

# DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY

**Professor Horace M. Fletcher BSc, MB,BS, DM(O&G),  
FRCOG, FACOG – Head of Department**

## WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The main focus of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is to lead the development of teaching and research in women's health in order to improve the health and welfare of families, and to make a tangible impact in the region. As such, the Department focussed significantly on clinical (service) work and academia (teaching and research).



In the last eight years, the Department has grown with the inclusion of more consultants and more residents. We have increased the cadre of consultants in the Obstetric and Gynaecological services (reproductive endocrinology, gynaecological oncology and perinatal services). We now have two new posts as labour ward consultants where residents are constantly supervised while managing patients in this high risk area. This has resulted in more prompt management of emergencies and a decrease in maternal mortality. We also now have two trained gynaecological oncologists which has resulted in many more oncology cases being done and more referrals of difficult cases from Jamaica and the Caribbean. A trained maternal foetal medicine specialist, who manages high risk referrals, also joined our team. The improvement in the staff compliment has resulted in our improvement in managing patients as well as teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Department teaches medical students, postgraduate students (Doctorate Medicus Obstetrics/Gynaecology) as well as supervise other postgraduate students in MPhil and PhD programmes.

The Department also assists with the teaching of students in the Midwifery and Nursing programmes.

### **Obstetric Perinatal Service**

The Perinatal Service hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference from February 11-12, 2012 under the theme “Twin Pregnancy”. Professor Jon Barrett, Maternal Foetal Medicine Specialist and Chief Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at the University of Toronto delivered the guest lecture, which focused on “Monochorionic Gestation: Its dangers and diagnosis”. The Conference highlighted the complications of this type of pregnancy, and hosted workshops to address issues to include maternal collapse and resuscitation, basic obstetrics ultrasound, and Cardiotocographic (CTG) monitoring. More than 450 persons participated in the Conference.

The Service continues to manage 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 facilitated the teaching of postgraduate and undergraduate medical students. Ultrasonography services offered privately proved successful and profitable for yet another year. The service is done at a very high level and linked by computer to experts in Canada for second opinions. This was organised and is run by the Maternal Foetal Specialist Dr Nadine Johnson. Presently, a second staff member is in training in the field in Canada and is expected to rejoin the Department in 2014.

### **Oncology Unit**

The Oncology Unit continued to offer consultations for patients with gynaecological tumours, colposcopic diagnosis and treatment, and surgery for gynaecological tumours. The Unit also facilitated the teaching of postgraduate and undergraduate medical students. Dr. Ian Bambury rejoined the Oncology Unit having returned from his fellowship in Gynaecological Oncology in Ottawa. Dr. Matthew Taylor has also been appointed as a consultant in his own right. The Unit continues to be overseen by four lecturers of the Department: Professor Horace Fletcher,

Dr Carole Rattray, Dr. Sharmaine Mitchell, and Dr Ian Bambury. The Unit is staffed by Sister Murdoch and her team of nurses, as well as residents who rotate through on a monthly basis.

## **Sterility and Fertility**

The members of the Sterility and 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. The service is managed by Professor Joseph Frederick as director of the programme with Drs. Shaun Wynter, Vernon DaCosta, John Harriott, Loxley Christie and Sharifa Frederick as clinicians, and Dr. Audrey Pottinger and Sister McKenzie as counselors. Two other staff members in the programme are Miss Denise Everett, a senior embryologist (Biologist) and Miss Hillary Walters a staff nurse. Since the resumption, the pregnancy rates have shown considerable improvement as we are also achieving pregnancies from the frozen embryos and donor eggs. A major breakthrough 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 Division in the Ministry of Health.

The Firm also undertook operative and diagnostic laparoscopy, contraception and sterilisation advice and management. Counseling in family planning and family life was also offered. The Firm has recently embarked on construction of a new state of the art building to house two operating suites, a lecture theatre and new in vitro fertilisation labs. This construction is in an advanced state of completion. This initiative will see an increase in the generation of capital for the University. Also important is the fact that this new unit will have facilities for video conferencing to allow other campuses to benefit from seeing procedures being performed.

