University of the West Indies School of Clinical Medicine and Research, The Bahamas

Celebrating 10 years of Family Medicine Postgraduate Training in The Bahamas

Annual Report 2012
University of the West Indies
School of Clinical Medicine and Research
The Bahamas

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Director’s Message
Dr. Robin Roberts

2012: What a year!

It was a year of the University Accreditation: The University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences was accredited for another six years. It was the year that the Caribbean Authority for Accreditation of Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) received its accreditation too. The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates and the World Federation for Medical Education Foundation deemed CAAM-HP to be credible in its policies and procedures to assure the quality of medical education in the programmes and schools that it accredits. CAAM-HP was the first accrediting agency reviewed under the new process for evaluating and recognizing the world’s accrediting agencies.

It was a year of celebration for our Family Medicine program: 10 years of producing our next generation of physicians. Under the able leadership of Dr. Cherilyn-Hanna Mahase, founder and director, we can be proud of the program’s accomplishments: of the 39 students enrolled over the 10 years of the program, the outcomes have been outstanding: 25 have completed their Diploma program, 23 their Masters and 11 their Final DM in Family Medicine. Only 2 enrollees have withdrawn from the program and the remainder continue in their pursuit of academic excellence. The program is well on its way to meet its seven-years strategic plan’s objective that a fully qualified and certified Family Medicine specialist will be posted in every Government clinical service, in every community clinic throughout the archipelago. The country has received great dividends from its investment in medical education.

It was a year of achieving academic excellence. It was a year we had our first graduate to win a University medal in the regional awards for the final MB BS examinations. With distinction and honors, Dr. Mediah Hepburn won the prestigious Sir Harry Annamunthodo Prize in Surgery for the student with the best performance in the Clinicals of the final MB BS Surgery examination on all the four campuses. We are equally proud to recognize and congratulate Dr. Paul Ramphal who was appointed Professor of Surgery at Mona’s Faculty of Medical Sciences. Professor Ramphal, now an Adjunct Professor of our School of Clinical Medicine and Research in the Bahamas, is a world-renowned cardiovascular surgeon for his patented research on tissue based simulation technologies for use as a training aid for surgical residents.

It was the year of achieving research milestones: Five papers presented by our faculty and students at the prestigious CHRC Annual Scientific Conference and a record thirteen papers were submitted for the 2103 Conference. Our Research Day has been extended to a two days event with over 20 research papers presented. Student’s interest and motivation to do research has never been higher. Kudos to Dr. Frankson!

A Year to recognize UWI faculty of Medical Sciences as the medical school of first choice for Bahamians as we achieve record numbers of Bahamians applying to pursue their life long ambitions to becoming medical doctors.

2012 was a great year for UWI SCMR, Indeed!
JANUARY:

The Annual Faculty Retreat: The right beginning: The Faculty reviews the past year, our accomplishments, challenges and the way forward. The faculty is appraised of the University’s new 5-Years Strategic plan and its mandate to design and implement the Schools objectives and activities within the Strategic Plan.

The Committee of Deans and the University Medical Curriculum Committee Meeting in Jamaica: The Quest for ONE University: 4 campuses, 16 nation states

FEBRUARY:

Community Outreach:
- The Grand Bahama Business Outlook Seminar: The Real Job Opportunities in the Bahamas: Defining and highlighting the need for The Bahamas and the job opportunities for Nursing and the Allied Health Care Professionals in the Bahamas
- Cancer Society: Radio program discussing the recent controversies of cancer screening

MARCH:

The University Dean visits: Official visit of the Professor Sam Ramsewak
The Accreditation review: The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Medical Education and Other Health Professionals reviews the Faculty of Medical Sciences for the University of the West Indies: The University is accredited for 6 years.
Caribbean Health Leadership Institute Graduation: The Director is selected as the Valedictorian 4th Cohort of Graduates.
49th Annual Scientific Conference of the Medical Association of the Bahamas: SCMR Faculty presents 12 papers, 43% of all papers presented

APRIL:

Community Outreach: Bahamas Association of Medical Technologists Month – CME initiative - A Regional Approach to providing Quality Lab Services
Community Health Library Symposium: “Libraries Crossing Boundaries: Developing Alliances”
The Obstetrics & Gynecology Annual Research Day: Against All Odds: Breaking Through Socioeconomic Barriers To Improve Woman’s Health
Commonwealth Health Research Council Conference: Cayman Island: Five Scientific papers presented by CHRC Faculty and Students
Student Enrollment: 4th year students arrive from Trinidad

MAY:

Community Outreach: Cancer Screening – The Cancer Center
The Committee of Deans and the University Medical Curriculum Committee meeting in Barbados: The Quest for ONE University: 4 campuses, 16 nation states
University Final Examinations: Postgraduate (DM) and Undergraduate (MB BS)
JUNE:

Annual Caribbean College of Surgeons Conference: Tobago: SCMR Faculty Presentation
Community Outreach:
  • US TOO, Cancer Society of the Bahamas: Father’s Day Educational Symposium
  • Financial Voice: Counselors’ Community panel on Government Budget
  • Bahamas at Sunrise June: University Dean and Director
Oath Swearing: 17 New Doctors take the Oath to serve mankind
Student Enrollment: 4th year students arrive from Jamaica

JULY

AC3 Conference Philadelphia: SCMR Faculty Presentation
Community Outreach: BAAAs Parent Association: Career planning and health opportunities for track and field high School athletes
Parents Night: SCMR Parents, students and advisors meeting

AUGUST:

A Time for Family and Leisure activity

SEPTEMBER:

First SCMR Picnic: Nirvana Beach
Prostate Cancer Awareness Month: Nassau & Freeport: Public awareness programs & Free Prostate cancer screening
6th Annual Research Day: Expanded to Two days event with a record 22 scientific presentations

OCTOBER:

Family Medicine in Wisconsin: The Family Medicine program establishes a formal international Partnership with Aurora Health in Wisconsin and the SCMR program Directors visits the international sites launching the Family Medicine’s externship program
The Committee of Deans and the University Medical Curriculum Committee meeting in Trinidad: The Quest for ONE University: 4 campuses, 16 nation states

NOVEMBER:

2nd Biennial Science of Global Prostate Cancer Disparity in Black men: SCMR co-sponsored this biennial event with the University of Florida; over 100 foreign delegates attend
Caribbean Urology Association Annual Conference: The CUA hosts their first meeting in the Bahamas combined with the Biennial meeting
National Task Force on Stem Cell Research: Minister of Health delegates the SCMR Director to be a member of this national initiative for Stem Cell medicine to become a significant health service and economic engine within the archipelago
Psychiatry: UWI-CICAD Drug Demand Reduction Planning Workshop for review and enhancing of the undergraduate and postgraduate curricula in substance use disorders and substance related disorders & other drug content
Drug Reduction Grant:
Happy 80th Birthday Sir George: University Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne celebrates his 80th Birthday in the Bahamas
University Final Examinations: Postgraduate (DM) and Undergraduate (MB BS)

DECEMBER:

DM Emergency Medicine Success: First two DM graduates, Dr. Christa Wells and Dr. Pavia Davis
Lecturer in Medicine Appointment: Dr. Christine Chin
The Mission

To advance education and create knowledge through excellence in teaching, research, innovation, public service, intellectual leadership and outreach in order to support the inclusive (social, economic, political, cultural, environmental) development of the Caribbean region.*

The Vision

By 2017, the University will be globally recognised as a regionally integrated, innovative, internationally competitive university, deeply rooted in all aspects of Caribbean development and committed to serving the diverse people of the region and beyond.*

*UWI Five Year STRATEGIC PLAN 2012 - 2017
At the dawn of the new millennium, the UWI was faced with the stark realities of the challenges of the global competitive market in tertiary education: financial sustainability; increasing and maintaining the enrollment of high student performers and achievers; staying at the forefront of the continuing revolution in information, computer and telecommunication technologies. In response to these complex external forces of change of a social, political and economic nature, the university was compelled to transform. Of equal importance, the University had to strategize in a manner to remain relevant and to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of our West Indian society. Hence, in 2007, the University launched its 5-years strategic plan committed to the acceleration and deepening of this obligatory transformation process to ensure that it was well positioned to deal with 21st century challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the rapidly changing external environment. The thrust of the plan was strategic transformation for relevance, impact, distinctiveness, and excellence, the STRIDE agenda.

