The Department of Pathology is engaged in teaching, research and service and is composed of various subdepartments and units, the major ones being Anatomical Pathology (Autopsy, Cytogenetics, Cytology, Histology, Immunohistochemistry), Chemical Pathology and Haematology (Blood Bank, Flow Cytometry and Routine Haematology).

**Staffing, Staff Development & Administrative Reform**

There are 19 full-time members of academic staff and one half-time lecturer (shared with the Department of Medicine) – Anatomical Pathology: 5 Professors, 4 Senior Lecturers, 2 Lecturers; Chemical Pathology: 1 Professor, 1 Senior Lecturer, 1 Lecturer; Haematology: 1 Senior Lecturer, 4 Lecturers, 1 half-time lecturer (Oncologist shared half and half with the Department of Medicine).

In addition to the academic staff, the department has a diverse staff of about 40 medical and laboratory technologists, miscellaneous administrative, secretarial and clerical staff, research nurses, medical photographers, laboratory attendants, etc, giving a full-time staff of 100.

Each member of the academic staff continues to work along the lines of teaching, research and service work without any planned weighting or streaming in terms of differential workloads. Replacing retired academic staff members in Anatomical Pathology has proven to be problematic and this sub-department still has three Professors working on post-retirement contracts and attempts to replace these persons by recruitment locally, regionally and internationally have not been successful so far. One of our
recent DM graduates is slated to undertake post-doctoral training in Canada to enable her to replace one of the retirees at the end of 2012.

A Laboratory Information System (LIS) Administrator was appointed effective April 1, 2012 and will be shared with the Department of Microbiology. He has begun the work necessary to train the staff and prepare departmental systems for the impending acquisition of an LIS. We still await the appointment of a Quality Assurance Manager to drive, coordinate and monitor the accreditation of the laboratories, without which we are still unable to attract research projects from international collaborators. We still await administrative appointments and reform in the Department as requested for the past two years such as:

- The rationalizing and reclassification of the Departmental administrative staff so as to better cope with the ever increasing administrative load being placed on the academic staff.
- The empowerment of the Sub-departmental/Unit Heads to exercise more autonomy with respect to the management of their budgets and staff.

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Laboratories and Autopsy Service

Despite numerous problems, the department continues to perform all of its functions at a commendable level. The Chemical Pathology and Haematology Subdepartments have attempted to maintain modern, cutting edge services by entering into lease-service contracts with large suppliers of laboratory reagents. This has allowed us to always have the best analysers available without significant capital outlay, and to get optimal cost-benefit from our reagents. The Histology Laboratory is badly in need of automation for routine and immunohistochemical functions. This laboratory continues to be plagued by unstable voltage as well as poor airconditioning and fume extraction systems. The Renal Pathology Unit is in desperate need of revitalization and new technology, including an electron microscope.
Our laboratory and autopsy services continued to provide invaluable support to the care of the in- and outpatients of the UHWI, as well as to patients from other medical facilities and institutions, both national and regional.

A total of 535,583 tests were performed by the Chemical Pathology Laboratory and 150,268 by the Routine Haematology Laboratory. The Blood Bank performed 26,538 tests and collected 4,427 units of blood from voluntary donors. The Flow Cytometry Unit processed 59 cases. The Cytology Laboratory processed 4,285 pap smears (64,275 units of work) and 703 non-gynaecological cases (91,390 units of work). The Histopathology Laboratory accessioned and processed 8,768 surgical cases which generated 46,426 tests (including routine, histochemical and immunohistochemical stains), amounting to over 671,882 units of work.

A total of 199 autopsies were performed, including 43 perinatal autopsies.

**Academic Innovations**

The department co-hosted two international conferences that were of groundbreaking significance. The first was held on April 20, 2012 in the Main Medical Lecture Theatre (MMLT), UWI, and was a Surgical Pathology Conference put on by us and members of the Faculty of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA. This conference is slated to be an annual event and marks an era of collaboration between the pathologists of both institutions.

