

Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit



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DIRECTOR, HUGH WYNTER FERTILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT

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

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

FINANCIAL

The University Grant's Committee (UGC) budgetary allocation to the Unit for 2015-2016 was \$17,268,072.00 while expenditure was \$21,855,690.30.

Income generated from cost recovery was \$154,547,134.46 and expenditure was \$138,941,958.93. An opening balance of (\$218,221,030.20) resulted in a final balance of (\$232,675,500.87). The Unit continues to repay The UWI for funds advanced to acquire equipment and technological inputs for the refurbished building.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The following staff members completed their studies:

- Nurse Yvonne Walters, MSc Counselling;
- Miss Deon Black, MBA; and
- Mrs Ileen Gill, BSc Gender and Development Studies.

Mrs Veronica Forbes-Blake was awarded the Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals Runner-up All-island Administrative Professional of the Year.

Staff also attended several conferences/seminars, including the Annual Donor Egg Symposium/Workshop in North Carolina 2016, the 44th Annual Scientific Conference, Medical Association of the Bahamas 2016, the Women's Conference 2015, and American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Conference 2015.

INTERNAL OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

In an effort to improve operational processes, a number of workshops was held. The Unit held its first two-day IVF-Legal Workshop in association with The UWI's Legal Unit at The UWI Regional Headquarters in May 2016. This workshop reviewed the status of Jamaica's legal framework for IVF services and the requirements to protect service providers and clients. The Heart Foundation of Jamaica conducted a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Workshop with the entire staff in June 2016, and the IVF team took part in Customer Care training in July 2016.

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TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Unit's continuous focus on training included the hosting of its second In-Vitro Fertilization/Ferring Workshop in July 2016 with the participation of obstetrician/gynaecologists from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

The Unit's Master's in Counselling by Distance Education programme is suspended for the academic year 2016-2017 in order to facilitate a content review and streamlining of delivery to make it more student-friendly.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Several new initiatives have been undertaken in the area of research and innovation. The first is the formation of the Caribbean Association of Gynaecologic Endoscopic Surgeons (CAGES) and the second is the partnering with the International Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy (ISGE) to the stage the Inaugural International Minimally Invasive Gynaecologic Surgery Postgraduate Courses and Congress to be held March 22-25, 2017 at the Hilton Rose Hall, Montego Bay.

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

OUTREACH

Outreach activities supported clinical services in particular. The following events were coordinated in the year under review:

- Review and reconstruction of the HWFMU website.
- Participation in The UWI Research Days, February 17-19, 2016.
- Planning and implementation of an "In-Vitro Fertilization Workshop for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists," July 22-23, 2016, which was part-sponsored by Ferring Pharmaceuticals and Roche for 10 Obstetricians/Gynaecologists from four Caribbean countries: Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and Antigua. The workshop, which consisted of a blend of lectures and clinical practice, was rated as excellent by participants.

Activities for educational institutions, and community groups included display booths, distribution of educational materials, PowerPoint presentations, and career talks:

- Display booth and information dissemination at The University Hospital of the West Indies Health Fair, October 8, 2015.
- Booth display and talk on the "Work of the HWFMU" at a Health Fair at HEART Trust/NTA Vocational Training and Development Institute, February 4, 2016.
- Booth display and information dissemination at the Jamaica Rugby Union Health Fair at the Police Officers' Club, February 6, 2016.
- Careers day presentation at Penwood High School, March 18, 2016.
- Activity relating to "Speak your Mind" for Mothers and Daughters Day at Mona Primary School.
- Careers Day presentation at St. Joseph Infant School, May 3, 2016.