## **Contribution of Faculty Members**

The performance of administrative functions continued to be paramount. The Department continued its bi-monthly Specialty Board meetings, and

participated in the Faculty's Board Meetings, Evaluations and Promotions Meetings, and Faculty Committee for Graduate Studies Meetings. Staff members also participated in the Mona Academic Board Meetings. The Department continued its regular case management conferences for postgraduate students on Mondays and Thursdays.

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

The project titled "Endocrine Disrupters in Jamaican Foods, sewage and waste water and water supply: synthetic oestrogens Xenoestrogens, and Phyto-oestrogens, and their Association with semen analysis in infertile couples" received funding through the Principal's New Initiative grant in the amount of \$J1.366M. This is to involve collaboration with Professor Dasgupta of the Department of Chemistry, University of the West Indies, along with other obstetrics and gynaecology consultants and residents.

## **RESEARCH COMPLETED**

- Harriott J, Simpson Harley C, Christie L, DaCosta V, Wynter S. Vaginal Examination: a new approach to an old dilemma.
- Harriott J, Monthrope P, Christie L, Wynter S, DaCosta V, Frederick J. Assessment of endometrial abnormalities prior to in vitro fertilization: Comparison between the use of Saline Contrast Hysterosonogam (SCHS) and Hysteroscopy.
- Berry E, Harriott J, Morgan O, Fletcher H. A prospective study of Maternal Obesity and Pregnancy Outcome at the University Hospital of the West Indies.
- Simms-Stewart, D. Twin Birth Study: A multicenter Trial.
- Simms-Stewart, D. Comparison between actual birthweight, ultrasonographic foetal weight and the effect of the level of experience on the accuracy of the measurement.

## Research Awards

- **Christie L, Harriott JA, Dacosta VE, Wynter SH,** Everett DM, Foster RA. John J. Sciarra IJGO Prize Paper Award, 2011. “Intrauterine Insemination in Jamaica as a low cost subfertility treatment in a low-Resource Region.”. (Best Clinical Research Article from a Low/Middle-income Country - Honorable Mention. The IJGO is the official journal of FIGO).
- **Fletcher, Horace.** Principal’s Research Award 2012 “Most outstanding researcher” Presented February 2012. Mona Campus UWI.
- **Frederick, Joseph.** Grabham Society Award for Excellence “for Pioneering and Innovative Work which has contributed to the advancing of Science of Obstetrics and Gynaecology during the first 50 years of independence”. Presented 2012.

## PAPERS/POSTERS PRESENTED

### Dr. Loxley Christie

- “Advances in the Laparoscopy in Jamaica”. American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- “Amenorrhea and the General Practitioner”. The Caribbean College of General Physicians
- “Maintaining your Sexual Appetite”- St. John’s SDA Church Health Annual Health Fair
- Connecting Minds – Motivational Speaker - A project, facilitated through Flow Jamaica, aimed at mentoring final year High School Students preparing for further studies.

### Dr. Nadine Johnson

- “Ultrasound in High Risk Pregnancy”. Obstetrics and Gynaecology Annual Symposium in Nassau, Bahamas.

