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 postgraduate students MPhil and PhD. We also assist in the teaching of Midwives and nurses.

Child health

This Department is comprised of two medical wards and one neonatal intensive care unit. The main subspecialties are infectious diseases, psychological disorders (development and behavioural Paediatrics), cardiology, gastroenterology neonatology, nephrology, neurology, pulmonology and other medical conditions managed in conjunction with other specialties. Residents and medical students are taught and referrals are accepted from Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean. The Section of Child Health successfully staged the academic conference Child Neurology for 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 hosts an annual conference in February of each year run by Drs. Matadial, Kulkarni and Mullings. This service manages high risk obstetric cases and accepts referrals from the rest of the island as well as the rest of the British West Indies. The Unit also has facilities for teaching post graduate and medical students. Perinatal Audit for 2005, UWI, Mona, February 6-7, 2005 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. Special emphasis was placed on topics such as Genetic Counseling, Premature Birth and Neonatal Neurological Outcome.

Oncology Unit

This is run by three Consultants Professor Fletcher, Dr Rattray and Dr Mitchell. 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 postgraduate 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 is the director of the programme along with Drs. Shaun Wynter and Vernon DaCosta as clinicians and Dr. Audrey Pottinger and Sister McKenzie as counsellors. Two new staff members joined the programme in 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. A major break-through is that all the documents required for the registration of the drugs used in the programme have been submitted to the Pharmaceuticals and 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.

STAFF

Academic Achievements

Professor Horace Fletcher has been elevated to a chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and this promotion has been timely as it coincides with him being confirmed as head of the department.

PAPERS PRESENTED:

- Antoine M, The limits of resuscitation-the paediatrician’s dilemma. Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Child Health UWI, perinatal conference 2005
- Vesikari T, Matson D, Van Damme P, Heyse J, Dallas M, Goveia M, Black S.


• DaCosta V. “Gene therapy in utero” Medical Association of Jamaica Symposium 2005-First world medicine for Jamaica, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel June 2-5 2005

• Dacosta V. Pelvic floor damage at hysterectomy, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District IV symposium, Eden Gardens Hotel Kingston Jamaica 16th April 2005


• PE Bazuaye, Fletcher H, M Smikle, M Jackson, N McFarlane-Anderson 2004. The association between Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) – 308 Polymorphism with Cervical Dysplasia in Jamaican Women, Faculty Medicine Annual Research Conference Mona UWI


• Simms-Stewart D, DaCosta V, Fletcher H and Reid M 2004. Comparison between actual birth weight, ultrasonographic fetal weight and effect of level of experience on accuracy of measurement, Faculty Medicine Annual Research Conference Mona UWI

• T Potter, Fletcher H, M Vutchkov, GC Lalor 2004. Mercury concentration in the placenta of parturients at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Faculty Medicine Annual Research Conference Mona UWI


haplotypes and tumour necrosis factor (TNF-α)-308 polymorphism and cervical dysplasia. Caribbean Health Research Conference Tobago.


• **Harrison A**, Paediatric First Aid workshop, Early Childhood Commission workshop “quality early childhood service delivery within a legal framework”


• D. Wissart, Prof. O. Parshad, **Kulkarni S**, Thyroid function and Post-partum depression, Annual Research Day, FMS UWI, November 17-18, 2004, UWI, Mona

• L Samuels, V. Dacosta and **Kulkarni S**, Megacystis in-utero, th

- treatment by vescico-centesis, Annual Perinatal Conference, Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Child Health, UWI, Mona, February 11 -13, 2005


- **Johnson N**. Postpartum Seizures in HIV/AIDS. Clinico-Pathological Conference. December 2004


- **Johnson N**. Medical treatment of Uterine Fibroids Caribbean Woman symposium on uterine fibroids 2005


- **Pierre R**, Branday JM, Wierenga A, **Pottinger A**. “Students’ perception of the ‘educational climate’ at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona”. Poster presentation FMS 13th Annual Research Conference, November 11, 2004, Kingston Jamaica.