The second conference was the First International Forensic Medicine Conference that was held on May 26 and 27, 2012, at the MMLT, UWI under the auspices of our department and that of the Centre for Forensic Science and Medicine, Toronto, Canada. This seminal conference and associated workshops sought to bring together all players and interest groups, governmental and civil, concerned with the development and capacity building of Forensic Pathology and its associated Forensic Sciences in Jamaica.
TEACHING & LEARNING

Undergraduate Programmes

The Department continued to be very heavily involved in the teaching of all aspects and sub-specialties of Pathology in both Stages I and II of the MBBS programme. Dr Elaine Williams continued as our Departmental Academic Administrator of Undergraduate Affairs, overseeing and coordinating all aspects of medical student education in the Department, including Clerkship coordination, as well as representing us on the Stage I & Stage II Committees, Assessment & Examination Committee and the Curriculum Committee.

Our lecturers continued to perform their assigned tasks admirably and the Report on the Student Self-Study for the Accreditation Process of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus, UWI, 2011, noted that the medical students:

- Selected the Pathology & Microbiology and Gynaecology clerkships as being the best clerkships
- Scored the Pathology & Microbiology Clerkship with the highest positive ratings (93.8%) where the quality of “Lectures/Conferences” was concerned.

Graduate Programmes

The DM Programme in Anatomical Pathology currently has 17 registered candidates representing our highest quota of residents-in-training in the history of the programme. Dr Nadia Williams continued as the Director of the Post Graduate (DM) Programme in Anatomical Pathology and Departmental Representative on the FMS Committee for Graduate Studies. Several members of staff were involved in the supervision and teaching of MPhil, MSc and PhD candidates registered in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences, as well as teaching postgraduate students in the DM Surgery, DM Psychiatry and DM Internal Medicine Programmes.

The DM Programme in Haematology/Oncology has 7 registered candidates and the DM in Chemical Pathology has one.
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FACILITIES

Academic, administrative, stores and support staff have moved into their respective refurbished offices and work areas, which are more functional and aesthetically reflective of what the department should be throughout. We are still short of space and facilities for the use of postgraduate students, storage of records, supplies, archival material, etc, and further refurbishing is still necessary in some decrepit areas of our physical plant.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Jamaica Cancer Registry

The registration of cancers from 2008 until the current date continues, with the purpose of preparing the next 5-year cancer incidence report, which will cover the period 2008 – 2012. It is expected that this report will be available for publication in 2014, pending the processes of verification of cases and data analysis.

During the year, the cancer registration software was upgraded to CanReg® version 5, provided by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). After initial testing, this programme is currently being used exclusively for registration of new cases.

The Registry has also submitted paediatric cancer cases to IARC for inclusion in the third volume of “International Incidence of Childhood Cancer”.

The Registry, in addition to investigating overall age-specific cancer incidence rates, has focused on specific cancers, analyzing the epidemiology of thyroid cancer, soft tissue sarcomas, childhood malignancies, malignancies in adolescents and young adults and head and neck cancers. These projects have already been translated into papers, most of which are In press, and one of which has already been published.

The JCR has also actively supported the Elective programme in the undergraduate curriculum, accommodating six medical students, who participated in four cancer research projects. One of these students (Mr. Kurt Blake), presented his work (A 30 Year Review of Paediatric Central Nervous System Malignancies in Jamaica: 1978 – 2007) at the 2011 Faculty of
Medical Sciences Annual Research Conference, and was awarded the prize for the Best Poster.


As has been the tradition, the Registry has provided information on cancers to members of the medical community, the Ministry of Health, and to assist in various research projects.

**PAPERS PRESENTED**

**Dr K Bishop**

- “Perinatal Pathology Report January – December 2011: Analysis of Data”, 11th Annual Perinatal Conference: Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Mona, February 11-12, 2012
- “Perinatal Pathology Report January – December 2011” S. Allen. 11th Annual Perinatal Conference: Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Mona, February 11-12, 2012
- “Twin Placentation and Related Pathology”. 11th Annual Perinatal Conference: Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Mona, February 11-12, 2012
- “Fatal Child Abuse”. First International Forensic Medicine Conference. Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI and Centre for Forensic Science & Medicine, University of Toronto, Main Medical Lecture Theatre, UWI, Mona, May 26-27, 2012
Professor K Coard


Dr L Dilworth

- Biochemical Profile of Tuber crops and the Implications for Preserving Regional Biodiversity. XV congreso de la Sociedad Mesoamericana para la biología y la concervación: Simposio: Los huertos familiares de Mesoamérica su importancia florística, ecologica, economica, ethnobotánica, alternatives de uso Y su conservación. Yucatán, Mexico 2011.

