

## THE HUGH WYNTER FERTILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT



**Dr. Vernon DaCosta, MBBS, DMOG, FRCOG, FACOG**  
**Director**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit in the review period intensified its clinical services, training, research and outreach activities. Ongoing tooling of the clinical infrastructure was undertaken to facilitate the use of modern surgical techniques and to support the training of undergraduate and post graduate medical students. The retooling is also central for the collaboration with international training partners such as the International Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy (ISGE), with whom the Unit has partnered and is developing the plan to host training for obstetricians/gynaecologists in a week of intensive endoscopic training in September 2018.

The review of curriculum for the Masters in Counselling by Distance Education programme which was suspended for 2017/18 is in progress and discussions have been held on the delivery mode. The plan is to finalize the curriculum and delivery arrangements by the end of the academic year 2017/18.

The Unit continued its thrust to improve the knowledge and skills of obstetricians/gynaecologists in fertility treatment by hosting a two-day workshop in July 2018 on in vitro fertilization (IVF) and diagnostic hysteroscopy. The training was held in collaboration with Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Roche, and MorePharma Pharmaceutical Company. The participants were from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

Recommendations of the 2017 quality assurance report are continuously being addressed. Measures are being taken to seek national accreditation for the IVF laboratory as the initial action in the preparation for international accreditation.

The Unit is also in the process of reviewing and assessing its operations towards developing a new strategic plan that will be aligned to the UWT's Triple A Strategy for 2017–2022.

## CLINICAL SERVICES

**Table 1.** Surgeries and Other Procedures Performed in the Clinic

| Procedures                                | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| New Patients Registered (Family Planning) | 327      |
| Oral Contraceptives                       | 282      |
| Depo-Provera Injection                    | 1573     |
| Jadelle/Zarin Subdermal Implant           | 136      |
| IUCD                                      | 90       |
| Tubal Ligations                           | 8        |
| Vasectomy                                 | 6        |
| Diagnostic Laparoscopy                    | 13       |
| Diagnostic Hysteroscopy                   | 235      |
| Cervical Cerclage                         | 21       |
| Suction Curettage/ D&C                    | 77       |
| Cyst Aspiration                           | 1        |
| Operative Laparoscopy                     | 101      |
| Operative Hysteroscopy                    | 20       |
| Open Myomectomy                           | 7        |
| Abdominal Hysterectomy                    | 4        |
| Ovarian Cystectomy                        | 2        |
| Breast Lumpectomy                         | 1        |
| Excision of Bartholin's Cyst              | 2        |

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**Table 2:** Assisted Reproduction

| Services                            | Total performed |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Egg Recoveries (IVF/ICSI)           | 107             |
| Embryo Transfers                    | 72              |
| Egg Sharers/Egg Donor Recoveries    | 15              |
| Egg Recipient Cycles                | 20              |
| Oocyte cryopreservation             | 4               |
| Patients with Embryos Cryopreserved | 68              |
| Frozen Embryo Transfers             | 78              |
| Semen Analysis Performed            | 254             |
| Surgical sperm retrievals           | 5               |
| Vasectomies                         | 6               |
| Intrauterine Inseminations          | 26              |
| Endometrial Aspirations             | 1               |
| Suction curettage                   | 1               |
| Cyst Aspiration                     | 10              |

## TRAINING

The Masters in Counselling Programme is delivered by a blend of Face-to-Face teaching and Computer-Mediated Instruction in seven English-speaking Caribbean countries including Jamaica. By producing trained graduates in the theory and practice of professional counselling, the Training department continues to advance the psychological health and well-being of the UWI's Regional Communities.

### Student Enrollment

Student enrollment by country for the academic year 2017–2018 is shown by site in Table 3.

**Table 3:** Enrollment by Country for the Academic Year 2017–2018

| Country       | Enrollment |
|---------------|------------|
| The Bahamas   | 2          |
| Belize        | 1          |
| Dominica      | 6          |
| Mona, Jamaica | 4          |
| St. Lucia     | 2          |
| St. Vincent   | 1          |
| Trinidad      | 10         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>26</b>  |

**Withdrawal**

One student from the Mona campus voluntarily withdrew from the programme.

**Programme Status**

The intake of new students to the programme was suspended for the academic year 2017–2018 in order to improve the overall efficiency of its delivery. The curriculum which has been revised in line with the American 2016 Council for Accreditation of Counselling and Related Educational Programmes (CACREP), is currently being reviewed to increase its marketability.

**Graduation**

Eight students from the following sites graduated in October/November 2017: Belize (1); Dominica (4); Mona (1) and Trinidad (2).

A total of six students from the following sites have been recommended for graduation in October/November 2018: Dominica (1); Mona (1); St. Lucia (2) and Trinidad (2).