We stay the course of transformation ... The New Strategic Plan: 2012 – 2017

At the launch of the University’s new Strategic Plan 2012-2017, the global tertiary education challenges are unabated: regional economic volatility and uncertainty, increasing competition in the provision of higher education services, changes in information and communications technology, growth in the demand for higher education and the desire to find solutions to pressing national and regional issues. This competitive climate has become the “new normal” for the University. The University Council approved the Plan on April 24, 2012. The Vice Chancellor has shaped the Plan to engage all sectors of the University staff to input, while staying the course to transform the institution into a “global player”.

The strategic goals and associated high-order objectives are derived from six perspectives or dimensions of the UWI’s operations:

1. Financial
2. Employee Engagement and Development
3. Internal Operational Processes
4. Teaching, Learning and Student Development
5. Research and Innovation
6. Outreach (National and Regional Development; Internationalisation; Marketing and Communication; and Alumni Engagement).

The Plan utilizes the internationally recognised Balanced Scorecard framework that allows for the linking of our institution’s Vision with Strategic Goals and Objectives and will facilitate the effective monitoring of performance against objectives.

*Excerpts from the University's 5 Years-Strategic Plans, 2007 to 2012 and 2012 to 2017
The University of the West Indies

// at a Glance

Inspiring Excellence, Producing Leaders

- The largest and most longstanding higher education provider in the Caribbean
- Established in Jamaica in 1948 as a University College of the University of London becoming an independent university in 1962
- Four Campuses: Mona (Jamaica), St. Augustine (Trinidad & Tobago), Cave Hill (Barbados) and Open Campus
- 16 contributing Countries
- An international university with faculty and students from over 40 countries and collaborative links with over 60 universities around the world
- Over 800 programmes
- Enrolment of over 47,000 students in 2011/12
- Total staff of 5,800 (full time staff) of which 1,800 are academic
- Graduates up to 9,000 per annum

Points of Pride
- 3 Nobel Laureates,
- 8 Prime Ministers,
- Over 75 Rhode Scholars

UWI Bahamas
The Bahamas has been the site of programmes of the UWI since 1964 and currently has four distinct programmes:

- UWI Open Campus, formerly the School of Continuing Studies
- Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management
- Law Programme in association with College of The Bahamas
- School of Clinical Medicine and Research
The program to teach undergraduate medical students in the Bahamas was established in 1997; at that time, it represented the first major expansion of the Faculty of Medicine UWI since the Eric Williams Complex in 1979. As in their two prior clinical teaching programs in Barbados and Trinidad, the Bahamian initiative was established in a Government owned public health facility, the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). This 450 bed facility is the Bahamas Government’s flagship institution delivering the full spectrum of health care services: primary, secondary and tertiary.

The Bahamian medical initiative was launched as a clinical training program under the auspices of the St. Augustine campus, Trinidad. The undergraduate students enter the program for the final two years of their medical curriculum, being transferred after successful completion of year one, two and three at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in Jamaica, Trinidad or Barbados. SCMR’s policy is to limit the class size to 25 students per year in the transfer.

In 2007, on its 10th anniversary of the UWI Medical School in The Bahamas, the program was upgraded to The School of Clinical Medicine and Research, The Bahamas (SCMR). In its first graduating year in 1999, 20% of the 14 medical graduates were Bahamian. By 2009, it had been transformed to a predominantly Bahamian student body. Of the 21 graduating students, 85% were Bahaman nationals. As of June 2012, there have been 247 medical students graduating successfully with their medical degrees, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB,BS) of which 77% is Bahamian nationals. In our postgraduate programs, 5 have graduated with a Doctors of Medicine (DM) in Internal Medicine, 4 in Psychiatry, 5 with a DM in Obstetrics and Gynecology, 1 in General Surgery, 3 DM in Family Medicine and 17 with both the Masters Degree and Diploma in Family Medicine.

As of September 2012 academic year, there were 56 undergraduate and 60 post graduate students registered. The current postgraduate programs are offered in 7 medical specialty areas: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Psychiatry and Accident and Emergency. The academic faculty is comprised of 6 full time lecturers, 17 Clinical tutors and 23 Honorary Associated lecturers. Dr. Robin Roberts was appointed as the Director of the SCMR in November 2009.

The motive for establishing a clinical training program in the Bahamas was prefaced in the strategic plan of the PMH’s Office of CME, to transform the PMH from a service based facility to an academic one. The rationale: medical and surgical care delivered in an academic institution provides a higher quality of care and better patient outcomes than a non-teaching one. With the increasing numbers of returning Bahamian physicians - specialty trained, certified and practicing at the PMH, it augurs well for patient care to inculcate the university's mission of patient care, teaching and research.
Our Challenge at SCMR is to commit to a ONE University curriculum in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and to ensure a standard of excellence in teaching and learning and to satisfy the Government and the people of The Bahamas that the University of the West Indies is committed to the development of the region through the training of its human resources, conducting research, delivering advisory services to governments as well as to the private sector and forging links with other institutions in the wider region and the rest of the world.

We outline our strategic objectives of 2012:

1. To make UWI the preferred option for Bahamians who choose to become medical doctors
2. To brand UWI SCMR in the Bahamas
3. To continue to improve our communications and IT systems to access all data bases in particular the library resources, the essence of One University philosophy
4. To define and utilize all the University resources to advance our teaching and research skills at SCMR. This will require us to optimize the use of IT systems for cost efficiency, expedience and sustainability of these academic programs
5. To establish a Tele-medicine and Tele-education network as a vital component of our educational curriculum
6. To define our optimum teaching staff complement and deployment for our undergraduate and postgraduate students.
7. To continue to pursue international linkages to advance initiatives in postgraduate training, academic staff CME and research collaboration
8. To advance our research unit and it’s agenda as centers of excellence and the focal point of health research in the Bahamas
9. Advance a governance model that allows for participation and empowerment of our staff and students
10. To improve the health and well being of the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas through clinical research, service and human resource development
1. The Undergraduate students: the 4th and 5th year classes:

UWI SCMR undertakes to teach medical students in the final two years of their undergraduate medical degree. Our students are predominantly Bahamian nationals, undertaking the advantage of the cost savings by staying at home rather than renting or staying in a hall of residence.

The Final MB BS 2012 Examinations Results

Our outcomes in the final MB BS examinations are equivalent to those of the other 4 campuses, averaging an 80% pass rate in 2012. The outstanding students in the final examinations were:
- 2007: 22 students Pass (2 Hons)
- 2008: 17 students Pass: (4 Hons - 1 Dist)
- 2009: 25 students Pass
- 2010: 15 students Pass (3 Hons - 1 Dist)
- 2011: 18 students Pass (3 Hons)
- 2012: 17 students Pass (2 Hons – 1 Dist)

Clinical Rotations: Strengths and Weaknesses.

The performance of students at the final examinations indicates that clinical rotations are meeting the students’ needs to pass the final examinations. Of our 19 students who sat the final exams, comprised of three separate subjects, 14 passed all three and are joined by 3 from our 2011 November class: five candidates failed one subject each. At the repeat examinations in November 2012, for those who were unsuccessful in the one subject, all passed successfully.

Two clinical rotations continue to fall short of student expectations: Radiology and ophthalmology. In both instances these are clinical services that are still short staffed for Consultant-level physicians. The Ophthalmology clerkship is supplemented by a visiting lecturer from Jamaica who provides two comprehensive intense weeks of ophthalmology lectures, tutorials and practical eye examination techniques and skills. The chief resident from the Yale University postgraduate programs engaged in the international exchange program between Yale University’s ophthalmology services and the Princess Margaret Hospital, have been giving lectures and tutorials as well to the final year students.

The Radiology rotation needs more clinical exposure; students are dissatisfied with the clinical exposure in a formal rotation in the radiology unit. To supplement and enhance the radiology experience, the lecturers are providing special teaching sessions and tutorials in radiology related to their particular specialty. The Chief of Radiology has submitted a lecture and tutorial schedule to advance a more reliable and standardized teaching experience to meet the rotations' objectives.

2013 promises to be a better year for ophthalmology and radiology rotations for the students.
Reciting The Hippocratic Oath on successful completion of the final examinations of the undergraduate medical degree is an established tradition on the UWI campuses. Noting that many of our Bahamian students do not attend the graduation ceremonies on the main campuses in Jamaica, the Oath Swearing ceremony has become a local substitute for this august school event. The addition to the oath ceremony over the past five years, the gowing of the medical student with his or her first white coat by a senior physician, was introduced. Draped with his or her stethoscope and embraced by a colleague, the medical student is inducted into the profession in the audience of relatives and friends. In a packed hall of well-wishers with remarks from the Ministers of Education and Health and addressed by the School Hierarchy. This has become the signature event of the School.

