

THE HUGH WYNTER FERTILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT



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Head of Department

OVERVIEW

The Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit (HWFMU) had a change of leadership in October 2015. Professor, the Honorable Joseph Frederick, retired; leaving a legacy of achievements that has placed the unit on the path of becoming a centre of excellence in sexual and reproductive Health. The staff of the HWFMU takes this opportunity to record its thanks to Professor the Honorable Joseph Frederick for the tremendous work and accomplishments in the HWFMU and the University of the West Indies.

This year was a particularly challenging one for the Unit especially the In-Vitro Fertilization section occasioned by the Zika epidemic and the government of Jamaica recommendation that women delay childbearing for twelve months. This resulted in a reduction in our IVF clientele and an increased uptake of the contraceptive injection Depo-Provera.

Several new initiatives have been undertaken. The first is the formation of the Caribbean Association of Gynaecologic Endoscopic Surgeons (CAGES) and the second is the partnering with the International Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy (ISGE). This partnership is seeing to the staging of the inaugural International minimally invasive gynaecologic surgery post-graduate courses and Congress to be held March 22–25, 2017 at the Hilton Rose Hall, Montego Bay.

The Master in Counselling by Distance Education programme will be suspended for the academic year 2016/17 to review its content, streamline delivery and make it more student-friendly.

The Unit launched its new website and is embarking on a more aggressive marketing strategy via Facebook, Google and LinkedIn to increase our clientele and public profile.

The Unit's continuous focus on training included the hosting of its second In-Vitro Fertilization/Ferring Workshop in July 2016 with the participation of obstetrician/gynaecologists from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. These annual workshops are geared to train doctors to operate IVF satellite stations in the other Caribbean islands. The Unit also held its first two-day IVF-legal conference in association with the UWI's Legal Unit at the UWI Regional Headquarters. The workshop reviewed the status of the Jamaica's legal framework for IVF services and the requirements to protect service providers and clients.

In the area of professional development, the following staff members completed their studies: Nurse Yvonne Walters, M.Sc. in Counselling; Miss Deon Black, M.B.A. and Mrs. Ileen Gill, B.Sc. Gender and Development Studies. Mrs. Veronica Forbes-Blake was awarded the Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals Runner-up All-island Administrative Professional of the Year.

The Unit continues to consolidate its programmes and services to promote greater efficiency.

CLINICAL SERVICES

Table 1 Surgeries and procedures performed in the Clinic

Procedures	Number
Oral Contraceptives	339
Depoprovera injection	2,338
Jadelle implant	90
IUCD	84
Tubal Ligation	8
Vasectomy	3
Diagnostic Laparoscopy	34
Diagnostic Hysteroscopy	222
Cervical Cerclage	6
Suction Curettage/D&C	55
Cyst aspiration	5
Operative laparoscopy	101
Operative hysteroscopy	18
Myomectomy	29
Hysterectomy	8

Table 2 Assisted Reproduction Report

Registrations (New Patients)	119 112 couples 7 single women
Counselling	43 couples – 4 single women
Egg Recoveries	93
Embryo Transfers	66
Frozen Embryo Transfers	35
Intrauterine Insemination	24
Surgical Sperm Retrievals	4
Cyst Aspirations	19
Endometrial Aspiration	1

TRAINING

The delivery of the M.Sc. Counselling programme is consistent with the strategic mandate of the University of the West Indies to advance the growth and development of the Caribbean Region through education and training. Delivered on a part-time in seven English-speaking Caribbean countries including Jamaica, the programme utilises a blend of Face-to-Face teaching and Computer-Mediated Instruction, as well as varied supportive networks throughout the region.

Student Enrollment

Student enrollment for the academic year 2015–2016 is shown by site as follows:

The Bahamas	2
Belize	2
Dominica	10
St. Lucia	2
Mona	4
St. Vincent	1
Trinidad	14

Total student enrollment = 35

Graduation

Two students, one from Mona and another from Trinidad are scheduled to graduate in October, 2016.

Applications

The M.Sc. Counselling programme was advertised during the second semester of the academic year 2015–2016 and some 57 applications were received of whom 29 were accepted. The numbers of applications accepted by site were as follows:

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Bahamas =1; Belize=5; Dominica = 4; Mona = 10; St. Vincent = 1; Trinidad and Tobago=8.

