

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH



Professor Minerva Thame, MBBS, DCH, DM (Paeds), PhD
Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The main focus of the Department of Child and Adolescent Health is to improve the health and welfare of families through clinical service, research, intellectual leadership, advisory, community services and training of undergraduate students and postgraduate doctors.

Our clinical services are delivered through two medical wards, an outpatient department, a welfare clinic, a paediatric casualty and a newborn special care unit which incorporates a 6-bedded neonatal intensive care unit. The main subspecialties offered are adolescent medicine, allergy immunology, cardiology, development and behavioural paediatrics, endocrinology, infectious diseases, neonatology, nephrology, neurology and pulmonology. There is also collaboration with other surgical and medical subspecialties.

Department of Child and Adolescent Health

The Department has been involved in collaborative research with other faculties of the University of the West Indies and several overseas institutions such as Vanderbilt University Global Health Program, University of Texas and the Children's Nutrition Research Centre (CNRC), Baylor College of Medicine, Texas. Several members of the Department demonstrated intellectual leadership through their involvement with several advisory boards and active participation in community service.

Curriculum development, teaching and learning methods for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the Department of Child and Adolescent Health are continuously being revised. The Department currently offers two undergraduate courses as part of the MBBS programme and a postgraduate programme in Paediatrics (Doctor of Medicine in Paediatrics). Additionally, staff of the Department teach courses in child and adolescent health related areas, and provide research and clinical supervision to students enrolled in undergraduate programmes in Nursing and Midwifery and postgraduate programmes in Clinical Psychology, Education, Nutrition, Epidemiology and Public Health.

There were 314 junior students and 240 senior students who completed the Child and Adolescent Health rotations over the last year. Students' assessments of our clerkships have been consistently good with individual lecturer scores ranging from 4.2 to 4.6 with an average of 4.4 and the Clerkship Assessment ranging from 3.8 to 4.1. The final assessment of the Child and Adolescent Health programme is done together with the Department of Medicine and in the May/June and the November/December examinations. There were 67 elective students who rotated through the Department with 10 being from outside the Caribbean from Germany, Australia and the United Kingdom.

There was a total of 47 postgraduate students registered in the DM Paediatric programme of which 35 candidates were in Jamaica and 12 candidates were in the Bahamas. Nine candidates sat DM Part 2 final examination and 8 (88.9%) were successful while eleven (11) candidates sat the DM Part 1 examinations and 8 (72.7%) were successful. Thirteen candidates commenced the program 1st July 2013 of which 4 are in the Bahamas.

This year was the thirteenth year of the Perinatal Audit and Symposium. This annual conference is held in February of each year and was coordinated by Dr. Blondel Crosdale. This is a joint effort between the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Child and Adolescent Health with external review of perinatal statistics by practitioners from outside units.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Bailey K

- Source: **New Initiative Grant, Mona Office of Research and Innovation, Office of Principal**

Title: A Longitudinal study of Respiratory Morbidity in a Jamaican Birth Cohort.

Grant Period: 2014

Total Amount: J\$1,500,000

Christie C

- Source: **Minister of Health** (October 4, 2012) and **National Health Fund** (November 15, 2012) for immediate funding, for three years

Title: Elimination of Vertical (Mother-to-child) Transmission of HIV/AIDS and Congenital Syphilis in Jamaica,

Grant Period: 2012 to 2015

Total Amount: J\$ 55,448,800

- Source: **ViiV Health Care in collaboration with Mater Misericordiae University Hospital**

Title: The International Adolescent HIV Transition Research Project

Grant Period: July 2014 through June, 2015.