- **Samms-Vaughan, ME**. “Early Childhood Development. What do we know and what are we doing?” Paediatric Association of Jamaica 15th Biennial Conference, Jamaica Conference Centre, March 2005.


Samms-Vaughan ME, Ashley D, McCaw-Binns A, Jackson


Thame K, Paediatric Association of Jamaica Outreach Symposium Whispering Bamboo Restaurant, St. Thomas “Acute Gastroenteritis”

Thame K, June 23, 2005 Paediatric Association of Jamaica Symposium, Terra Nova Hotel “Nutritional Issues for the Chronically Ill Child”

Thame K, June 23, 2005 Paediatric Association of Jamaica Symposium, Terra Nova Hotel “Issues in Infant Feeding”

Thame M, ToRCH Infections Seminar for Midwives Conference Centre Kingston 2004. Body Composition in pregnancies of adolescent girls and mature women and the impact on fetal growth and birth weight Caribbean Health Research Council 50th Annual Scientific Meeting Tobago April 2005

Thame M, Pregnancy Performance in Homozygous Sickle Cell Disease at the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Jamaica Association of Health Services Executives. March 2005

Thame M, The Jamaican Fetus 4th Perinatal Conference, University of the West Indies, Mona February 2005


Trotman H, Bell Y. Neonatal group B streptococcal infection at the University Hospital of the West Indies: a ten-year experience. FMS 13th Annual Research Conference November 2004.

Young J, Barton M, Richards-Dawson MA, Trotman H. Knowledge, perception and practice of healthcare workers toward pain in neonates at tertiary level hospitals in Kingston,
PUBLICATIONS

Refereed:

WIMJ = West Indian Medical Journal


Samms-Vaughan ME, Jackson MA, Ashley DC. Urban Jamaican children’s exposure to community violence. WIMJ 2005; 54(1):14 -21


Non-refereed


28.

.* Mitchell S. Female infertility. Health Home & Garden magazine Editor Wint F 2005; 5: 58

Abstracts:


.* The association between Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) –308 Polymorphism with Cervical Dysplasia in Jamaican
Women Bazuaye PE, **Fletcher H**, Smikle M, Jackson M, McFarlane-Anderson N. *WIMJ*, (Supp 1) 2004; 53:14


*. Comparison between actual birth weight, ultrasonographic fetal weight and effect of level of experience on accuracy of measurement. **Simms-Stewart D, Dacosta V, Fletcher H** and Reid M *WIMJ*, (Supp 5) 2004; 53:31

*. Mercury concentration in the placenta of parturients at the University Hospital of the West Indies. Potter T, **Fletcher H**, Vutchkov M, Lalor GC. *WIMJ*, (Supp 5) 2004; 53:32


*. Class 1 HLA-A-B haplotypes and tumour necrosis factor (TNF-α)-308 polymorphism and cervical dysplasia. Bazuaye P, **Fletcher H**, Smikle M. McFarlane-Anderson N *WIMJ*, (Supp 2) 2005; 54:72


**BOOK CHAPTERS**

**Publications -Books and Monographs:**


**Technical Reports**


**CURRICULUM MATERIAL:**

**Samms-Vaughan ME, Barton M** (ed.). A Study Guide in Paediatrics (Stage II). CD-ROM (2005)

**Kulkarni S.** Special skills module (SSM) for MBBS year 3 students. Fetal Medicine-growth and development

**AWARDS and HONOURS:**

**Professor Horace Fletcher**

Recipient of award “Best Researcher for the Faculty of Medical Sciences”, UWI Awards Ceremony (In Recognition of Outstanding Researchers) 2005

**Dr Maureen Samms-Vaughan**

Recipient of award for best publication for the Faculty of Medical Sciences (Paper entitled “Nutritional Status of 11-12 year old Jamaican children: Coexistence of under and over-nutrition” UWI Awards Ceremony (In Recognition of Outstanding Researchers) 2004

**Dr Helen Trotman-Edwards**


**INCOME GENERATION**

**Research Grants:**

**Professor Celia Christie**


Grant amount – **US$3,791,131.00**

**Christie CDC** (Principal Investigator)

“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**
Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2002 – 2006