**Courses offered**

Five courses were offered as well as supervision of the research project.

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Most of the students had already completed the taught courses and were working on their research projects.

### Student Performance in Relation to Courses

Table 4. Semester 1

| Course Code and Name                            | Enrollment | Passed |
|---|------------|--------|
| COUN6301: Research Project                      | 14         | 4      |
| COUN6206: CBT Ind. Counselling Pt. 2 (Re-sit)   | 1          | 1      |
| COUN6300: Practicum 5                           | 3          | 3      |
| COUN6112: Personal Growth Groups (Re-sit)       | 1          | 1      |
| COUN6107: Qualitative Research Methods (Re-sit) | 1          | 1      |
| COUN6209: Professional Issues Pt.2 (Re-sit)     | 1          | 1      |

Table 5. Semester 2

| Course Code and Name                      | Enrollment | Passed |
|---|------------|--------|
| COUN6301: Research Project                | 13         | 2      |
| COUN6202: CBT Group Counselling (Re-sit)  | 2          | 2      |
| COUN6206: Vocational Counselling (Re-sit) | 1          | 1      |
| COUN6302: Practicum 6                     | 3          | 3      |

### Resource Personnel

The Training Coordinator Mrs. Lillith Williams commenced her pre-retirement leave in April 2018.

Mr. Craig McNally, Senior Counsellor at the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech, Ja.) has been providing professional assistance to the Training Section, primarily in relation to the Curriculum review and students' research projects.

Dr. Pansy Hamilton, Assistant Director in the HWFMU, Dr. Desmalee Holder Nevins from the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry and Ms. Nicola Satchell, lecturer in the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work have also been providing support and assistance to the students in their research projects.

## OUTREACH

### Introduction

The Outreach Section of the Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit (HWFMU) is engaged in increasing awareness of the services and work of the Unit by educating the community about Sexual and Reproductive issues and providing related services. The input of members of the academic, administrative, technical and support staff are integrated for the planning and delivery of the identified activities for the reporting period identified.

### Summary of the Calendar of Events

- **Visit to the Mona High School:** Our Sessional Nurse, Nurse Joan Meade, delivered a presentation on the different forms of Contraceptives to the sixth form students at the Mona High School student on Friday, October 20, 2017.
- **Christmas Treat:** On December 15, 2017, the HWFMU staff made donations and hosted a Christmas Treat for the children at the Anne Dawson Home for Children located in St. Andrew.
- **The University Research Days (URD) 2018:** The HWFMU participated in the annual UWI URD held February 7–9, 2018.
- **Endometriosis Month 2018:** The director, Dr. Vernon DaCosta, as well as, the other HWFMU Consultants participated in several radio interviews during the commemoration of Endometriosis Awareness Month.
- **The Launch of Visanne:** With the Unit's leading role and expertise in the treatment of Endometriosis and Infertility, the director, Dr.

Vernon DaCosta, was invited to chair the Bayer Healthcare's "Launch of Visanne" on April 18, 2018 and was responsible for the endorsement of the drug, Visanne. Prior to the Launch, he participated in radio interviews on Endometriosis and how the drug, could assist in the treatment of Endometriosis. His overall involvement, led to the publication of an article, "Affordable drug introduced for women with Endometriosis" in *The Observer* on April 30, 2018.

- **The IVF and Hysteroscopy Workshop:** As part of our mandate in improving sexual and reproductive health and training of clinicians in Jamaica and across the Caribbean, The HWFMU through an ongoing partnership with Ferring Pharmaceutical and new sponsor Roche Diagnostics Central America and The Caribbean hosted a two-day workshop at the HWFMU on July 13-14, 2018. Fourteen (14) Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from Jamaica and across the Caribbean were equipped with the novel methodologies and skills for treating infertility and performing Hysteroscopy.
- **The Website Launch:** The HWFMU has increased its effort in the promotion of its products and services; and through the hiring of a third party promotional team, ItsPixelPerfect, we have successfully launched our newly developed Website, Artificial Intelligence bot and Social Media platforms on July 13, 2018.