Total Amount: 15,000 Euros (\$2,266,800 Jam)

Harrison A

- Source: UNICEF

Title: Chronic illness in Jamaican Adolescents – A review of asthma, diabetes mellitus, HIV and sickle cell disease

Grant Period: 2014–2015

Total Amount: USD 34950.00

Pottinger AM

- Source: **New Initiative Grant, Mona Office of Research and Innovation, Office of Principal**

Title: Marijuana use and sperm quality in males being investigated for infertility

Grant Period: 2014

Total Amount: J\$1,500,000

Samms-Vaughan M. – Principal Investigator

P.I.: M. M. Samms-Vaughan (PI Jamaican site) & Hossein Rahbar

- Source: NIH (RO1 Grant)

Title: Epidemiology of Autism in Jamaica (Collaboration with the University of Texas)

Grant Period: 12/09/2013-30/04/2018

Total cost: US \$737,953.00 (Jamaican site)

P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan

- Source: **CHASE Fund, Jamaica**

Title: Identification of the prevalence of developmental disability at 18 months, using the Jamaican Birth Cohort Study

Grant Period: 01/07/2013-30/01/2014

Total cost: J\$4,926,000.00 (US \$49,260.00)

P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan

- Source: UNICEF

Title: Provision of funding support for part payment of fees for students in the public sector in the Child Development Therapy programme (The CDT programme trains professionals to work with children with special needs at the EC level)

Grant Period: 01/08/2012–30/06/2014 Total cost: J\$ 5,000,000.00 (US\$50,000.00)

P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan

- Source: UNICEF

Title: An Evaluation of the Current Status of Maternal, Paternal, Newborn and Infant Health and Well-Being and the Impact of these on National Child Health and Development in the Early Years. (Data to be obtained from The Jamaican Birth Cohort Study, also funded by the NHF)

Grant Period: 28/08/2011–30/06/2014

Total cost: US \$ 100,523.25

P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan

- Source: National Health Fund, Jamaica

Title: An Evaluation of the Current Status of Maternal, Paternal, Newborn and Infant Health and Well-Being and the Impact of these on National Child Health and Development in the Early Years. (Data to be obtained from The Jamaican Birth Cohort Study, also funded by UNICEF)

Grant Period: 9/9/2011–31/05/2014

Total cost: US\$147,395.34

P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan

- Source: Michigan State University Consortium

Title: The provision of support for informatics and biological sample collection for the Jamaican Birth Cohort Study

Grant Period: 3/1/2011–31/06/2014

Total cost: US\$150,000

P.I.: M. Samms-Vaughan

- Source: **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IDB)**

Title: The Jamaican Birth Cohort Study

Grant Period: 1/09/10–31/03/14

Total cost: US 624,000.00

M. Thame – Principal Investigator, H. Trotman-Co-Investigator

- Source: **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, Vienna

Title: Infant feeding practices and resultant growth patterns in Jamaican children assessed by anthropometry and body composition

Grant Period: October, 2011 to October, 2015

Total cost: €30,000.00

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCIES

C. Christie

- Inaugural International AIDS Society and Industry High-level Leadership Consultations, Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI), Chairperson – Boston, Mar 3 International AIDS Society Bi-Annual Conference, Chairperson – Melbourne Australia, 2014

M. Samms-Vaughan

- International Association for Educational Achievement, Hamburg, Germany Consultant, Development of an Assessment Framework for Physical Competency in Early Childhood, 2014

- Government of the Bahamas, Consultant on the Implementation of a regulatory system for early childhood centres, 2014
- UNICEF, Eastern Caribbean Office. Consultant on Evaluation of ECHO Early Childhood Intervention Programme, St. Vincent, 2014

PAPERS/POSTERS PRESENTED AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Christie C

- “Elimination of Mother To Child Transmission in Jamaica – Successes and Challenges. PAHO/WHO Conference, George Town, Guyana, July, 2014.
- **Christie CD.** Adolescent HIV/AIDS in Jamaica: Successes and Challenges. PAHO/WHO Conference, George Town, Guyana, July, 2014.

Harrison A

- Gardner A, **Harrison A**, James C. Impact of Attachment on Adolescent Disordered Eating Attitudes. The 2nd Biennial Dying to be Beautiful Conference. UWI, Mona. June 2014.
- Bhatt K, Asnani M, **Harrison A**, Reid M & James Body Image and Depressive Symptoms in Jamaican Adolescents with Sickle Cell Disease.. The 2nd Biennial Dying to be Beautiful Conference. UWI, Mona. June 2014.
- James C, **Harrison A.** The Impact of the Father-Daughter Relationship on Eating Recovery. International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals (IAEDP) Symposium. St. Petersburg, Florida. February 2014.
- **Harrison A.** Victims of child and adolescent sexual abuse. Ena Thomas Memorial Symposium. Jamaica. November 2013.
- **Harrison A**, James C. Eating Disorders: The Caribbean Perspective. The 2nd Biennial Dying to be Beautiful Conference. UWI, Mona. June 2014.

