Dean’s Message

The Faculty of Medical Sciences at St. Augustine has a proud record of achievements in the areas of student support, teaching learning and dissemination of knowledge.

The CMSE, headed by Dr Bidyadhar Sa, must be commended for the collaborative effort of conceptualising, producing and exhibiting the work of the FMS Highlights. We are sure you will agree that this pictorial work is worth a thousand words.

In these photographs you will see the FMS both at work and play. Here you will gain an understanding of the many facets of the part we play in making the University proud of its members.

I wish to thank all those who provided photographs and all who have worked tirelessly to make this production a reality; more particularly the Centre for Medical Sciences Education (CMSE) and Medical Sciences Library staff.

Best wishes,
Dean Samuel Ramsewak

Hepatopancreatobiliary Workshop

The University of the West Indies in collaboration with the Society of Surgeons of Trinidad and Tobago and the North Central Regional Health Authority conducted a hepatopancreatobiliary (HBP) workshop from June 21st to 23rd 2012 at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. The workshop targeted 40 surgeons and surgeons in training both locally and regionally. The conference director was Ravi Maharaj, Lecturer, Clinical Surgical Sciences and Consultant Surgeon at EWMSC. The eminent faculty included Parul J Shukla and Michael Kluger of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Deepak Dath, Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, Canada, Vijay Naraynsingh Professor of Surgery and Head of Clinical Surgical Sciences, Ravi Maharaj, Lecturer in the Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences and Consultant Surgeon at EWMCS, Shamin Cawich, Consultant Surgeon, Lecturer, University Hospital of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica, Dilip Dan, Lecturer in the Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences, Consultant Surgeon at San Fernando General Hospital, Alex Sinanan, Consultant Radiologist and Lecturer, EWMSC and Kavi Capildeo, Consultant Medical Oncologist, Associate Lecturer, Sangre Grande District Hospital.

Interactive lectures covered a wide range of issues including colorectal hepatic metastasis, centralization of surgical services as well as setting up a liver transplant unit. Live surgery on a female patient with a large hepatic adenoma was demonstrated and delegates gained hands on experience in the porcine lab.
Dr. Kumar Muthukumarappan, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Chesterfield Hospital, Sheffield, UK was a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine during the period July 16th to 20th, 2012. Dr Kumar’s visit was supported by both Professor Vijay Narayansingh (Head, Clinical Surgical Sciences, FMS) and Professor Samuel Ramsewak, (Dean, FMS). During his visit Dr Kumar taught undergraduates, end-of-year Clerkship for Year 4, OSCE, and postgraduate students. Dr Kumar attended to patients in need of urogynaecological care, performed cutting edge urogynaecological operations and also managed to teach while conducting surgery by videoconferencing with medical staff from UWI Mona, Nassau, and also at the Sangre Grande Hospital. Faculty at the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was trained in the insertion of sub-urethral tapes (TVT-O) for stress incontinences.

Dean Ramsewak, Dr. Bassaw, the CMSE, IT and the UWI team, as well as nurses and administration staff at the Mt. Hope Maternity Hospital, all helped to ensure Dr. Kumar’s visit was successful. Dr Kumar’s visit signals the start of a full teaching urogynaecological service at the Mt. Hope Maternity Hospital under the auspices of the UWI, FMS.

World Sight Day - The Right to Sight

The aim of the symposium was to emphasize the multidisciplinary approach to eye care and blindness prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary) and to raise public awareness. The often complex nature of eye diseases should be noted, including the immense time, effort and resources required to competently and safely manage these diseases. Also important is the role of the patient as part of the eye care team.

UWI’s World Sight Day observances as an example of “The Role of Higher Education in Blindness Prevention”
The Dental Special Needs Clinic in the School of Dentistry treats different kinds of special-needs patients, and hearing-impaired patients are one of these. It has been difficult for us with normal hearing to communicate with people who are hearing-impaired. We therefore set out to learn basic Sign Language and our first set of participants graduated July 27th, 2012.

Sign Language Programme

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Each course had a cohort of 24 participants with both Local and Foreign Instructors/Mentors.

In 2013 we are hosting two APLS Courses on October 5th and 6th. Registration opens on Monday 29th August and closes on Friday 6th September 2013.

The cost of the cost is $3000.00 TT or USD $500.00. Interested persons can contact the Administrative Office Ms. Melrose Yearwood via email (Melrose.Yearwood@sta.uwi.edu).

Synopsis of the MERCK Workshop

The Centre for Medical Sciences Education (CMSE) in collaboration with Professor S. Teelucksingh, Adult Medicine Unit, held its first Module Development Workshop for the Medical Education Research in Chronic diseases and for Knowledge Dissemination (MERCK) Institute on 23rd October 2012. The workshop was based on a proposed training programme developed by The University of the West Indies, geared towards the continued professional development of healthcare personnel and other allied healthcare professionals. Thirteen out of fifteen resource personnel from various departments in The UWI including Cave Hill Barbados (via video conferencing) participated in the workshop. It was held at CMSE in the Distance Education Room (112) from 10 am to 12 noon.