“What an enormous magnifier is tradition! How a thing grows in the human memory and in the human imagination, when love, worship, and all that lies in the human heart, is there to encourage it.”   - Thomas Carlyle
Awards Recipients

Sir Harry Annamunthodo Prize
Awarded to the student with the best performance in the Clinical part of the May/June Final MBBS Examination on all Campuses.

DR. MADIHAH HEPBURN

Dr. Cecil M. Bethel Award
Most Outstanding Student – Class of 2012

DR. MADIHAH HEPBURN

Dr. Anthony Regis Award
Most Outstanding Student in Final MBBS Examinations – Class of 2012

DR. MADIHAH HEPBURN

Professor Knolly Alan Butler Award
Most Outstanding Student in Surgery part of Final MBBS Examinations – Class of 2012

DR. MADIHAH HEPBURN

Psychiatry Prize
Most Outstanding Student in Psychiatry – Class of 2012

DR. LEVARD ROBERTS

Dr. Mortimer Moxey Award
Most Outstanding Performance in Community Medicine - Class of 2012

DR. JANICE EDWARDS-ROWLANDS

Most Outstanding Performance in Obstetrics & Gynaecology - Class of 2012

DR. MADIHAH HEPBURN
Student Activities
At the end of the fifth year of the medical undergraduate program, students are registered to write the final examinations on all four campuses, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and the Bahamas. A total of 304 students wrote the final exams, 289 for the first time and 13 repeaters who had failed the final exams at prior sittings. The success rate of passing for first time sitting was 88%.

On each campus, there are awards and prizes for the top student performers for the respective campus. In addition however, there are university awards for the overall top performers. For the first time, the Bahamas had a student performer that won one of the overall University prizes. Madihah Hepburn with a distinction and honors performance, won the prestigious Sir Harry Annamunthodo Prize in Surgery. Sir Harry was the distinguished, world-renowned Professor of Surgery at the University Hospital in Mona, Kingston, Jamaica in the early years of hospital. Madihah is a graduate of Trent University (Ontario, Canada) with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Biology and Sociocultural Anthropology, with Honours. In the final Bachelors of Medicine, Bachelors of Surgery examinations, she achieved a Distinction in Surgery and an Honours pass in Obstetrics and Gynecology. While a pass mark only in the medicine component of the exam, her test papers indicate that she had the highest mark in this subject on our campus as well. It was not surprising that she won 4 of the 6 awards in the Bahamas for the top student performer including the Dr. Cecil M. Bethel Award for the Most Outstanding Student of the class, Dr. Anthony Regis Award for Most Outstanding Student in Final MB BS Examinations and the most outstanding student in both Surgery and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

_In her words_

“The most common question I am often faced with is; why did you become a doctor and my answer has always been what I wrote on the essay within my medical school application. The statement read: I want to become a doctor because I want to save the world. It is a statement that is wildly optimistic but with every day and with every patient I feel that I make a contribution that gets me a little bit closer to that goal.

Working as an intern has been the hardest job of my life so far but at the same time it has been extraordinarily rewarding. I leave most days exhausted, however amidst it all I find the small joys; being able to manage a patient and see them transform from a state of illness to a picture of health; providing comfort to a surgical patient as they go through the doors of the operating theater; playing games with children on the pediatric ward. I would not trade this career called medicine for any other career in the world and I look forward to continuing my journey further into this noble profession.”
The Deans List:

Kudos to our 5th year student, Wilnaye Bain, on being recognized for her achievement: the Deans list award for her performance in the first three years of the MB BS undergraduate program while enrolled at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in Mona.

The 1948 Society awards two Bursaries:

The University of the West Indies Medical Alumni Association has established a subgroup of the alumni who have contributed at least US$10,000 to the University on behalf of the Alumni; this group of contributors comprise the 1948 Society, signifying the year the University started. A portion of the funding is designated for bursaries to be awarded to deserving students in great financial needs. Currently, the 1948 Society committed to giving US$2000 bursary each to 2 needy students in the Faculty of Medical Sciences on each of the four campuses.

In 2012, the two recipients of the two bursaries in the Bahamas are D’Andra Cornish and Sherwin Wright.

The students express their humble gratitude to the 1948 Society donors. The 1948 Society commenced their awards program two years ago. SCMR also recognizes the numerous books donated to our library by the Alumni members over the past years.

Student Engagement and Experience

A  The Community Health Experience:

This is a six weeks period in which the undergraduate students are immersed into the real world, people living and working in their everyday environment. The overall objective of their community health experience is (i) for the medical students to appreciate and acknowledge that hospital is an unnatural and expensive environment and (ii) the great need to keep people from being admitted into hospital, thus emphasizing a medical practice that will keep people healthy and well.

Student education and experience is focused on: (i) Public Health – the study of a population of people as a single person and is concerned with the biological, environmental, social and behavioral factors that affect their health; (ii) Health Prevention; (iii) Health Promotion and (iv) Health Education. During this period, the students visit the Public Health Community Clinics throughout Nassau and the Family islands and all the essential services of The Department of Environmental Health. They are also introduced to the rigors of Diseases Control and Surveillance and are challenged to undertake a Research Project in the community as well. With the realization that the national burden of the non-communicable diseases and the resurgence of the communicable ones, the need for the students and the future doctors of our nation to be well grounded in the principles, skills and competencies of Public Health has never been greater.

Under the leadership of Dr. Mortimer Moxey, our tutor and coordinator of the Community Health program, our students’ engagement in community Health is proving to be quite a rewarding experience Indeed! Kudos to the medical Students who entered and placed in the top three presenters at the 2012 Medical Association of the Bahamas Annual Scientific Conference.

B  The Student Advisor Program:

All students are assigned a student advisor. Only fulltime lecturers are assigned the responsibility of being student advisors. The advisors meet with their students at least quarterly.

C 14th year Student Orientation program:

Orientation program continues: the 4th year students have a week of orientation – getting to know the Medical Services Chief of Staff, Hospital Administrator, Heads of Departments and University lecturers. They familiarize themselves and tour the hospital compound and the relevant hospital services.

D 4th year Students, Parents, and Student Advisors Evening.

A new addition to the 4th year orientation program, the parents and guardians are invited to an evening with the students and their advisors. The parents and guardians are informed of the students work schedules, demands, and commitments. They are requested to encourage and facilitate positive student’s habits. The students make their pledge to commit to ethical medical practices.
Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate Training at SCMR: Creating an ideal environment for study.

In 2004, the first postgraduate program, Family Medicine, was implemented. In 2012, there are 7 postgraduate programs with 60 students enrolled.

- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Child Health
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Psychiatry
- Emergency Medicine

There are several notable merits for The Bahamas as a teaching center for medical undergraduates and postgraduate program.

The PMH: This medium size hospital of 450 beds, with a wide spectrum of pathologies is ideal for teaching and provides considerable learning opportunities for the students. There are 32 specialty and subspecialty services in the Princess Margaret Hospital.

The Sandilands Rehabilitation Hospital for a psychiatric experience is unmatched in the English Speaking Caribbean:

a combination of 128 beds, 292 beds and 60 beds allocated respectively for Geriatric care, Psychiatric services and the Substance Abuse Program.

The Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health. With almost 115 outpatient clinics distributed through the archipelago, provides the ideal setting for acquiring clinical skills and competencies in public health and ambulatory medicine.

The Family Medicine Physician program in The Bahamas is destined to become a leading center of excellence from both a national, regional and global perspective.

It is expected that the postgraduate program in the Bahamas will become a great asset for nation building. We expect the program to expand, not only because of the quality of the residency program but also because of a variety of other factors:

- The increasing difficulties of getting into postgraduate programs in North America and Europe;
- Increasing family and financial obligations locally that militates against travelling abroad for postgraduate studies;
- Availability and accessibility of postgraduate programs in the region;
- Increasing demands for postgraduate qualifications;
- Statutory requirements for a private practice license in Family Medicine;
- Attractiveness of certain specialty areas for defined hours of practice such as Emergency Medicine.
The challenge for postgraduate training is to expose the residents to a broad spectrum of clinical experiences. All the postgraduate programs allow for this with up to a 1-year elective. The intent and expectations are that the resident will undertake the elective in a postgraduate program internationally - the residents’ preferences have been North America or Great Britain. In select programs, mandatory rotations in Jamaica are incorporated in the program.

In 2010 and 2011, initiatives were undertaken to facilitate the process and availability of elective rotations by establishing normal partnerships with select international institutions abroad and this remain ongoing.