## PAPERS PRESENTED

- K. Carroll, AM Pottinger. Fertility desire and awareness of fertility options among the HIV population. 63rd CARPHA Health Research Conference, June 14-16, 2018, St. Kitts and Nevis. Oral presentation with published abstract: *West Indian Med J*, Vol 67 (Suppl 2): 1-74
- K. Carroll, J. Pinkney. Fertility HIV infected persons in serodiscordant relationships: a preliminary study from a Jamaican cohort. Annual Summit on Sexual & Reproductive Health, October 2-3, 2017, Atlanta GA, USA. Oral presentation
- Forbes-Blake, Veronica, DaCosta, Vernon, "Navigating the sphere of attitude in health and wellness". Association of Caribbean Higher

Education Administrators 17th Annual Conference. Title of conference – Embracing the Future: Creative Approaches to Higher Education at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 12–14, 2018. Oral presentation.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- K Carroll, AM Pottinger, MD Jackson. “Associations between Marijuana Use and Sperm Quality in Jamaican Men: Implications for the Subfertile Male”. *West Indian Med J* 2017; 66 (5): 569

## **MAJOR CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

- Antoine, Alexander. “EDUCAUSE Annual Conference”, October 31 - November 3, 2017, Philadelphia, USA.
- Carroll, Kamali. 63rd CARPHA Health Research Conference, June 14–16, 2018, St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Harriott, John. “Updates in Infertility Treatment” Conference, January 24–27, 2018, Madrid, Spain.
- Carroll, Kamali. Annual Summit on Sexual & Reproductive Health, October 2–3, 2017, Atlanta GA, USA.
- Forbes-Blake, Veronica. Skillpath Training titled “How to Communicate with Tact, Professionalism and Diplomacy in Fort Lauderdale, USA, August 2017.
- Forbes-Blake, Veronica. Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators 17th Annual Conference, July 12–14, 2018, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Black, Deon. “Digital Marketing Leaders Summit”, June 21–22, 2018, Massachusetts, USA.

## **INCOME GENERATION**

Income generated is \$178,504,492.50. Expenditure is \$202,074,045.85 with commitments of \$21,996,398.23.

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Table 6.

| Detail                              | J\$            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Staff Cost                          | 50,522,789.16  |
| Laboratory Supplies                 | 78,395,547.36  |
| BabySentry (ART Management Systems) | 3,316,828.80   |
| Total                               | 132,235,165.32 |

Tooling of the Unit resulted in an expenditure of \$78,395,547.36 and staff cost borne by Cost Recovery was \$50,522,789.16.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

#### **Dr. Vernon DaCosta**

- President of the Caribbean Association of Gynaecological Endoscopic Surgeons (CAGES)
- Member of the International Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy (ISGE)
- Member of the Grabham Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists.
- Member of the BASE Foundation.

#### **Hamilton, Pansy**

- Board Member, The Mico University College
- Board Member Pringle Home for Girls
- Member, Churches Emancipation Committee for the Annual Emancipation Lecture
- Member, Nursing Council of Jamaica Policy Committee

#### **Jackson, Elaine**

- Associate Pastor, New Wine Tabernacle Church
- Director and Executive Producer, UIWAIS House of Worship Ministry

- Member, Board for August Town Primary School
- Member, Jamaica Association of Composers, Authors and Publishers (JACAP)
- Member, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives

**Carroll, Kamali**

- Member, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives

**Forbes-Blake, Veronica**

- Member, Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals
- Member, Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators (ACHEA)

**Ingram, Neila**

- Pastor, St. Stephen's African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Assistant Recording Secretary, Jamaica Council of Churches

**Gill, Ileen**

- Member, Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals

**STUDENTS**

Final year MBBS students rotating in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Clerkship in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Assisted Conception, 10 week rotations, 2017–2018 – Taught by Dr. Kamali Carroll.

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- A one-day refresher training session was conducted in September for the nurses, scrub technicians and operating theatre technicians on sterilization of instruments using the Unit's Sterrad (Hydrogen Peroxide Plasma Sterilizer) courtesy of A.A. Laquis.
- Demonstration regarding safety and the handling of cylinders by IGL – March 6, 2018.

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- Demonstration regarding safety and the use of the elevator by Caribbean Elevators – February 6, 2018
- Presentation and demonstration in October to the nurses and operating theatre attendants on the proper use and operation of currently owned and new energy sources used in the operating theatre. The session conducted by overseas representatives of Johnson & Johnson Limited courtesy of A.A. Laquis.
- The Unit hosted a workshop on “Customer Service” on March 12, 2018 – presenter was Veronica Forbes-Blake.
- Dr. Vernon DaCosta, Director, completed Post Graduate Fellowship and Diploma in Minimal Access Surgery from the World Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons in India in November 2017. He also completed the Certificate in Principles and Practices of Project Management at the Mona School of Business in July.
- Mrs. Deloris Whitely, Evening Janitor, completed the 8- week Computer Literacy course at the University of the West Indies, Open Campus in June, 2018.
- Mrs. Monique Loten-Clarke, Secretary III, completed the Certificate in Principles and Practices of Project Management at the Mona School of Business in July.
- Mrs. Neila Ingram, Administrative Assistant, completed the BSc. in International Relations and also completed the Certificate in Principles and Practices of Project Management at the Mona School of Business in July, 2018.
- Ms. Deon Black completed a Certificate in Principles of Project Management in January 2018.