T. Clarke
– Medical Director, Racers (Usain Bolt’s) Running Club
– Member, Medical Committee for the JAAA
Dr A. Ali
- Chair, Caribbean taskforce of the North American Regional Commission on Epilepsy
- Chair, Taskforce for the biennial North American Regional Caribbean Congress on Epilepsy
- Member, International Affairs Commission of the American Epilepsy Society (AES).
- American Academy of Neurology Ambassador to the Caribbean region
- Regional epilepsy and neurology clinics and educational discussions in Tobago, St Lucia and Antigua

Dr. K. Maloney
- Vice President Lupus foundation of Jamaica, July 2012–present

Dr. F. Gayle
- Jamaica National Health Fund Medical Expert Panel

AWARDS

• **Professor M Lee** received the distinguished award from the Medical Foundation of Jamaica

• **Dr. W. Williams** received a distinguished award from the Association of Consultant Physicians