Pierre RB

- **Pierre RB**, “Adolescents living with HIV”. Presented at the NHP Treatment Care and Support Workshop, January 29–31, 2014, Kingston, Jamaica.
- **Pierre RB**, “Controversies in Immunizations”. Presented at the Regional Paediatric Conference, A Paediatric Update: the Bridge from Infancy to Adulthood; February 2, 2014, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
- **Pierre RB**, “Triumphs and challenges with perinatal HIV-infected adolescents – lessons from the field”. Presented at the NCD (Non-communicable disease) Child Conference, March 20–21, 2014, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
- Regina C M Succi, Margot R Krauss, D. Robert Harris, Daisy M Machado, Maria Isabel de Moraes-Pinto, Marisa M. Mussi-Pinhata, Noris Pavia Ruz, **Russell B Pierre**, Lenka Kolevic, Esau Joao, Irene Foradori, Rohan Hazra, George K Siberry, for the NISDI Pediatric Study Group 2012. “Immunity to childhood vaccinations among HIV infected and HIV exposed children in Latin America”. Poster presentation: at the 6th International Workshop on HIV Pediatrics, July 18–19, 2014, Melbourne, Australia.
- C. Crooks-Edwards, **R.B. Pierre**, J.T. Moore, C.D. Christie. “School performance of children and adolescents with HIV/AIDS in ambulatory care at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica”. Poster presentation: at the 20th International AIDS Conference, 20–25 July 2014, Melbourne, Australia [Abstract MOPE089].
- Peter Bell, Joseph Branday, Emanuel Cummings, Marios Loukas, **Russell Pierre**. “Medical School Accreditation: Lessons learnt from participating in the CAAM-HP process”. Panel discussion: at the CAAM-HP’S 10TH Anniversary Conference; Coming of Age: Lessons from the Past, Strategies for the Future, July 28–30, 2014, Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa, Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Pottinger AM

- Pottinger AM, Everett-Keane D, McKenzie C. “Evolution of In Vitro Fertilization at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica”. UWI Research Day 2014, The University of the West Indies, Mona. February 19-21, 2014

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Book Chapters

Thame M

- IAEA Human Health Series 22 – Body Composition Assessment from Birth to Two Years of Age – A Contributor. 2013

Book Chapter

- Arginine production during pregnancy in *Arginine in Clinical Nutrition* from Springer (2014)

Peer Review Journals

- **Christie CDC, Pierre RB.** Eliminating Vertically-transmitted HIV/AIDS while Improving Access to Treatment and Care for Women, Children and Adolescents in Jamaica. *The Barracks*.
- **Christie CDC, Duncan N.** The rotavirus vaccine trial in Jamaica. *The Barracks*.
- Evans-Gilbert T, Lindo JF, Henry S, Brown P, **Christie CDC.** Severe Eosinophilic Meningitis Due to *Angiostrongylus Cantonensis* in Children. *Paediatrics and International Child Health*, November 2013
- Heidari S, Kort R, Ananworanich J, **Christie CDC**, Chamla D, Cotton MF, Dabis F, Essajee S, Gibb D, Leroy V, Muhe LM, Palumbo P, Tiam A, Sohn AH, Bekker L-G. Mind the Gap: The Case for Strategic Investments in Paediatric HIV Research. In press, *Journal of AIDS*, 2014.