Advanced Paediatric Life Support

The Advanced Paediatric Life Support (A.P.L.S) is coordinated by Dr. Joanne Paul and Dr. Ian Sammy. In 2012 the course was hosted three times in the months of May, August and October. Preparation for the course inclusive of reading and the pre-certificate required six (6) to (8) weeks prep time with the submission of the Pre-Certificate two (2) weeks prior to the “Face to Face”. The Face to Face session was held in the Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences using both the second and third floors of Building 14 over two days i.e. Saturday and Sunday.

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Oath taking ceremonies 2012

School of Medicine

School of Dentistry

School of Veterinary Medicine

School of Advanced Nursing Education

School of Pharmacy
High Risk Obstetrics Towards Safer Outcomes

The University of the West Indies and Gynaecological and Obstetrics Society of Trinidad and Tobago (GOSTT) held a two-day workshop and conference on “High Risk Obstetrics Towards Safer Outcomes” on October 20th and 21st, 2012. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Karen Fung Kee Fung from the University of Ottawa. Special topics discussed were: Fetal Monitoring in Labour, Complications of Twins, Hemorrhage in Obstetrics, Ultrasound in Obstetrics, Maternal Collapse, Shoulder Dystocia, Advances in Neo Natal Care, Advances in Diabetes Management. The main intent of the workshop was to highlight clinical areas of concern in the management of mothers and babies.

CAAM-HP visit to the School of Medicine in 2012

Quality Assurance visit to the School of Veterinary Medicine in 2012
The Emergency Medicine Unit in the Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences hosted the first Sexual Abuse Seminar on Saturday 22nd September, 2012 in Amphitheatre C at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. The course co-ordinators were Dr. Joanne Paul and Dr. Ian Sammy with administrative assistance provided by Ms. Melrose Yearwood.

The workshop hosted a field of presenters including Dr. Rhonda Hutson, Dr. Windsor Fredrick, Mrs Khadijah Williams-Peters from the Children’s Authority, Natalie O’ Brady from the Rape Crisis Centre, Margaret Sampson Brown of the Victim Support Unit and Ms Kathy Ann Waterman-Latchoo from the DPP’s office. Topics covered by these individuals and the host of presenters included Sexual Abuse Protocols in Trinidad and Jamaica, The legal aspects of Sexual Abuse, The psychosocial aspects of sexual abuse, the importance of documentation and the plenary asked the question “Where do we go from here.”

CMSE-MSL Photographic Exhibition 2012

The Centre for Medical Sciences Education (CMSE) collaborated with the Medical Sciences Library to launch its very first FMS, Photography Exhibition on Tuesday 13th, March 2012 in the Medical Sciences Library foyer. The exhibition was entitled: ‘Meds-Eye 2012’ and this was the first of its kind to be held at The UWI. The focus was on teaching, learning, research and outreach activities within the Medical Sciences community. Photographs were exhibited throughout the walls of CMSE and the Medical Sciences Library, in various layouts and design to perfectly portray the varying aspects of the Faculty.

It also showcased the talent of the leading photographer and staff member at CMSE, Mr. Dexter Superville. Invitees included various academic and non academic staff, also specially invited guests Professor Clement Sankat, Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor of The University, Professor Samuel Ramsewak, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and two visitors from the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), namely: Professor Penelope Hansen and Professor Paul O’Neill.
Health Care Quality Conference 2012

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) decided that all stakeholders of health care must come together to analyze the position of health care in the region. The first step on that road to reform was the ‘Improvement in Health Care Quality and Delivery: Making a Difference’ conference held on 18th and 19th January 2013, respectively at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and the Learning Resource Center at UWI, St. Augustine Trinidad. This effort by the UWI’s FMS was supported by the Ministries of Health and Tertiary Education, the UWI’s Office of the Campus Principal and a number of private corporate sponsors. At this event a roundtable forum ‘Achieving and maintaining standards in health care delivery & health care education’ was facilitated by Dr. Akenath Misir, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) - Trinidad and Tobago and co-facilitated by Dr. Marlene Fredericks, CMO - St Lucia and Dr. Patrick Martin, CMO - St Kitts. This session generated the commitment from both speakers and participants at all levels of the healthcare sector to produce a Position Paper on Healthcare Quality for CARICOM to be presented at the annual meeting of regional Health Ministers in 2013/14. Dr. Patrick Martin willingly assumed the lead and presented an outline of the Position paper at the close of the conference proceedings. Dr. Ernest Pate, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) generously offered his assistance to this project.
Welcome for Foreign Students 2012

"Medicine is my lawful wife and literature is my mistress"
Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904); Russian Physician

Fund Raising for Staff Member 2012

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