Programme Status

The programme has been suspended for the academic year 2016–2017 in order to improve the efficiency of its delivery. The curriculum is currently being revised to bring the programme in line with the American 2016 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programmes (CACREP).

OUTREACH

- Outreach supported the activities particularly the clinical services. Co-ordinating responsibilities were carried out for the following events:
 - Review and reconstruction of the HWFMU website
 - UWI Research Days February 17–19 2016
 - Planning and implementation of an “In-Vitro Fertilization Workshop for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists” on July 22 & 23, 2016, part sponsored by Ferring Pharmaceuticals and Roche for 10 Obstetricians/Gynaecologists from four Caribbean countries: Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and Antigua. There was a blend of lectures and clinical practice. The workshop was rated as excellent by participants.
 - Activities for educational institutions, and community groups including display booths, distribution of educational materials, PowerPoint presentations, and career talks. These included:
- Display booth and information dissemination at The University Hospital of the West Indies Health Fair, Main Car Park, on October 8, 2015.
- Booth display and talk on the “Work of the HWFMU” at a Health Fair at HEART Trust/NTA Vocational Training and Development Institute, Gordon Town Road, on February 4, 2016.

- Booth display and information dissemination at the Jamaica Rugby Union Health Fair at the Police Officers' Club on February 6, 2016.
- Careers day presentation at Penwood High School, 8 Rhoden Crescent, Kingston 12 on March 18, 2016.
- Activity relating to "Speak your Mind" for Mothers and Daughters Day at Mona Primary School.
- Careers Day presentation at St Joseph Infant School, Duke Street, on May 3, 2016.

MAJOR CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

- 44th Annual Scientific Conference, Medical Association of the Bahamas, "In Vitro Fertilisation – The Caribbean Experience" Presenter Dr V. DaCosta. March 2–4, 2016, Atlantis, Bahamas.
- AAGL Congress Las Vegas, November 2015 – attended by Dr. V. DaCosta and Sister C. McKenzie
- ACOG conference 2015 Jamaica
- November 2015 – Yvonne Walters participated and completed Basic Life Support Training
- April 2016 – Rochelle Foster-Hammond participated and completed the Andrology Course in Birmingham, UK
- April 2016 – Denise Everett Keene participated in Annual Donor Egg Symposium/Workshop in North Carolina
- May 2016 – Drs. Sharifa Frederick and Kamali Carroll visited the Genetics and IVF Institute in Virginia
- May 2016 – Two Days IVF Legal Workshop at the UWI Regional Office
- June 2016 – Visit from Academy of Science, Technology and the Arts (ASTA). Sixteen students and 2 teachers observed Assisted Reproduction Technology
- June 2016 – Heart Foundation Advanced CPR Workshop – entire staff participated

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- July 2016 - Customer Service Training for IVF Team

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Vernon DaCosta

- Electronic media interviews (TVJ, KLAS & RJR), exposing the technique of no-scalpel vasectomy and Assisted Reproductive Technologies including, In vitro Fertilization.
- Public education and awareness of donor gametes and surrogacy via radio.
- Member of the Grabham Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists.
- Member of the BASE Foundation.

Hamilton, Pansy

- Board Member, The Mico University College
- Board Member, Caribbean HIV/AIDS Alliance
- President, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives
- Executive Member, YWCA Jamaica
- Board Member Pringle Home for Girls
- Member, Churches Emancipation Committee for the Annual Emancipation Lecture

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

Meade, Joan

- Chairperson, Zone 4A, Sub-district 60B, Lions Clubs International
- Leo Advisor, Lions Club of St. Andrew Central

Williams, Lillith

- Member, The International Association for Counselling

McKenzie, Claudette

- Member, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives

Carroll, Kamali

- Member, Jamaica Association of Health Service Executives

Forbes-Blake, Veronica

- Chairman, Education Committee, Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals

Ingram, Neila

- Pastor, St. Matthew's African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Member/Advisor, O'Meally United Club
- Board Member, Jamaica Council of Churches

Gill, Ileen

- Member, Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals