

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

Professor John F. Lindo, BSc PhD UWI – Head of Department

Income generation

Considerable work was conducted on the development of a new incoming generating model for the department to address perennial budgetary shortfalls. Two consultants were hired to develop a business plan for the department and a team which included representatives from the Bursary, HR, the Public Relations Office, MITS and a representative from the department was established to address the transformation of the department.



The Department acquired a DNA sequencer which will be used for research and income generation purposes. Currently, the facilities are set up for antiretroviral resistance testing and molecular surveillance of HIV by way of subtypes and the department is actively seeking contracts in this area.

Research and graduate studies

The research output of the department declined to 0.8 from 1.2 papers for the period under review. Revision of the MSc (Medical Microbiology) was completed and the programme is one of the avenues which will be used to improve research output. A single candidate completed the PhD (Medical Microbiology) while a second remains registered as a part time candidate. The department has three MSc candidates registered.

Clinical Laboratory Services

This year the department recorded a decrease of 2.9% in the number of clinical specimens processed from 58,113 to 56,437 over the period.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Non peer reviewed

- **Jackson ST**, Bullock-Ducasse M. Influenza A H1N1 – Underestimated Trauma to the Health of our Nation – The Impact of Trauma on the Health of our nation, Medical Association of Jamaica Symposium, June 2009.
- **Jackson ST**, McMorris N, Salas R, Irons B. Showcase Pandemic Influenza Preparedness in the Caribbean. Caribbean Community Pandemic Influenza Workshop. January 2009.
- **Nicholson AM**. Update on Antibiotic Resistance. Medical Association of Jamaica Symposium, June 2009.
- **Nicholson AM**. Update in treatment of odontogenic infections. Jamaica Dental Association, July 2009.

Peer reviewed abstracts

- **MG Brown, IE Vickers, RA Salas, MF Smikle**. Patterns of seroprevalence of dengue virus IgM and IgG antibodies in suspected cases of dengue in Jamaica, 2003-2006. Caribbean Health Research Council 54th Annual Scientific Conference, St Lucia Beach.
- **Bodonaik, NC Heslop OD** and Willis R. Comparative In-vitro Evaluation (MICs) of Tigecycline with 9 other Antibiotics against Clinical isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* encountered in Jamaica. International Congress of Infectious Diseases. June 19-22, 2009; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- **Bodonaik NC and Heslop OD**. Highly Susceptible Strains of Typhoid bacilli encountered in Jamaica. International Congress of Infectious Diseases. June 19-22, 2009; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- **Jackson ST**, Mullings A, Willis R, Mc Morris N, Gordon-Strachan G, Frankson T. Dengue and Severe Dengue Infection in a Developing Country S. 25th Annual Clinical Virology Symposium, Pan American Society of Clinical Virology, April 2009.

- **Jackson ST**, Mullings A, Gordon-Strachan G, Williams E, Williams-Johnson J, Farr J. Occupational exposure policies to blood borne viruses among health care workers in a third world country, 25th Annual Clinical Virology Symposium, Pan American Society of Clinical Virology, April 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

- * **Brown MG, Vickers IE**, Salas RA, **Smikle MF**. Patterns of dengue virus IgM and IgG antibodies in suspected cases of dengue in Jamaica, 2003-2006. *Hum Antibodies*. 2009; 18(1-2):29-34.
- * **Jackson ST**, Mullings A, Bennett F, Khan C, Gordon-Strachan G, Rhoden T. Dengue infection in patients presenting with neurological manifestations in a dengue endemic population. *WIMJ*. 2008 Sep; 57(4):373-6.
- * **Jackson ST**, Mullings AM, Booth TF, MacDonald L, Henry SO, Khan CA, McLaughlin PD. Molecular analysis and implications of neurovirulent circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus in Jamaica. A case report and review of literature. *WIMJ*. 2008 Nov; 57(5):511-4.
- * **AM Nicholson**, S Ledgister, T Williams, S Robinson, P Gayle, T Lindo, D Castle, K Shaw, S Moonah. Distribution of Nosocomial Organisms and their Resistance Patterns in the Intensive Care Unit of the University Hospital of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica by *WIMJ*. 2009; 58 (2): 142-148.
- * Ragin CC, Watt A, Markovic N, Bunker CH, Edwards RP, Eckstein S, Fletcher H, Garwood D, Gollin SM, Jackson M, Patrick AL, **Smikle M**, Taioli E, Wheeler VW, Wilson JB, Younger N, McFarlane-Anderson N. Comparisons of high-risk cervical HPV infections in Caribbean and US populations. *Infect Agent Cancer*. 2009 Feb 10; 4 Suppl 1:S9.
- * Watt A, Garwood D, Jackson M, Younger N, Ragin C, **Smikle M**, Fletcher H, McFarlane-Anderson N. High-risk and multiple human papillomavirus (HPV) infections in cancer-free Jamaican women. *Infect Agent Cancer*. 2009 Feb 10;4 Suppl 1:S11.

- * Huang S, Dunkley-Thompson J, Tang Y, Macklin EA, Steel-Duncan J, Singh-Minott I, Ryland EG, **Smikle M**, Walker BD, Christie CD, Feeney ME. Deficiency of HIV-Gag-specific T cells in early childhood correlates with poor viral containment. *J Immunol.* 2008 Dec 1; 181(11):8103-11.
- * Tulloch-Reid MK, Boyne MS, Choo-Kang EG, Parkes RH, Wright-Pascoe RA, Barton EN, Wilks RJ, Palmer-Levy ML, **Smikle MF**. Autoantibodies in Caribbean youth with diabetes mellitus. *Hum Antibodies.* 2008; 17(3-4):57-62.