- Walker SY, **Pierre RB**, Christie CD, Chang SM. “Neurocognitive function in HIV-positive children in a developing country”. *Int J Infect Dis*. 2013. pii: S1201-9712(13)00105-7. doi: 10.1016/j.ijid.2013.02.014. [Epub ahead of print]
- Succi RC, Krauss MR, Harris DR, Machado DM, de Moraes-Pinto MI, Mussi-Pinhata MM, Ruz NP, **Pierre RB**, Kolevic L, Joao E, Foradori I, Hazra R, Siberry GK; for the NISDI Pediatric Study Group 2012. Undervaccination of Perinatally HIV-infected and HIV-exposed Uninfected Children in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 2013 Aug;32(8):845-850. POST ACCEPTANCE, 11 February 2013 doi: 10.1097/INF.0b013e31828bbe68. [Epub ahead of print]
- **Pottinger AM** and Palmer T. “Whither IVF-assisted birth or spontaneous conception? Parental anxiety, styles and child development in Jamaican families.” *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology* (2013), 31 (2), 148–159.
- Thompson DS, Feguson TS, Wilks RJ, Phillips DI, Osmond C, **Samms-Vaughan M**, Forrester T & Boyne MS. Early life factors are associated with nocturnal cortisol and glucose effectiveness in Afro-Caribbean young adults. *Clinical Endocrinology* 2014.
- **Samms-Vaughan M** & Tortello R. Jamaica’s National Parenting support Policy: origins and early implementation. *Early Childhood Matters*, Bernard van Leer Foundation 2014; 122: 62–67.
- **Samms-Vaughan ME**. The status of early identification and intervention in autism spectrum disorders in lower- and middle-income countries. *International Journal of Speech and Language Pathology*; 2014; 1-6.
- Rahbar, M. H., **Samms-Vaughan, M.**, Dickerson, A. S., Loveland, K. A., Ardjomand-Hessabi, M., Bressler, J., Lee, M., Shakespeare-Pellington, S., Grove, M. L., Pearson, D. A., Boerwinkle, E. Role of fruits, grains, and seafood consumption in blood cadmium concentrations of Jamaican children with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 2014, 8: 1134-1145, PMC4114722
- Rahbar, M. H., **Samms-Vaughan, M.**, Ma, J., Bressler, J., Loveland,

K. A., Ardjomand-Hessabi, M., Dickerson, A. S., Grove, M. L., Shakespeare-Pellington, S., Beecher, C., McLaughlin, W., Boerwinkle, E. Role of metabolic genes in blood concentrations of arsenic in Jamaican children with and without autism spectrum disorders. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2014, 11(8): 7874-7895 PMC4143838

- Rahbar, M. H., **Samms-Vaughan, M.**, Dickerson, A. S., Loveland, K. A., Ardjomand-Hessabi, M., Bressler, J., Shakespeare-Pellington, S., Grove, M. L., Pearson, D. A., Boerwinkle, E. Blood manganese concentrations in Jamaican children with and without autism spectrum disorders [Epub ahead of print]. *Environ. Health*, 2014, 13: 69
- Boyne MS, Thompson DS, Osmond C, Fraser RA, **Thame MM**, Taylor-Bryan C, Soares-Wynter S, Forrester TE. The effect of antenatal factors and postnatal growth on serum adiponectin levels in children. *J Dev Orig Health Dis*. 2013 Aug; 4(4):317–23.
- Boyne MS, **Thame M**, Osmond C, Fraser RA, Gabay L, Taylor-Bryan C, Forrester TE. The effect of earlier puberty on cardiometabolic risk factors in Afro-Caribbean children. *J Pediatr Endocrinol Metab*. 2014 May 1; 27 (5-6):453-60.
- **Thame MM**, Osmond C, Serjeant GR. Fetal growth in women with homozygous sickle cell disease: an observational study. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol*. 2013 Sep;170(1):62–6.
- Richardson C, **Trotman H**. Risk Factors for the Delivery of Macrosomic Infants at the University Hospital of the West Indies. *Am J Perinatol*. 2014 May 2. [Epub ahead of print]
- Gooden M1, Younger N2, **Trotman H**. What is the best predictor of mortality in a very low birth weight infant population with a high mortality rate in a medical setting with limited resources? *Am J Perinatol*. 2014 Jun;31(6):441-6.

