

## THE HUGH WYNTER FERTILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT



**Dr. Vernon DaCosta, MBBS, DMOG, FRCOG, FACOG**  
**Head of Department**

### **OVERVIEW**

**T**he Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit (HWFMU) achieved two of their major objectives this academic year. The first was the staging of the Inaugural International ISGE-CAGES Minimally Invasive Surgery Congress and Postgraduate Courses. The second was the unit being granted A Centre of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynaecologic Surgery from the International Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy.

Our in vitro fertilisation (IVF) section is recovering from the effects of the Zika epidemic. The number of IVF cycles done per month has been steadily improving since the start of the year, and we are in the process of employing a marketing company to promote the services that are available in the unit.

The Masters in Counselling by Distance Education programme is still suspended for the academic year 2017/18 as we continue our work on

improving the curriculum, streamline delivery and make it more student-friendly.

The Unit had its first quality assurance review this year and is currently addressing the recommendations from the review committee. The Unit's continuous focus on training included the hosting of a one-day Live Minimally Invasive Surgery Workshop in March 2017 with the participation of obstetrician/gynaecologists from Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and from Europe.

In the area of professional development, Nurse Marjorie Lambert completed the Operating Theatre Nursing Course at The University Hospital of the West Indies.

The Unit continues to upgrade its programmes and services to promote greater efficiency and to provide the people of the Caribbean with the finest Sexual and Reproductive Services.

## CLINICAL SERVICES

**Table 1:** Surgeries and procedures performed in the Clinic

Procedures	Quantity
New Patients Registered (Family Planning)	262
Oral Contraceptives	258
Depo-Provera Injection	1674
Jadelle Subdermal Implant	191
IUCD	97
Tubal Ligation	16
Vasectomy	2
Diagnostic Laparoscopy	16
Diagnostic Hysteroscopy	194
Cervical Cerclage	21
Suction Curettage/ D&C	24
Cyst Aspiration	4
Operative Laparoscopy	110
Operative Hysteroscopy	31
Myomectomy	16
Hysterectomy	2

## STAFFING

The need for fulltime nurses was addressed with the addition of two registered nurses to the staff. Both nurses joined the staff in July of 2017. There are currently five nurses on staff.

**Table 2:** Assisted Reproduction

Services Offered	2016 –2017
Intrauterine insemination (IUI)	26
Egg Recoveries (STD/ICSI)	82
Embryo Transfers	76
Frozen Embryo Transfers (FET)	48
Semen Analyses	147
TESA/ MESA/ Biopsy/SSR	8
Vasectomy	2
Embryo Cryopreservation	19
Sperm Cryopreservation	2
Oocyte Cryopreservation	0
Donor Sperm	13
Egg Sharers/Egg Donors Recoveries	11
Egg Sharer Embryo Transfers	9
Egg Sharer Pregnancies	2
Recipient Cycles	9
Recipient Embryo Transfers	0
Recipient Pregnancies	2
Pregnancies	24
Patient Counselling Sessions	40
Cyst Aspirations	13
Endo. Aspiration	2
Registration	137

## TRAINING

The Training department contributes to the development of the skills and competencies of a wide cross-section of professionals throughout the English-speaking Caribbean using targeted training interventions. The present focus of the department is on conducting the Masters in Counselling (M.Sc.) Programme by a blend of Face-to-Face teaching and Computer-Mediated Instruction.

### Student Enrollment

Student enrollment for the academic year 2016–2017 is shown by the site as follows:

- The Bahamas (2)
- Belize (2)
- Dominica (10)
- St. Lucia (2)
- Mona (4)
- St. Vincent (1)
- Trinidad (13)

**Total student enrollment = 34**

### Programme Status

The programme was suspended for the academic year 2016–2017 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). To date, some 20 courses have been written, and only three are left to be written.

### Graduation

Two students, one from Mona ID# 620025954 and one from Trinidad ID# 04731564 graduated in October 2016. Eight students, one each

from Belize and Mona, two from Trinidad and four from Dominica, are expected to graduate in October/November 2017.

## OUTREACH

The Outreach Section of the Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit (HWFMU) is responsible for bringing awareness to the services and work of the Unit, educating the community about the Sexual and Reproductive issues and providing assistance as needed. This section relies heavily on the academic, administrative, technical and support staff for the success of each event. This therefore highlights the significant level of collaboration occurring among the teams within each section of the Unit.