The major challenge for international electives rotation is funding. When the residents travel for their electives, they will have to be funded for accommodations and other living expenses. There is the need, also, for their existing local post to be manned and funded during their elective sojourn. The funding for rotations outside the Government institutions in The Bahamas became a major issue in 2009. Prior, postgraduate students undertaking their mandatory electives in Jamaica used essentially their vacation times for their elective period. Departments made the necessary adjustments as well to ensure that the services were covered during their absence and allotted elective period and extended the time as needed by the resident. The Public Hospital Authority (PHA) has established a new policy in regards to this study period, requesting a formal application for leave and funding. To this end, approval for the study leave will be granted and funded for Bahamian nationals; Non-nationals will be eligible for unpaid study leave only – in both instances, the study leave is up to a maximum of 6 months. The SCMR faculty opines that this policy is discriminatory and intend to appeal to the PHA for the policy to cover both nationals and non-nationals, once they are duly registered in the postgraduate program. The issue of funding and securing international partnership for elective postgraduate rotations will be discussed and hopefully negotiated at the next Memorandum of Understanding renewal in 2013.
What is Family Medicine?

Family Medicine is a specialty of Medicine first recognized in 1969. It was the 20th specialty in Medicine to be recognized. It is currently the second largest specialty board in the United States. It was developed to encourage physicians to specialize in an area that would increase the quality of primary care. It is unique in that training encompasses all specialties of Medicine.

Family Medicine specialists address all aspects of health of the individual including psychosocial details. It takes into account the individual's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Developing good relationships with patients and arranging referral care with other physicians are strong points in the continuous care that Family physicians provide.

The History of Family Medicine at Princess Margaret Hospital

The Department of Family Medicine was established in 1985 after the return of the first Family Medicine trained specialist, Dr. Patrick Whitfield, to the Bahamas.

The General Practice Clinic was established as the clinic for ambulatory services in the Princess Margaret Hospital in the early 1980s but was initially under the guidance of the Department of Medicine. This was subsequently designated as the Family Medicine Department with its establishment in 1985.

Over the years the department has evolved from one of 90% untrained general practitioners to 98% trained Family Medicine specialists due to the implementation of a Family Medicine training program in 2002. This Program was developed as a brainchild of Dr. Patrick Whitfield with contributions from Drs. Eugene Gray and Cherilyn Hanna-Mahase.

The Department of Family Medicine was relocated to Fourth Terrace Centreville on August 15th 2011 becoming a community based service. The facility, Agape House is a nine exam room clinic with the capacity for 40 patients waiting simultaneously.

The Family Medicine Training Program

Globally there was the need to change the paradigm in provision of primary health care in order to address the growing epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases. As a result of this need, training in Family Medicine became an international priority. Trained Family Medicine physicians are vital to achieving efficient and effective quality healthcare worldwide and in the Bahamas.

The Program was initiated in 2002 as a strategic measure to meet the evolving healthcare challenges of the archipelago of the Bahamas. These challenges included the change in the epidemiological profile of the Bahamas, the gross human resource deficiencies of primary care physicians at the community level and the need to ensure competence and leadership capabilities of physicians involved in first contact patient care.

The Program began with a director who was an appointed UWI coordinator and twelve rotation supervisors. A steering committee, with oversight of policy and procedures as well as curriculum guidelines, conducted monthly meetings and annual interviews of prospective candidates.
The curriculum of the program was developed utilizing guidelines as developed by the American Academy of Family Practitioners (AAFP) and referred to the University of the West Indies (UWI) for consideration and accreditation. This was conferred by the University of The West Indies in 2004 when formal accreditation for a three (3) year program leading to a Masters in Family Medicine with the option of an additional year to achieve the DM in Family Medicine.

The American Academy of Family Practice was also invited to review the curriculum and an onsite inspection was conducted by Professor Edward Shahady in December 2005. The AAFP was very complimentary of the program’s structure and content and indicated that the program was of a very high standard and comparable to a US residency. The initiation of the program represented the first time in the history of the Princess Margaret Hospital and the UWI School of Clinical Medicine and Research in Nassau, that formal postgraduate training was accredited by a recognized body and was launched at the local level. Since that time similar programs have been accredited by the UWI in the disciplines of Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine.

The AAFP in a study on workforce reform in 2006 concluded that if the USA were to meet its primary care needs in 2020 there was the need for a ratio of 42 family physicians/100,000 population. When our Program was initiated there were three (3) trained and accredited Family Physicians in the Bahamas.

We currently have a population of 351,000 (census 2010). If we are to meet the present and anticipated needs of our communities it is imperative that we continue the training of Bahamian nationals in the delivery of quality care at the primary care level. To meet this benchmark set by the AAFP our total number of trained Family physicians equals 150.

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**PROGRAM GOAL**

The primary goal of the Family Medicine postgraduate training program was to contribute to the continued growth and development of the Bahamas by improving the quality of and access to comprehensive and continuous family health services for residents of the Bahamas.

**OBJECTIVES**

This goal was to be achieved through the completion of the following objectives:

1. The development and provision of a technically sound postgraduate training program in Family Medicine at the Princess Margaret Hospital

2. Applying for and obtaining formal accreditation from the UWI to allow for the awarding of postgraduate degrees from the University

3. The provision of a career path for physicians who desire formal training in Family Practice

4. The development of a proposal to the Ministry of Health to allow for formal integration of Family Practice services into the community based clinics

**ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Program has fully achieved its objective in the establishment of a training curriculum:

- The program is comprised of modules that allow for...
supervised rotations through all major specialties in addition to the operation of Family Medicine Clinics

- The program emphasizes the broadening of knowledge and understanding of health and illness and their dynamics in the community, in relation to the existing socio-economic and cultural conditions

- The development of attitudes and skills to enable physicians to function effectively as leaders of healthcare teams in their respective communities through exposure to national health policies and programs has been prioritized

- There have been 45 Residents enrolled in the program since its inception and there are currently 22 Residents in 2012 who are at varying levels of training

- There have been 24 graduates of the program with 11 receiving the DM in Family Medicine. The Program is organized by the Program Director with Clinical Supervisors in each major specialty. The Supervisors are all Consultants at the Princess Margaret Hospital

- While rotating through Clinical Departments, Residents function as Senior House Officers and share the same duties as other Senior House Officers attached to the respective services

- Residents conduct their continuity Family Practice clinics 1 – 3 times per week while they rotate through Clinical departments

- Throughout the year residents are taught face to face modules (12) developed by the University of the West Indies

- Research is established as part of the curriculum throughout the three years

The Program achieved the objective of accreditation by the UWI

- The Program is fully accredited by the UWI with the awarding of the Diploma after successful completion of a two (2) year program and examination as well as a DM degree upon the successful completion of a fourth (4th) year and subsequent examination or defence of a thesis.

The provision of a career path for young Bahamian physicians who seek to become trained Family Practitioners has also been achieved

- There are currently 24 graduates of the program and they are currently deployed as follows
  - AGAPE (7)
  - DPH (9)
  - Employee Health PMH (2)
  - SRC (1)
  - PRIVATE(2)
  - A&E(1)
  - CANADA(1)
  - USA(1)

A proposal to allow for a phased integration of Family Health services into the services of the Department of Public Health was developed in 2005 and referred to the Ministry of Health and Director of Public Health for consideration. As of May 2013 this objective has been achieved

- This proposal emphasized Health Promotion, Preventive Health services and quality driven patient care services and prioritized the meeting of the challenges posed by the Non Communicable Chronic Diseases

- This proposal was designed with the intent of providing trained Bahamian Family Doctors for all of the polyclinics in New Providence and the major Family Islands
The proposed integration was endorsed by the Medical Advisory and Executive Management Committees of the PMH as well as the Corporate Office of the PHA.

Discussions were completed with the Ministry of Health after several stakeholders meetings in 2013.

**PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS**

There have been many successes since the inception of the program:

- The largest post-graduate program at the UWI School of Clinical Medicine and Research/Princess Margaret Hospital.
- The largest number of successful DM graduates
- Four successful Masters with distinction
- The program with the largest number of research theses providing data for health care planning in the Bahamas
- International collaboration with one of the largest health care system in the USA Aurora Health in Wisconsin for elective Family Medicine rotations
- The program with the most accepted oral presentations at a regional conference (CHRC 2013 - Barbados)
- Winners of the best student paper presentation at the Caribbean Health Research Council Meeting 2013

In 2010 the UWI School of Clinical Medicine and Research collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Family Medicine program coordinator to develop and strengthen changes in the training curriculum to include more population health and leadership training for physicians. The second change was the addition of a Masters in Public Health to a two track program – Diploma and DM. This new curriculum was sanctioned by the post graduate committee of the University of the West Indies and is currently followed by the trainees accepted since 2010.
Elective Students

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Accreditation

The 2012 Accreditation of the UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences

In 2012, the University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences was reviewed for accreditation in its medical undergraduate program.