## PUBLICATIONS

- \* **Bambury I**, Wharfe G, **Fletcher H**, Williams E, Jaggon J. Ovarian lymphoma. *J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2011 Oct; 31(7):653-5.
- \* Cawich SO, Lewis T, **DaCosta V**, **Harriott J**, **Wynter S**, **Bambury I**, **Christie L**. Predictive factors for anal sphincter injuries at delivery: A case control study. *WIMJ*. 2012; 61(S4): 50.
- \* **Christie L R**, **Harriott JA**, **Dacosta VE**, **Wynter SH**, Everett DM, Foster RA. Intrauterine insemination in Jamaica as a low-cost subfertility treatment in a low-resource region. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet*. 2011 Mar 112(3):208-10. Epub 2011 Jan 17.
- \* **DaCosta V**, **Wynter S**, **Harriott J**, **Christie L**, Berry E, Frederick-Johnston S, **Frederick J**. Operative hysteroscopy in a Jamaican cohort. *WIMJ*. Dec 2011, 60(6):641-6.
- \* **DaCosta V**, **Wynter S**, **Harriott J**, **Christie L**, **Frederick J**, Frederick-Johnston S. Laparoscopic Cervicoisthmic Cerclage for the treatment of Cervical Incompetence: Case Reports. *WIMJ*. 2011 Oct; 60(5):590-3.
- \* **Fletcher H**, Brathwaite, Hylton-Kong T. and Figueroa P. Poverty, folate deficiency, HIV and ulcerated STD in Jamaica. *WIMJ*, 2011 60:137-140.
- \* **Fletcher H**, Buchanan K, Jacob L. Conservative treatment of ectopic pregnancies medical versus surgical Therapy. *Open Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. 2011, 1:6-11.
- \* **Fletcher H**, Burrell C, Bassaw B, Thomas E. Complications of uterine fibroids and their management. *Obstet Gynecol Int*. 2012:932436. Epub, Mar 19, 2012.
- \* **Fletcher H**, Gordon-Strachan G, Hamilton, **Frederick J**, McFarlane S. Provider KAP re Abortion in Jamaica. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet*. 2011 Jun; 113(3):183-6.

- \* **Fletcher H, Johnson N**, Reid M. The effect of introduction of misoprostol for induction of labour on pregnancy in gravidas with pre eclampsia. *Open Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2011, 2:64-69.
- \* **Fletcher HM**, Campbell-Simpson K, Walcott D, **Harriott J**. Müllerian remnant leiomyomas in women with Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome. *Obstetr Gynecol.* 2012 Feb;119(2 Pt 2):483-5.
- \* Foster R, **DaCosta V**, Everett D, **Christie L, Harriott J, Wynter S, Frederick J**, Walters Y. Successful treatment of severe male factor infertility in Jamaica with intracytoplasmic sperm injection. *WIMJ.* 2011 Jan;60(1):41-5.
- \* Gossell-Williams M, Hyde C, Hunter T, **Simms-Stewart D, Fletcher H**, McGrowder D, Walters CA. Improvement in HDL cholesterol in postmenopausal women supplemented with pumpkin seed oil: pilot study. *Climacteric.* 2011 Oct;14(5):558-64. Epub 2011 May 5.
- \* **Johnson N**, Bishop K, Trotman H, Reid M. Congenital abnormalities at a tertiary center in Jamaica: an 18-month material-fetal medicine experience. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med.* 2012 Jun; 25(6):687-91. Epub 2011 Jul 20.
- \* **Johnson N**, Johnson P, Blaser S. Fetal central nervous system magnetic resonance imaging at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica. *WIMJ.* 2012 Jan; 61(1):49-57.
- \* Lewis T, **DaCosta V**, Cawich SO, **Harriott J, Wynter S, Christie L**. A Retrospective Case Control Analysis of Predispositions to Severe Obstetric Perineal Lacerations. *WIMJ.* 2012; 61(S2): 42-43.
- \* Lewis T, **DaCosta V, Harriott J, Wynter S, Christie L**, Cawich S. Factors related to obstetric third and fourth degree perineal lacerations in a Jamaican cohort. *WIMJ.* 2011 Mar; 60(2):195-8.