- **Visit to the Holy Trinity School** – Dr Loxley Christie, HWFMU Consultant, presented on Sexuality and Reproduction to the students of the Holy Trinity School on January 10, 2017.
- **Three-Day Population Conference** – This conference was hosted by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), in collaboration with the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), that focused on the potential of population planning in achieving Jamaica's and the region's sustainable development goals. It was held at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston on January 25–27, 2017. The assistant director Dr. Pansy Hamilton was in attendance.
- **The University Research Days (URD) 2017** – This event is hosted annually by the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. All the departments are expected to participate at the URD. The preparation involved the development and design of posters for approval and production by the URD Committee. The HWFMU had a booth in which the team mounted posters on research conducted, its services and achievements. Demonstrations were done using the simulator, and there were displays of family planning methods and assisted conception devices were displayed. In preparation for this three-day event, the medical team had to prepare and submit

research abstracts to the URD committee for approval followed by the designing and printing of the research posters. These along with the family planning methods and simulators and assisted conception devices were displayed. In preparation for this three-day event, the medical team had to prepare and submit research abstracts to the URD committee for approval followed by the designing and printing of the research posters. The booth was manned by staff members and Residents assigned to the Unit, to present the posters, and provide visitors with information on the HWFMU, its services and procedures.

- **Site Visit** – before the ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Course, the HWFMU visited the Hilton Rose Hall Hotel to finalize the arrangements and support services, for example, the audio-visual services with the provider Main Events Entertainment.
- **Visit the Jamaica Urology Society** – On March 5, 2017, consultant Dr Loxley Christie presented to the Jamaica Urology Society on paternal aging and IVF outcome.
- **Live Surgeries** – On March 21, 2017, endoscopic surgeries were performed in the HWFMU operating theatres by a team of visiting and HWFMU surgeons at no cost to 10 Jamaican women with complicated gynaecological problems. Dr Winston De La Haye, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Dr Carl Bruce, Senior Director of Clinical Services; the University Hospital of the West Indies and Dr Carole Rattray, Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the University of the West Indies expressed welcome and support for the Congress.
- **ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Courses** – The HWFMU in collaboration with the International Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (ISGE) and the Caribbean Association of Gynaecologic Endoscopic Surgeons (CAGES) successfully hosted its inaugural International Congress and Postgraduate Courses in gynaecologic endoscopy on March 21–25 2017 at the Hilton Rose Hall Hotel, Montego Bay. The Congress was officially opened by the Director of the HWFMU and President of CAGES Dr Vernon DaCosta with welcome addresses from UWI, Mona by Professor

Ishenkumba Kawha, Deputy Principal and Vice Dean Professor John Lindo and from ISGE and AAGL by Professor Bruno van Herendel and Dr Franklin Loeffler respectively. Obstetricians/gynaecologists from Europe, United Kingdom., Australia, India, Middle East, North America, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, all experts in gynaecologic endoscopy, conducted postgraduate training in new hysteroscopic and laparoscopic techniques, discussed surgical cases and made presentations on technological developments and fertility issues. The Congress was attended by 118 persons with 32 doctors receiving training in new surgical techniques.

- **Endometriosis Month 2017** – During this month the HWFMU staff members participated in several activities including a march, radio interviews and panel discussions.
- **Endometriosis March** – The Endo March is one of a series of events executed by the founder of the BASE Foundation – Mrs Shauna Fuller Clarke during March which is Endometriosis Awareness Month. The 2017 Endo March was held on Saturday, March 25th in Montego Bay. Staff members were involved in activities at various levels with the Consultants participating in radio interviews, video recordings and appearing on TVJ Suzan Show to share information about endometriosis and its treatment.
- **Endo What?** Dr Vernon DaCosta was one of the panellists discussing the medical aspect of endometriosis at the showing of the international video entitled Endo What? produced specifically to support Endo month.
- **The Suzan Show:** The publicity in the newspapers about the 10 Jamaican women who had their gynaecological problems surgically corrected at no cost to them and the partnership with Shauna Fuller Clarke BASE Foundation, led to two of the women along with one of our Consultants, Dr. Loxley Christie, appearing on the pre-recorded television show on April 27, 2017. Support was offered by Administrative Officer, Mrs. Veronica Forbes Blake, outreach coordinator, Deon Black, and a secretary, Ileen Gill.