**What is Accreditation?** Accreditation is an objective peer review process designed to attest to the educational quality of new, developing and established educational programs.

**Why Accreditation:** To provide assurance to students, graduates, the medical profession, healthcare institutions and the public that the graduates of UWI’s medical education program have received a complete and valid educational experience and have achieved appropriate internationally standards upon graduation.

**UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences:** A tradition of quality education. From its beginnings, UWI has a history of ensuring high standards for delivering medical education programs. In keeping with our British origin, UWI medical school was mandated to maintain the standards as determined and regulated by the General Medical Council (GMC) of Great Britain, as for all the British medical schools. Britain’s entry into the European Common Market terminated our GMC’s relationship and obligations to ensure the School’s standards. The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) is the legally constituted body established in 2003 under the aegis of the Caribbean Community Market, (CARICOM), empowered to determine and prescribe standards and to accredit programmes of medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions on behalf of the contracting parties in CARICOM. CAAM-HP’s function is to accredit medical education program leading to the MB.BS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery or MD degrees in CARICOM member states. The accreditation process adopted by the CAAM-HP has two general aims: (i) To certify that a medical education programme meets prescribed standards and (ii) To promote institutional Self evaluation and improvement. UWI was the first medical school in the region to undergo an accreditation visit by the authority in 2006; it was accredited until 2012.

The four medical campuses prepared diligently and harmoniously for the process during 2011 and up to the day of the accreditation team’s visits. The faculty is pleased to report that the UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences was accredited for the next 6 years.

The CAAM-HP’s primary concern in the accreditation report was the significant increase in the student enrollment particularly on the Mona campus and the assurance that the University had the resource capacity to match the student increase and maintain its educational quality. The newly built S3.5 (J) Billion, 250,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility with its five large lecture theatres (three of which are already in use), 25 tutorial rooms, 45 small research labs for staff, and 12 larger research laboratories, was 90% completed by the end of 2012 and should be fully operational in 2013. The faculty is certain that it will meet all the conditions and concerns of the CAAM-HP in noting the student increase enrollment from 100 in 2004 to 350 by 2011. In addition, the
clinical program has expanded to upgrade and encompass a number of regional hospitals along with the expansion of the Mona campus to the preclinical Western Jamaica Campus.

Similarly in Barbados, since the first accreditation, the medical school has expanded to the full five year medical program building the new Laboratory and Teaching Complex with its 500 seats lecture hall, more than adequate to meet the needs of its increased numbers. At the hospital, the newly renovated Clinical Skills Facility should match the increased numbers when fully occupied and equipped in 2013. Trinidad has expanded its student facilities at the San Fernando hospital.

And finally, the Faculty of Medical sciences, secured 523 internship posts throughout 22 regional hospitals in the English speaking Caribbean, all approved and meet the accreditation standards for teaching interns.

Our UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences is pleased with the positive report and accreditation by the CAAM-HP. Our stakeholders can be assured that graduates of UWI’s medical education program receive a complete and valid educational experience and have achieved appropriate international Standards upon graduation.

Employee Engagement And Development

SCMR has the benefit of small numbers, a policy of admitting a maximum of 25 students per year in our final two years. The PMH physician Staff comprises 267 full time with 101 Consultant level physicians.

The faculty is compromised of 6 full time staff, 19 Tutors and 41 Associate lecturers. This allows for an excellent ratio of students to faculty staff ratio for training as well as an abundance of non-university employed staff physicians to engage them at times and to issue some pearls of wisdom.

Welcome:

Our New Lecturer in Internal Medicine:

Congratulations to Dr. Christian Chin our newly appointed Lecturer in Internal Medicine. A graduate of UWI Medical School and a Consultant at The PMH.

New Associate Lecturers: Over the past year, we have had a significant number of our applicants and appointments to the post of Associate lecturer. We welcome them to into faculty.

Thank you:

- Our thanks to Dr. Dionne Dames who undertook the role of our fulltime lecturer over the past two years. She has performed in an exemplary manner, committed, dedicated and displaying all the teaching skills and competencies we would expect of a fulltime lecturer. She continues as a part of the SCMR faculty as a full time tutor. I look forward to her becoming a full time lecturer in the near future, as she continues her endeavors and commitment to research.

- Our thanks to Dr. Vincent Nvosa. Retired from the services of the PHA. He served as a tutor for the Postgraduate and undergraduate program in Internal Medicine. Our Heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your many years of service to the University.
Paul Shridath Ramphal, came to the Bahamas in 2007 to join our medical staff at the Princess Margaret Hospital as a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon.

As a Senior lecturer in Mona, it was only natural that he joined the faculty at SCMR. He is an active member of surgical service and devotes as much time as possible to the School as an adjunct senior lecturer. He is a great teacher, a committed and dedicated surgeon. For us in the Bahamas, Jamaica’s loss was truly the Bahamas gain.

He comes with an impressive CV. A recipient of the Ontario Scholarship in 1979, he graduated from McMaster University with an honors degree in Biochemistry, an MB.BS degree from the University of the West Indies in 1989, the F.R.C.S. from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1996, and the DM (Cardiothoracic Surgery) from the UWI in 1997.

During his employ at the University hospital in Mona, he was on the accelerated academic pathway to professorship, moving up the ranks from a lecturer to a Senior Lecturer with 30 peer-reviewed articles published in local and international surgical journals, and numerous papers on various aspects of cardiothoracic surgery in the Caribbean and abroad.

Dr. Ramphal is a naturalized Canadian, but he is very much a Caribbean man in his heart. Dr. Ramphal is driven by the desire and need to upgrade and advance medicine in developing countries. It was only natural, that with all the advances in cardiac medicine in the Developed world, his creative juices were turned on to make the most out of the limited resources in Jamaica, in all aspects--man, money and materials.

His prior experience in Britain at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, The Royal Sick Children of Glasgow, and Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Glasgow Western Infirmary and the Department of Thoracic Surgery at the West of Scotland Regional Thoracic Surgical Unit, Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride, Scotland, served him well.

He focused especially on modifying the technology necessary to conduct cardiothoracic surgical procedures to suit local pathology and economic conditions and is particularly interested in discovering new ways to reduce the costs associated with cardiothoracic procedures. Recognizing the limited experiences that surgical residents would incur in cardiac surgery compared to their North American counterpart, Dr. Ramphal’s research endeavors narrowed on the development of tissue-based simulation technologies for use as training aids for surgical residents.

He envisioned a device that could simulate the beating heart on which the residents could practice and develop their skills despite the limitations of the cases available.

With the assistance Dr Michael Craven (an Electrical Engineer) and Dr Daniel Coore (a Computer Scientist/Engineer), in partnership with Dr. Ramphal, the team created the computer-based Cardiac Surgery Simulator.

Between 2001 and 2004, the team of three worked together to develop a pneumatically operated electro-mechanical device that would control the beating of the heart. Dr Coore designed the software to control the pneumatic subsystem within the device as well as a monitor-based
subsystem that circulated artificial blood in and around the heart to emulate a realistic blood flow situation that would be encountered in a heart operation.

The success of the Simulator and its subsequent media coverage and scientific publication caught the attention of the Chairman of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, Dr Richard Feins, in 2007. The rest is history.

The simulator was proposed, patented and redesigned to be the prototype simulator for the training of surgical residents for developing their skills in cardiac surgery in North America, driven by consortium of highly influential teaching hospitals and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. Federal funding was secured to investigate the effectiveness of simulation in cardiac training in association with this consortium and use this to further develop the original Simulator.

“What does this mean for the region? This research team has developed a ‘first of its kind’ Cardiac Surgery Simulator that simulates real life heart functioning in a real life setting using pig hearts as the organ upon which operations can be performed. The Simulator systems and software enable typical operating theatre situations to be experienced e.g. blood pressures that are too high or low or anomalous as well as heart rates that are too high or low or anomalous. It uses electromechanical means to animate real tissue which enable students to work in what is essentially a live operating situation. Patent protection in the US was issued in 2010 and an additional patent for a specialist related area is in the pipeline. Negotiations are also underway to commercialize the Simulator. This exciting development demonstrates two important things – that we have people in our region's R&D sector who are at the leading edge internationally and that to be successful you need to collaborate with people outside the space you are in and outside the country where you are based if you are going to achieve success. Congratulations are due to all who have been involved in this exciting technology-based breakthrough.” (Excerpt from the Caribbean Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network)

In 2010, Dr. Ramphal was appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In 2011, he was made Honourary Professor of Surgery at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica

Dr. Ramphal devotes much of his time teaching basic and advanced surgical principles to nursing students, undergraduate medical students and post graduate surgical residents.