- \* Marshall KG, Swaby K, Hamilton K, Howell S, Landis RC, Hambleton I, Reid M, **Fletcher H**, Forrester T, McKenzie C. A preliminary examination of the effects of genetic variants of redox enzymes on susceptibility to oedematous malnutrition and on percentage cytotoxicity in response to oxidative stress in vitro. *Annals of Tropical Paediatrics* 2011;31(1):27-36.
- \* Morrison BF, Burrowes IE, Aiken WD, Mayhew RG, **Fletcher HM**, Reid ME. Bone mineral density in Jamaican men on androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer. *Infect Agent Cancer*. 2011 Sep 23; 6 Suppl 2:S7. Epub 2011 Sep 23.
- \* Roye-Green K, **Frederick J**, Wharfe G, Choo-Kang E, **Dacosta V**, **Fletcher H**, Smikle M. Antiphospholipid and other autoantibodies in a cohort of habitual aborters and healthy multiparous women in Jamaica. *Hum Antibodies*. 2011 Jan 1; 20(1):1-5.
- \* **Simms-Stewart D**, **Fletcher H**. Counselling patients with uterine fibroids: a review of the management and complications. *Obstet Gynecol Int*. 2012;539365. Epub 2012 Jan 9.
- \* **Simms-Stewart D**, Hardie J, Mitchell P, **Fletcher H**, Reid A, Shah D. Torsion in a perimenopausal non-gravid uterus with infarction and gangrene of uterus and adnexa: a proposed means of making the diagnosis clinically. *J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2012 Apr; 32(3):312-4.
- \* Thame M, **Fletcher H**, Baker T, Jahoor F. Arginine flux, but not nitric oxide synthesis, decreases in adolescent girls compared with adult women during pregnancy. *J. Nutr*. 2011 141: 1 71-74.

## Abstracts

- \* Bryan L, **Rattray C**. Knowledge and attitude regarding human papilloma virus (HPV) infection and Vaccine among Healthcare providers in Jamaica. 2011 *WTMJ*, 60 (supp 4):36.

- \* **Fletcher H**, Gordon Strachan G, McFarlane S, **Frederick J.** and Hamilton P. Obstetricians-gynaecologists and GPs commonly provide abortions in Kingston Jamaica. *Reproductive Health Matters* 19:229.
- \* Lewis T, **DaCosta V**, Cawich SO, **Harriott J**, Wynter JS, **Christie L**. A retrospective Case Controlled Analysis of predispositions to severe obstetrics perineal lacerations. 2012, *WIMJ*, 61 (supp 2):42.
- \* Morrison B, Burrowes I, Aiken W, Mayhew R, **Fletcher H**, Reid M. Bone mineral density in Jamaican men on androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer. 2011 *WIMJ*, 60 (supp 2):23.
- \* Titus T, **Rattray C**, Walters C. The Pfannenstiel incision vs midline incision as a source of chronic pain. 2011 *WIMJ*, 60 (supp 4):27.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Professor Horace Fletcher**

- Member, Faculty Accreditation Committee
- Chairman, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Board
- Member, Cross Campus Medical Curriculum Committee
- Member, Faculty Research Day Committee
- Member, Faculty Assessment and Promotions Committee
- Medical Students Selection Committee
- President, Cornwall College Old Boys Association – Kingston Chapter

### **Dr. Santosh Kulkarni**

- Convenor, Journal Club
- Organiser, Case Management Conference
- Member, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Board

- Member, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Curriculum Committee

**Dr. John Harriott**

- Member, Strategic Planning Team for Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit Expansion Project
- Member, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Board

**Dr. Shawn Wynter**

- Member, MBBS stage II Curriculum Committee
- Board Member, Centre for Gender and Development Studies
- Member, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Board

**Dr Donnette Simms-Stewart**

- Member, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Board

**Dr. Loxley R. Christie**

- Member, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Board
- Local Representative, World Contraceptive Day

**Dr. Nadine Johnson**

- Co-organizer, annual perinatal conference
- Member, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Board

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Students in both the MBBS and DM programmes continue to perform well. At the undergraduate level, the clinical examinations are being changed to feature an OSCE. This will be introduced to class of 2014. At the postgraduate level, following on the cross campus meetings held over the last three years, it was agreed that DM examinations will also be restructured. The Department continues to work to satisfy this mandate, and has made initial steps by convening the Department's Curriculum Committee. Steps are also being taken to ensure that the curriculum across all three campuses is harmonised to ensure that all students receive a

similar learning experience. Video-conferencing facilities will be needed to ensure its success, and this is being explored by the Department.

All candidates who sat the DM (Part 2) examination in Obstetrics and Gynaecology were successful. The Department is in the process of developing a Fellowship Curriculum in Gynaecologic Endoscopic Surgery and guidelines for the assessment of levels of competence.

The Obstetrics and Gynaecology subject medal for all campuses for the 2012 May/June examinations was awarded to Catherine Innis from the Mona Campus.