- **Wellness Day 2017** – This is an annual event that was held on March 29, 2017, at the UWI Regional Headquarters. The family planning methods and simulators assisted conception devices, and the posters were displayed. The medical team demonstrated the use of the simulators and devices and explained to inquiring visitors at the booth.
- **Feature on the Unit** – On April 4, 2017, one of the senior editors of the Jamaica Observer – Anika Richards and her photographer interviewed and photographed the Director Dr Vernon DaCosta and his academic staff members in the HWFMU conference room. A tour of the building was also conducted.
- **28th Annual Nursing Research Conference and 27th Mary J. Seivwright Day** – The UWI School of Nursing hosted its 28th Annual Nursing Research Conference and 27th Mary J. Seivwright Day on May 25–26, 2017 under the theme, “Transforming Nursing and Midwifery Education and Practice by linking Evidence to Action”. The assistant director, Dr Pansy Hamilton, chaired the ‘abstract committee’ for the Conference.
- **Grants Management Workshop** – This workshop was executed by UWI Office of Finance on May 30, 2017, at the University Regional Headquarters. The representatives from the HWFMU were the assistant director, Dr Pansy Hamilton, the administrative officer, Mrs Veronica Forbes Blake and secretary, Mrs Ileen Gill.
- **Annual Girls’ Day** – The programme officer for the MSc. Counselling Programme, Miss Elaine Jackson, was invited to the Annual Girls’ Day at the Kingston High School on May 30, 2017, to deliver a motivational address on maintaining a healthy attitude, values and self-esteem. The theme for 2017 was” I am Created for Greatnes . . . I am Woman”.
- **Quality Assurance Review** – Several consultations were held with staff with the purpose and preparations for the review including the development and transmission of the HWFMU QAR report by May 8, 2017.



## PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Wynter, Shaun.** “Common Gynaecological Issues in Adolescence”. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with University Hospital of the West Indies 6th annual national workshop “The Adolescent Patient”, Braco Melia Hotel, Jamaica, December 18, 2016
- **Carroll K.** “Fertility Options for Persons Living with HIV”. Workshop for Primary Healthcare Providers. St. Ann, Runaway Bay (June 2017)
- **Carroll K.** “Oocyte cryopreservation at The Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit”. The UWI Mona’s Research Days 2017
- **Christie, Loxley.** “Endometrioma: to remove or not...prior to IVF?” ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Courses, Hilton Rose Hall Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica March 23, 2017
- **Harriott, John.** “Controversy on salpingectomy prior to IVF and embryo transfer.” ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Courses, Hilton Rose Hall Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica March 23, 2017
- **DaCosta, Vernon.** Modified Laparoscopic Cervical Cerclage.” ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Courses, Hilton Rose Hall Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica March 24, 2017
- **Wynter, Shaun.** “Laparoscopic fertility enhancing endometriosis surgery: Jamaica experience. ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Courses, Hilton Rose Hall Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica March 24, 2017
- **Frederick, Sharifa.** “Adenomyosis Surgery and fertility enhancement.” ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Courses, Hilton Rose Hall Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica March 25, 2017

## PUBLICATIONS

- Pottinger AM and Carroll K. Male attitude toward masturbating: an impediment to infertility evaluation and sperm parameters. *Andologíá*, 2016 Sep; 48(7):774-8. doi: 10.1111/and.12511. Epub 2015 Dec 20.

## **MAJOR CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

- Foster-Hammond, R. Basic Life Support Programme UHWI 2016.
- Godfrey, M. Advanced Life Support Programme UHWI 2016.
- IVF Team, Wellness Day 2017
- Walters, Y. UWI Research Day Poster UWI 2017.
- Everett-Keene, D. Christie, L. Annual Symposium for Jamaica Urology Society Jamaica March 2017.
- Walters, Y. Post Grad. Fertility Counselling USA 2016–2017.
- Walters, Y. Violence in the Emergency Department UHWI August 2017.
- Everett-Keene, D. Foster-Hammond, R. Grand Opening of Ova Tools Andrology & Embryology Training Institute with a Symposium of Industry Experts Fort Lauderdale USA July 2017.
- IVF Doctors, ISGE-CAGES International Congress and Postgraduate Courses, Hilton Rose Hall Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica March 23–25, 2017

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **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

## **The Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit**

- 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