“Pediatric HIV/AIDS Leadership Initiative in Kingston, Jamaica” International Leadership Award, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Grant amount – **US$ 472,500.00**

Christie CDC (Principal Investigator) 2003 -2006


Grant amount – **US$ 4,855.28**

Professor Horace Fletcher

2005 $10,909.51 US ($338,195.00 Jamaican dollars per year) 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)

P.I.: M Gossell Williams, Co-Investigators: M. Samms-Vaughan, H Fletcher

Source : Gerber Baby Foods & University of North Carolina

Title: Choline and neuro-development in humans

Grant Period: 1/1/05 -30/6/08 Annual direct costs: **US$ 155,000.00 Dr S Kulkarni**

$50,000 USD Grant from UNFPA and Ministry of Health Training in the use of the WHO partograph. (Principal investigator).

Dr M Samms-Vaughan


Source : National Health Fund, CHASE Fund, Caribbean

Cardiac Society, Caribbean Health Research Council, UHWI Title: The impact of early-life experiences on cardio-vascular risk in Jamaica

Grant Period: 1/1/05 -30/6/06

Annual direct costs: **J$ 14,000,000.00 P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan**

Source : UNICEF

Title: The evaluation of a community based parenting programme in Jamaica Grant Period:

1/1/05 -30/6/06

Annual direct costs: Phase I **J$ 1,775,250.00**

P.I.: M Gossell Williams, Co-Investigators: M. Samms-Vaughan,H Fletcher

Source : Gerber Baby Foods & University of North Carolina

Title: Choline and neuro-development in humans
Grant Period: 1/1/05 -30/6/08

Annual direct costs: **US$ 155,000.00** P.I.: **M. Samms-Vaughan**

Source: Dudley Grant Memorial Trust (through EFJ), World Bank

Title: 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.

Grant Period: 1/2/04 -31/1/06

Annual direct costs: Phase I **J$ 2,500,000.00**

P.I.: **M. Samms-Vaughan**

Source: Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
Title: The identification of an appropriate screening tool for the early detection of developmental disorders in Jamaican children birth to 3 years. Grant Period: 1/2/04 -31/1/05 Annual direct costs: **J$ 3,500,000.00**

P.I.: E. Le Franc. PI Jamaican Site: **M. Samms-Vaughan**

Source: Wellcome Trust
Title: Migration, Family Structures and Morbidity from External Causes Grant Period: 1/1/04 -30/6/06 Annual direct costs (Jamaican Site): **US$ 338,130.00**

P.I.: M. Lambert, Co-Investigators **M. Samms-Vaughan**, F. Hickling

Source: Michigan State University Grant
Title: Measuring the co-morbidity of substance abuse, violence, psychopathology, help-seeking behaviour and attitudes towards substance abuse, violence, mental illness and the afflicted:

Grant Period: 1/1/03 -30/6/06

Annual direct costs (Jamaican Site): **J$ 720,000.00**

P.I.: Children’s Issues Coalition, UWI. Founding Members: Prof. E. Leo-Rhynie, Prof. S.Walker, **Dr. M. Samms-Vaughan**, Dr. Rose Davies, Dr. J. Meeks-Gardner, Mrs. Janet Brown, Mrs. Sian William

Source: UNICEF and The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
Title: Development of a regional Children’s Journal and regional database on children’s issues Grant Period: 1/1/02 -31/12/05 Annual direct costs: **US$ 15,000.00 and J$2,286,387.00**

**PUBLIC SERVICE Dr M. Antoine**

Prof Celia Christie
.- Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America
.- Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
.- Member, HIV Medicine Association of America, Founding
.- Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
.- Board Member, Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited and Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Life Insurance Company Ltd, Non-Executive
.- Member, Private Sector Organization of Jamaica, Corporate Governance Committee
.- Member of the abstract reviewers, 3rd International AIDS Society on HIV pathogenesis and treatment, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July, 2005

Dr Abigail Harrison
.- Vice President, Paediatric association of Jamaica
.- Chairman, serious cases review panel, Child Development Agency
.- Member, National Infant and Young Child feeding Committee
.- Member Church Committee St Jude's Anglican Church

Dr Doreen Millard
.- Chairman, Adoption Board
.- Chairman, Bustamante Hospital for Children Management Committee
.- Chairman, Regional Technical Subcommittee of SERHA
.- Member, South East Region Health Authority
.- Adviser, Ministry of Health Rheumatic Fever / Rheumatic Heart Disease Prevention Programme
.- Member, Advisory Board of the Child Development Agency

Professor Horace Fletcher
.- Chairman, West Indies Section American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Professor Joseph Frederick
.- Member, Grabham Society (Jamaican Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists)
.- Member, Pacesetters Toast Masters Club.

Dr S Kulkarni
.- Member, Maternal Mortality Committee, MOH, Jamaica

Dr. Sharmaine Mitchell
.- Examiner, Caribbean Medical Council
.- Gynaecologist, Grants Pen and Stella Maris Foundation Outreach Programme

Dr Doreen Millard
Dr. Audrey Pottinger

- Member, Medical Association of Jamaica
- Member, Paediatric Association of Jamaica

Dr Maureen Samms-Vaughan

- Member, National Council on Education, Jamaica
- Chairman, Policy Research Committee, National Council on Education, Jamaica
- Member, Advisory Board to the National Education Transformation Team
- Member, Early Childhood Committee, Anglican Diocese
- Member, Research Committee, Society for Developmental and Behavioural Pediatrics, USA
- Consulting Editor, Caribbean Journal of Psychology
- Reviewer for Journals, Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology West Indian Medical Journal of the Children's Issues Coalition
- Executive Chairman, National Early Childhood Commission of Jamaica

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS:

Child Health

Categories of Students

Julianne Clair Steel-Duncan completed with distinction a two-year period as postdoctoral fellow in pediatric infectious diseases and epidemiology, with emphasis on pediatric HIV/AIDS, supervised by Celia DC Christie.

Dr Audrey Pottinger

Principal research supervisor for (7) students (2004-2005): 2 PhD doctoral candidates, 4 MSc Clinical Psychology, 1 MSc Counseling. Co-supervisor for 1 overseas PhD doctoral candidate (from Long Island Univ.)

Two of three postgraduate students were successful at the DM Paediatrics Part II (final) examinations held at the Mona Campus this year. These students were from the Mona Campus. Six of six postgraduate students were successful at the DM Part I examination.

Dr Minerva Thame

Jennifer Lunn Title: Comparison of pregnancy among women with Hb SC disease homozygous sickle cell disease (Hb SS) and age matched controls. St. Georges University, London, England. March –May 2004

Inger Manswell Title: A comparison of anthropometry of mothers and infants within the puerperium, with respect to maternal age. DM (Paediatrics) thesis Submitted 2004.

Jillian Lewis. Title: Pregnancy Outcome and Maternal Weight Gain in Women with Homozygous SS Disease and Birth Outcome. DM (Paediatrics) thesis.

Indira Singh-Minott Title: Pregnancy and Birth Outcome in Women with Homozygous SC Disease. DM (Paediatrics) thesis.

Dr Helen Trotman – Edwards

Postgraduate

Dianne Donaldson DM(Paediatrics) thesis Review of cases of febrile seizures seen at the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Tamra Tomlinson DM (Paediatrics) thesis: The epidemiology of cardiac lesions seen in children with Trisomy 21 at the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

Andrea Garbutt DM (Paediatrics) thesis Outcome of infants with Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy admitted to the neonatal unit, University Hospital of the West Indies.

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

This year was the third year of the introductory lectures to the preclinical students which is part of the urogenital module. This was done concurrently with the weekly lectures to the students under the old system.

All but one candidates were successful in the May/June 2005 MBBS examinations. Three students obtained distinctions and six obtained honors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The undergraduate exam format was reviewed by a team chaired by Professor Ramsewak (Trinidad), University examiner. Minor changes were made to ensure that the format and standard of the clinical exam were uniform across the campuses.

One candidate was successful in the Doctor of Medicine part II in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the May/June examinations and two were successful in the DM part 1.