He is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Caribbean College of Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, and the Caribbean Academy of Science.
Celebrating National Library Week

SCMR major effort in continuing professional development as a faculty initiative would be The library workshop in April 2012 (14th – 20th). This was a major faculty initiative to advance its knowledge and awareness on our library services, and update its skills and competencies on using the library services.

In commemoration of the American Library Association’s National Library Week, our library management team under the able leadership of Mrs. Patricia Hamilton hosted the Library Awareness Symposium. The one day event, with a theme: “Libraries Crossing Boundaries: Developing Alliances” featured the keynote lectures by the Chair of the Board of the Public Hospitals Authority, Mrs. Veta Brown, our Lecturer in Epidemiology and Ethics, Anthony Frankson, and the Director of SCMR, Dr. Robin Roberts in his capacity as a long standing member of the library Committee.

Dr. Frankson’s Guidelines for writing research proposals and Strategies for collecting and managing research data, the librarians Tips for searching the Internet, searching the Library’s Databases and locating E Books, were the featured sessions for the interactive participation of the faculty, students, nurses and our Allied Health colleagues who attended.

...Let our fingers do the walking

Launching the new UWI/PHA Community Health Sciences Library

During National Library week, the Library Committee launched formally the new name for The library at the Oncology centre, the Community Health Sciences Library.

The famous quote by Cicero “if you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need”, aptly describes the attributes of the new medical library.

The library features an impressive list of direct linkages and databases that can be accessed by our students and faculty directly or through the services of the librarians.

The Library committee is particularly proud of its Health Sciences Library Consortium formed in 2010, – a partnership between the COB Library, UWI Medical Library, PHA and the Ministry of Health. A formal MOU was signed to cement the partnership between the four entities. The contract was based on the agreement to purchase the EBSCO library database at a cost of $36,000 annually in which all parties shared equally in the cost.

With the relationship of the PMH library and the access to the Mona library system the University of Miami, and the newly acquired EBSCO database, the medical students and faculty have access to a state-of-the-art library services and database equal to any medical facility in the developed world.

UWI SCMR Thanks The UWI Guild of Graduates for the donation of the tables and chairs to the Medical Library lecture hall.
The journey of a thousand leagues begins with the first step. Advancing library services at the PMH has been quite a journey:

We made our first step some thirty years ago when two Consultants at the PMH donated some medical journals and standard reference textbooks to equip a small space adjacent to the Consultant’s medical secretary’s Office. There were many baby steps, other physicians chipped in and the shelves were filled. The “cubby hole” became a formal reading room – a place where physicians could seclude and avail themselves of a few standard medical journal subscriptions and reference textbooks on select disciplines in medicine.

In 1991, we made our first giant step; we established an Office of Continuing Medical Education at the PMH and signed on to become Classic Library Members of the Louis Calder Memorial Library, the health science information center for the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, the University of Miami Health System and the Jackson Health System. We transformed our reading room to an international venue. Every physician employed at the PMH had access to one of America’s leading research and academic medical institutions, just next door. Our Medical Association of the Bahamas chipped in and donated a Fax machine - a $2500 tag at that time; this was cutting edge technology. Literature searches for information on diseases and their management with access to a collection of over 75,000 books and over 150,000 journal subscriptions, were at our finger tips and available at the speed of a telephone call. We are forever grateful to Mrs. Suzette Burrows, the Calder Library’s administrator at that time. She served as our librarian consultant, providing her services free of charge, ensuring that the PMH medical library had all the prerequisite for a modern hospital library as for all accredited community based hospitals in the state of Florida. With the arrival of the Internet, we buried our fax machine, bought computers, installed our cable network and went on line. On our journey, we had reached a new milestone; we became a digital network library.

We never stopped moving. We expanded our stakeholder base to provide library services to all our hospital staff, nurses, allied health professionals and the health administrative team. We had a staff upgrade too. Mrs. Patricia Hamilton, initially a junior clerk as the sole but full time employee, joined us. She was keen and self motivated; it showed. Through the initial training programs at the Calder library, she enrolled at the College of the Bahamas, got a bachelors and subsequently in 2007 completed her masters in Library Science at the University of South Florida.

In 1997, the PMH made a quantum leap in medical education. The University of the West Indies established the clinical training program of its Faculty of Medicine there. Medical students could complete the final two years of the five-year program for their medical undergraduate programs. The process of transforming the PMH to a formal academic institution had begun.

The University incorporated the PMH library in its teaching complex. Our library services met this new challenge on all fronts. We had acquired a new physical plant, located in the new Oncology center, with a lecture room equipped with LCD projector and online services too! Staff complement was increased - two full time librarians and assistant; computer work stations were installed for students to access the Internet directly.

In 2010 we launched our journey full flight into cyberspace and beyond. We formed the Health Science Library Consortium – a formal contractual partnership between the College of the Bahamas, the Public Hospitals Authority, the Ministry of Health and the UWI School of Clinical Medicine and Research, The Bahamas. With our collective efforts we bought the EBSCOhost, an online data base service through proprietary software, valued at $36,000. For all our stakeholder constituents, each can access from their home computer the full collection of 7 core health databases that encompasses over 3000 health care journals - full text subscriptions, reflective of all the health care disciplines.

In 2010 we upgraded our computer software, hardware and broadband Internet services at the SCMR. Our enrolled medical students in addition have full access to the University of the West Indies library services in Jamaica – 31 international and 11 West Indian databases.

The journey of the development of the Health Science community Library of the PMH has been a success story, one of commitment, innovation, networking and partnership. It is a testimonial to the prudent management of limited resources in a developing country; proof that we can achieve a stat-of-the-art health science library, equal to any tertiary care institution in the Developed world. We embraced the benefits of medical technology and the Internet and stayed at the forefront of the information revolution.

We are indeed pleased to offer to the Bahamian community throughout the archipelago, the service of providing access and availability to health information, literature searches and reviews: Anytime, All the time… a finger tip away, in real time. Our journey continues, join us.

“Education is more than a luxury; it is a responsibility that society owes to itself.” Robin Cook
Under the able leadership of Dr. Nelson Clarke, the Ethics Committee continues to provide oversight and guidance to advancing research in the Bahamas. The Committee has fostered a working relationship with the National Ethics Committee of the Ministry of Health. The Research Committee recognizes and acknowledges those research projects of national impact and concern. In so doing, research proposals of that ilk are referred to the National Ethics Committee for review and approval. Proposals involving the public clinics also require submission and approval from the Ministry of Health’s National Ethics Committee.

The UWI/PHA Ethics Committee has maintained the consistency of meeting on a monthly basis over the 2012 calendar year. Its commitment to provide feedback within a timely manner, if submitted two weeks prior to the meeting, has made the Committee the central hub for research approval in health. The exponential growth of the research submitted attest to this.

**SCMR: Research Committee:**

**OUR VISION** “To become the leading centre of research in all aspects of health in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.”

**OUR MISSION:** “To improve the health of the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas through clinical research.”

The New Research Committee co-chaired by Dr. Anthony Frankson and Dr. Raleigh Butler continues to spearhead the research initiatives of the School. The Committee’s strategic plan is quite in synch with the University’s strategic objective:

**A. Faculty-led Research & Innovation:** Every full-time Lecturer and several Associate lecturers have a defined research agenda and is actively involved in their research activity for international presentation and journal publication. 4 peer reviewed articles were published in 2012.

**B. Graduate Studies & Research:** Every graduate student is involved actively in research projects as a requirement for their postgraduate program. The quality of the papers is measured not only for acceptance to graduate, but also their submission and acceptance for regional and international conferences and peer-review journals. Note the increasing numbers of papers submitted to the Ethics committee in 2012.

Our benchmark is the Commonwealth Health Research Council’s Annual Conference. SCMR continues to make a mark at the CHRC conference. In 2012, we had a record breaking 9 submissions and acceptances.

**C. Funding & Partnerships.** Increase funding and strengthen research partnerships. SCMR continues to pursue more research funding. Dr. Srikanth Garikaparthi leads the school in his regards with a $250,000 grant for his Phase 2 clinical trial on E-Matrix injections for keloids.

A number of our lecturers and Associate lecturers are pursuing research initiatives and funding through international collaboration. In this regard, the SCMR faculty made notable presentations at the African Caribbean Cancer Consortium Conference in Philadelphia in July 2012 and the 2nd Biennial Science of Global Prostate Cancer Disparity in Black men in the Bahamas in November 2012. Three peer-reviewed papers were published in 2012 in these collaborative efforts.
2012, The 6th Annual Research Day

The Annual Research Day continues to be the highlight event of the year. In 2012, there has been significant growth in our research output. In response, Research day was expanded to a two-day event featuring 22 papers – almost double our prior years submissions.