- “El Huerto familiar “Batey” finca agrícola del caribe un estadio de caso en Jamaica.” JS Flores, J K-B y R V Ricalde. XV congreso de la Sociedad Mesoamericana para la biología y la concervación:
Simposio: Los huertos familiares de Mesoamérica su importancia florística, ecológica, económica, ethnobotánica, alternativas de uso y su conservación. Yucatán, México 2011.


Prof C Escoffery


Dr T Gibson

(a) “Cancer incidence in Jamaica. Inaugural University of the West Indies”

(b) “Genetics in Pathology at UWI: Today and tomorrow”

Both presented at the Inaugural UWI / Mayo Clinic Surgical Pathology Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, April 2012.


- “Demographic profile of leukaemia in Kingston and St. Andrew, Jamaica, 1978 – 2007.”(poster). JE Taylor-Houston, DA Lowe, B Hanchard, N Waugh, D McNaughton Faculty of Medical
Dr J Jaggon


- “Pathology of Pineal Region Tumors” G Char, R Thompson. Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium, January 2012, Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Dr S Shirley

- “Pathologic appraisals of core needle biopsies of the breast: How far can you go?” The Professor Stanley Brooks Memorial Lecture, 17th Annual symposium of the Jamaican Association of Clinical Pathologists, November 6, 2011, Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica.

- “Breast Cancer Pathology in Jamaica,” UWI/Mayo Clinic Inaugural Surgical Pathology Conference, April 20, 2012, Main Medical Lecture Theatre, FMS, UWI

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs

Book Chapter

**Refereed (Peer-Reviewed) Journal Articles**


* Morrison BF, **Hanchard B**, Graham RP, Reid ME. “Penile cancer in Jamaicans managed at the University Hospital of the West Indies” *WIMJ*. 2011 Oct; 60 (5):525-30.


* Johnson P, **Jaggon JR**, Bruce C, Campbell J, Crandon I, **Char G**, Eldemire-Shearer D. “Initial data from the Intracranial Tumour Registry of The University of the West Indies:


needs to be recognized”. *International Journal of Diabetes in Developing Countries* 30(3): 133-137.


**Refereed (Peer-Reviewed) Journal Abstracts**


PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr K. Bishop

— Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr D. Brady-West

— Assistant Editor, *West Indian Medical Journal*

Dr L Buchner-Daley

— UWI representative, Ministry of Health NPHL/NBTS Modernisation Committee

Professor G. Char

— Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr Sheray Chin

— Reviewer, *Gynecologic Oncology & West Indian Medical Journal*

— Member, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Caribbean Association of Oncology and Haematology, Association of Consultant Physicians of Jamaica, Medical Association of Jamaica
Professor K. Coard
– Chairman, Research Grants Awards Committee of the Caribbean Cardiac Society.

Dr L Dilworth
– Member, University Council of Jamaica Evaluation and Accreditation Team

Professor C. Escoffery
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr. T. Gibson
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Professor B. Hanchard
– Executive Board Member, International Society of Retrovirology
– Member, Board of Directors & Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr. J. Jaggon
– Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society
– Assistant Secretary and Member, Jamaica League Against Epilepsy

Dr. D. Lowe
– Executive Member, Leukemia CARE
– Voluntary clinician, National Blood Transfusion Service Voluntary Blood Donor Drive
– Clinical Advocate, Jamaica Haemophilia Society

Dr. D. McGrowder
– President, Jamaican Association of Clinical Pathologists
– Vice President, Laboratory Association of Jamaica.
– Member, Accreditation Council, Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation
Professor D. Shah
   – Deputy Chairman, Council, Professions Supplementary to Medicine, Ministry of Health, Jamaica
   – Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr. S. Shirley
   – Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society
   – Reviewer, *West Indian Medical Journal*
   – Member, Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation Council (JANAAC) Technical
   – Advisory Committee ISO 15189 for Medical Laboratories

Dr. J. Taylor-Houston
   – Chairperson, Leukaemia CARE

Dr. G. Wharfe
   – Member, Caribbean Association of Oncology and Haematology
   – Chair, Jamaica Haemophilia Committee

Dr. E. Williams
   – Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society

Dr. N. Williams
   – Member, International Relations Committee of the American College of Gastroenterology
   – Cytopathology Consultant, Jamaica Cancer Society
   – Executive Member, UWI Medical Alumni Association
   – Member, UWI Mentorship Programme
   – Member, ICHS Alumnae Association “Big Sister” Programme
   – Member, ICHS Alumnae Association Scholarship Committee