SCMR’s CHRC Presentations in 2012

1. Prostate cancer screening clinics in the Bahamas  R Roberts, K Nottage
2. GINA Guidelines adherence among primary care physicians at the Princess Margaret Hospital, The Bahamas B Cooper, P Darville, C Dorsett, L Farrington, B Gaitor, C Gomez, MA Frankson, K Moss, C Hanna-Mahase
3. Impact of the ‘Providing Access to Continued Education’ Program on repeat teenage pregnancy in the Bahamas VP Sakharkar, MA Frankson
6th UWI SCMR: RESEARCH DAY 2012

Building Healthy Communities,
The Research Agenda

Thursday 20th September 2012
Official Opening Session: 6:00pm* – 9:00pm

Welcome
Remarks: RBC Sponsor
Remarks: Minister of Education
Remarks: Minister of Health
Research Report: Director

Chairperson: Dr. S Pinder-Butler

The RBC Lecture

1. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Culturally Diverse Communities: “With an Ear for the Beat of Different Hearts”.
   Dr. Carolyn Tucker, Prof Psychology, Community Health and Family Medicine, University of Florida

2. The Prevalence of Elevated Blood Pressure in Adolescence in New Providence, Bahamas
   Catherine Conliffe, Family Medicine

3. Determination of the Prevalence of Abnormal Glucose Tolerance in Obese versus Non-obese Adolescents in The Bahamas
   Keith Rivers, Family Medicine

4. Healthy Lifestyle Adherence among Hypertensive Patients in the General Practice Setting in Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau, Bahamas
   A Ferguson-Dyer, K Smith, S Ferguson, MAC Frankson, C Hanna-Mahase, Family Medicine

5. Prostate Cancer Screening Clinics in the Bahamas:
   Robin Roberts, Krista Nottage, Urology

6. Beyond the Life style Interventions: Examining the Role of the Social Determinants of Non-communicable Diseases
   Dr. Gerry Eijkemans, PAHO/WHO Representative, The Bahamas & Turks & Caicos Islands

*6:00pm – 6:30pm: Drinks and Hor d’oeuvres
Friday 21st September 2012—Session II 8:30am -10:30am

Chairperson: Dr. Gwen Mendigam

7. Dengue Fever Management in Paediatric Patients at the Princess Margaret Hospital in The Bahamas Following the 2011 Outbreak
   D Gregoire, Child Health

6. Prevalence and Outcomes of Preterm Infants With Patent Ductus Arteriosus Treated Medically And Surgically
   S Kondapuram, Child Health

9. GINA Guidelines Adherence Among Physicians At The Princess Margaret Hospital, The Bahamas
   B Cooper, P Darville, C Dorsett, L Farrington, B Gaitor, C Gomez, MA Frankson, K Moss, C Hanna-Mahase, Family Medicine

10. Impact of the ‘Providing Access to Continued Education’ Programme on Repeat Teen Pregnancy in The Bahamas
     V Sakharkar, MA Frankson Obstetrics & Gynecology

11. Prevalence of Group B Streptococcus Colonization in Pregnant Women In The Bahamas
     Nina Graham Obstetrics & Gynecology

COFFEE BREAK: 10:30 AM – 11:00AM

Friday 21st September 2012—Session III 11:00am -12:30pm

Chairperson: Dr. Nelson Clarke

12. Exposure to Community Violence and Associated Symptoms of Psychological Trauma Among Adolescents in New Providence, Bahamas
    L Rolle-Smith Family Medicine

13. Depression and Social Functioning Factors Among Patients Attending the Community Counseling and Assessment Centre and Medical Out-Patient Clinics at the Princess Margaret Hospital
    P. Burrows, Psychiatry

14. Evaluation of Client Satisfaction in Drug Rehabilitation Treatment at a Residential Treatment Facility in The Bahamas
    S Bodna, Psychiatry

    Karen Sherwood-Wallace, Physiotherapy

BROWN BAG LUNCH: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Friday 21st September 2012—Session IV 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Chairperson: Dr. Mildred Hall-Watson

16. Prevalence of Syphilis and Associated Risk Factors Involved Among the HIV-infected Patients Attending the Outpatient Clinics at Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau, The Bahamas
    J Rodgers, Family Medicine

17. Causes of death in the HIV population over five years, from 2005 to 2010. at the Cornwall Regional Hospital, Jamaica
    N Forbes, G Barrow, M Walwyn, Y Frazer, J Keenan, M Aung, M Lee.

18. The use of Tofranil as a CD4 Immune Booster in patients with HIV disease
    Herbert Olander, Internal Medicine

19. Traumatic Brain Injury in the Bahamas
    Magnus Ekdeede, Neurosurgery

20. Quality Of Life In Chronic Venous Insufficiency; A look at patients in the Cardiothoracic & Vascular Clinic, Outpatient Dressing Room, & Agape Family Medicine Clinic of the Public Hospital Authority, New Providence, Bahamas
    T Rcker-Davis Family Medicine

    T Dorsett-Johnson Family Medicine

    Srikanth Garikapathin Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery

Session Ends 3:30pm
SCMR and The Hospital for Sick Children

*The Caribbean-SickKids Paediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders Initiative is a collaboration between The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and selected Caribbean countries. With a long history of partnering to advance training and health outcomes throughout the region, the specific partner countries include: Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago. The goal of this capacity-building initiative is to improve the quality of life and outcomes for children and their families living with cancer and blood disorders in the Caribbean. It is a priority initiative of the SickKids Global Child Health Program and is endorsed by the Board of Directors of SickKids and the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto.

SickKids Foundation is committed to raising the funds for the 5-year project from philanthropic sources in Toronto and the partner Caribbean countries, with CDN $3M committed to date, towards our fundraising goal of CDN $8M. These committed funds have been allocated to initiate several key priorities for the initiative, including, but not limited to:

**Laboratory Enhancement:**
- Enhancement of diagnostic services for paediatric cancer and blood disorders in affiliated hospitals.

**Education:**
- To support educational lectures, training and case consultations, Telemedicine equipment has been identified for three sites: Barbados, Jamaica and The Bahamas.
- Targeted training opportunities for local health care professionals working in paediatric cancer and blood disorders, including: nurses, laboratory technicians/technologists, pharmacists and physicians.

**Registry:**
- Establishment and maintenance of local Paediatric Cancer Registries to collect prospective data, using St. Jude’s POND database.

*Reprint from the Sickkids Newsletter May 2013

**Visiting Lecturers**

Our SCMR strategic plan proposes that the ideal medium for collaboration and integration of faculties is via a structured program of visiting lecturers to The Bahamas from the other UWI campuses.

**Dr. Ian Sammy**, Emergency Medicine Physician.  UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad Emergency Medicine visiting lecturer:

**Dr. Nadine Johnson**, Maternal Fetal Medicine specialist, Mona, Jamaica for the OB/GYN Research day.

**Dr. Maureen Samms-Vaughn**, Professor of Pediatrics & Child Development and Behavior Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, Jamaica for the Medical Association of the Bahamas Annual Scientific Conference
SCMR joins C@ribNET

C@ribNET is a regional research and education network that is coordinated and managed by the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN). CKLN is an inter-governmental agency established by CARICOM with the mission to build capacity in the areas of education and training thru initiatives that will enhance and grow the regional human resource outputs.

The vision is that of a network of national research and education networks that is designed to bridge the digital divide within the geographical space occupied by CARIFORUM, (The Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States) to enable academic and research institutions as well as others involved in the delivery of public goods to get connected to the outside world and exchange information with advanced partners. The network seeks to link the Bahamas into the Internet2 Network.

Internet2 is exceptional community of U.S. and international leaders in research, academia, industry and government who create and collaborate via innovative technologies with a mission to advance national and global research and education. Internet2 operates the Internet2 Network, an International Protocol network using optical fibre that delivers network services for research and education, and provides a secure network testing and research environment.

C@ribNET has secured a contract with BTC and the fiber optic cables will be linked into Nassau in 2013. SCMR is targeted to be one of the sites for the fibre optic cable connection in Nassau.

C@ribNET’s work program is principally funded by CARICOM governments, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, Canadian International Development Agency and other donor agencies. C@ribNET’s role is to enable the integration of Member States in the world’s global education and research network infrastructure, all towards the objective of enhancing regional competitiveness and the development of a knowledge-based economy. The Bahamas project is under the guidance of Dr. Leon Higgs, Director of Higher Education and Lifelong Learning at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

PAHO – SCMR Collaboration

The Director committed to advance the research and educational initiatives of SCMR through fostering targeted projects with our PAHO/WHO Representative to The Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands, Dr. Gerry Eijkmans and PAHO’s Health Systems and Services Adviser Dr. Victor Zamora. PAHO would engage actively in strengthening key elements of our undergraduate and postgraduate programs, namely Public Health, leadership, research and statistics and ethics. SCMR and PAHO also committed to developing an agenda for research on priority issues such as: Millennium Development Goals, Infant Mortality Rates, health financing, tobacco use and migrant health.
SCMR hosts International Conference on Prostate Cancer:

2nd Biennial Science of Global Prostate Cancer Disparity in Black men.

The University of the West Indies School of Clinical Medicine and Research, The Bahamas, in partnership with the University of Jacksonville Florida hosted the Second Biennial Science of Global Prostate Cancer Disparity in Black Men Conference at the SuperClub Breezes Resort on the Cable Beach strip. The conference was a landmark effort to address the global burden of prostate cancer in Black men. This four-day event attracted over 100 delegates from North America, South America, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. The delegate profiles spanned the spectrum of national and international scientists, clinicians, community leaders, prostate cancer survivors, prostate cancer advocates and other urological professionals. SCMR faculty presented two papers at the conference.

The conference is the brainchild of Dr. Folakemi Odedina, a pharmacist with a special interest in prostate cancer. The first conference was held at Jacksonville in 2010.

SCMR Research Partnerships: The African Caribbean Cancer Consortium

The African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium was formed in May 2006 to further the study of viral, genetic, environmental and lifestyle risk factors for cancer in populations of African descent. Camille Ragin PhD, MPH, currently at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, is responsible for the establishment and development of the consortium. The consortium aims to:

- Study viral, genetic, environmental, and lifestyle risk factors for cancer in populations of African descent
- Promote collaboration between cancer health disparities researchers
- Promote diversity in cancer research through training
- Develop and conduct pooled and/or multi-centered studies for the investigation of cancer in minority populations

Comprised of 106 members from 13 countries in the Caribbean, 3 in African and 17 institutions in the USA, the Consortium to date, has produced 40 publications in peer-reviewed journals to date. SCMR faculty members account for 15% of these publications. SCMR faculty was duly represented at the Consortium’s conference in Philadelphia, 3 papers were presented.
Celebrating his 80th Birthday at SCMR, Happy Birthday Prof!

80 Years of Service to the world at the SCMR in the Bahamas.
One of the most influential thinkers on the global scene...The Lancet
“A life time in Medicine and Health Care dedicated to uplifting the standard of public health for the benefit of its citizens and the overall process of Caribbean development”
A Caribbean Patriot - “a man who has never forgotten his roots”.

A legacy of Excellence:

- A scholar of the classics – fluent in Greek, Latin and Spanish
- A Barbadian Island Scholar
- A University Gold medalist, MB BS
- Professor of Medicine
- Scientific Secretary of the Caribbean Health Research Council.
- Our First Caribbean Chief of Medicine at the University Hospital
- The First Caribbean Director of PAHO
- A recipient of several Honorary degrees from world renowned universities
- The first and only West Indian to be appointed the Sir Arthur Sims Commonwealth Travelling Professor
- Two Pelican Awards
- The Centenary Medal of Jamaica
- Order of the Caribbean Community
- Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for services to medicine
- Our first UWI graduate to serve as the Chancellor of the University
FACULTY 2012

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION & PUBLICATIONS

INVITED AS GUEST LECTURERS

APPOINTMENTS & CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Raleigh Butler
“Too Many, Too Young and Too late: Gynecological malignancies in the Bahamas.” Medical Association of the Bahamas 40th Annual Scientific Conference, Bahamas

Dr. Dionne Dames

Dr. Magnus Ekedede,

Dr. Delton Farquharson
“Limb Salvage for Non-Reconstructable Arterial Disease.” Medical Association of the Bahamas 40th Annual Scientific Conference, Bahamas


“Limb Salvage for Non-Reconstructable arterial disease - Presented at MAB “Presented at Atlantic Vascular Meeting “April 2012 Elected President of the Save a limb Save a life foundation SALSAL Bahamas Chapter - the first international chapter

“Diabetic Foot Infections” November 2012 World Diabetes Day

Dr. Nakkia Forbes

Dr. Wesley Francis
“Laparoscopic Colectomy for Colon Cancer.” Medical Association of the Bahamas, 40th Annual Scientific Conference, Bahamas


Dr. Anthony Frankson
“Impact of the ’Providing Access to Continued Education’ Programme on Repeat Teen Pregnancy in The Bahamas.” Sakharkar V, Frankson MA, CHRC 57th Annual Conference held in Grand Cayman, The Cayman Islands

“Healthy lifestyle adherence among hypertensive patients in the general practice setting in Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau, Bahamas.” Ferguson-Dyer A, Smith K, Ferguson S, Frankson MA, Hanna-Mahase C. CHRC 57th Annual Conference held in Grand Cayman, The Cayman Islands


“Too Many, Too Young and Too late: Gynecological malignancies in the Bahamas.” Medical Association of the Bahamas 40th Annual Scientific Conference, Bahamas

Dr. Srikanth Garikaparthi


Dr. Ilsa Grant
“Is Dialysis a Terminal Disease in the Bahamas?” Medical Association of the Bahamas, 40th Annual Scientific Conference, Bahamas

Dr. Cherilyn Hanna-Mahase


“Quality of life in Chronic Venous Disease: A look at patients in the Cardiothoracic &Vascular Clinic, Outpatient Dressing Room and Agape Family Medicine Clinic of the Public Hospital Authority, New Providence, Bahamas.” Roker-Davis TL, Frankson MA, Ramphal P, Hanna-Mahase C. 6th Annual Research Day SCMR


Dr. Herbert Olander,

Prof. Paul Ramphal
“Therapeutic Approaches in Dyslipidemia for the High Risk Cardiovascular Patient.” Medical Association of the Bahamas, 40th Annual Scientific Conference, Bahamas

“Quality of life in Chronic Venous Disease: A look at patients in the Cardiothoracic &Vascular Clinic, Outpatient Dressing Room and Agape Family Medicine Clinic of the Public Hospital Authority, New Providence, Bahamas.” Roker-Davis TL, Frankson MA, Ramphal P, Hanna-Mahase C. 6th Annual Research Day SCMR

Dr. Robin Roberts


“An Epidemic of Wilm’s Tumors in the Bahamas?” Roberts R & Sinquee-Brown CB. African Caribbean Cancer Consortium, 4th International Conference, Philadelphia


“Prostate Cancer Screening Clinics in the Bahamas.” Roberts RA, Nottage K. 57th Annual Commonwealth Health Research Council, Research Conference, Cayman Islands


“Bettering the Odds in Female Reproductive Health: Defining and Managing Male Infertility in the Bahamas.” Roberts RA. Obstetrics & Gynecology Princess Margaret Hospital 2nd Annual Research Day

“The Economic Impact of Treating Advanced Prostate Cancer: Are Physicians Managing the Public’s Purse?” Robin RA. Annual Conference Jamaican Urology Association, Kingston Jamaica

“The Real Job Opportunities in the Bahamas.” Roberts RA. Annual Bahamas Business Outlook, Freeport Grand Bahama

“A Regional Approach to providing Quality Lab Services.” Roberts RA. Bahamas Association of Medical Technologists, Laboratory Month


UWI Caribbean Health Leadership Institute Graduate 4th Cohort, Class Valedictorian

Dr. Karen Rowe
“Nosocomial Infections in the ICU. Medical Association of the Bahamas.” 40th Annual Scientific Conference, Bahamas

Dr. Vrunda Sakarkar
“Repeat Teenage Pregnancy in the Bahamas: How effective are we in preventing it?” Sakarkar V & Frankson MA. 6th Annual Research Day SCMR & CHRC 57th Annual Conference held in Grand Cayman, The Cayman Islands

Dr. Corrine Sinquee
“An Epidemic of Wilm’s Tumors in the Bahamas?” Roberts RA & Sinquee-Brown CB. African Caribbean Cancer Consortium, 4th International Conference, Philadelphia

Dr. Michelle Sweeting
“Cholera - The Vibrating Threat Jamaica.” Emergency Medicine Association 12th Annual Conference

Dr. Pinder Butler

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF...
MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE BAHAMAS

University of the West Indies
School of Clinical Medicine and Research, The Bahamas
CONGRATULATIONS BAHAMAS!