ABSTRACTS

- Crooks-Edwards C, **Pierre RB**, Moore JT, Christie CDC. School Performance of Children and Adolescents with HIV/AIDS in Ambulatory care at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica. Abstract and Electronic Poster, A-641-0167-09149, 9149, XX International AIDS Conference, Melbourne, Australia, July 2014.
- Ferguson TS, Younger-Coleman NO, Tulloch-Reid MK, Knight-Madden JM, **Samms-Vaughan M**, Ashley D, McCaw-Binns A, Cruickshank JK, Molaodi O, Harding S, Wilks RJ. Early Life Social and Biological Determinants of Blood Pressure at 18-20 years old: the 1986 Jamaica Birth Cohort Study. *West Indian Med J*; 2014 63(Suppl. 2): 19--20
- McLeod, S., Washington, K., Devonish, H., & **Samms-Vaughan, M.** (2014, June, accepted). Code switching in the speech of young Jamaican children. Oral presentation as part of the 90-minute Panel Presentation on Children's speech assessment. Cross-cultural considerations. Proceedings of the 15th Biennial Conference of the International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association. Stockholm, Sweden: Europe. June 2014.
- Rahbar, M. H., **Samms-Vaughan, M.**, Ardjomand-Hessabi, M., Loveland, K. A., Dickerson, A. S., Bressler, J., Shakespeare-Pellington, S., Grove, M. L., and Boerwinkle, E. Metabolic Genes and Blood Lead Concentrations in Jamaican Children with and without Autism Spectrum Disorders. 2014. Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), 13th Annual Meeting May 14–17, 2014.
- Rahbar, M. H., **Samms-Vaughan, M.**, Ma, J., Bressler, J., Loveland, K. A., Ardjomand-Hessabi, M., Dickerson, A. S., Grove, M. L., Shakespeare-Pellington, S., Beecher, C., McLaughlin, W., and Boerwinkle, E. Role of metabolic genes in blood concentrations of arsenic in Jamaican children with and without autism spectrum disorders. 2014. Seattle, WA. Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) 47th annual Meeting, June 24–27, 2014.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Christie CD.

- Member, Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric Education and Research (CIPHER), Governing Council, International AIDS Society
- Member, Research Grant Working Group, Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric Education and Research (CIPHER), Governing Council, International AIDS Society
- Chair, “Rethinking the Pharmaceutical Industry Liaison Forum (ILF)” of the International AIDS Society (IAS)
- Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America,
- Member, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Founding Member, HIV Medicine Association of America
- Member, International Association of Physicians in HIV/AIDS Care
- Member, International Society for Infectious Diseases
- Vice Chancellor’s Representative, UWI, to the Executive, Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Training (CHART)
- Director, Jamaica’s National Program for the Elimination of Congenital HIV/AIDS and Syphilis and JaPPAAIDS, at the invitation of Jamaica’s Minister of Health, Dr Fenton Ferguson
- Senior Member, Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (eMTCT) of HIV and Syphilis, Oversight Committee and its many Subcommittees, eg., Database, Cascade for pMTCT Syphilis,
- Chair, Clinical Trials Advisory Committee, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, UWI Mona
- UWI representative, Centre for HIV/AIDS Research and Training (CHART)
- Member, *West Indian Medical Journal*, Editorial Board
- Chair, Principal’s Research Awards Committee, Faculty of Medicine, UWI

Department of Child and Adolescent Health

- Chair, Clinical Trials Oversight Committee, UWI - Mona

Harrison A

- Committee Membership Executive council – International Association for Adolescent Health, Vice-President Caribbean region
- Member, Adolescent Policy Working group – Ministry of Health, Jamaica
- Joint Committee for care of Juvenile Delinquents – Ministry of Health and Ministry of National Security, Jamaica
- Chairman, Board of Visitors, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre

Melbourne-Chambers R.

- Organised and coordinated paediatric medical services for the St. Luke's Church Annual Health Fair.
- Chairman, Serious Case Review Panel, Child Development Agency
- Member, Committee to Review Applications for Residential Child Care Facilities Child Development Agency, MOH

Pierre R.

- Chairman / Chief Examiner of the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC) Examination Committee
- Member, National HIV Quantification Technical Sub Committee., Ministry of Health, Jamaica; June 2013–present
- Team Secretary, Member of Accreditation Team selected by Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) for site visit to Ross University School of Medicine and Clinical Affiliates, January 18–25, 2014

Pottinger AM.

- Member, Steering Committee, Psychology and Counselling Standards, University Council of Jamaica
- Member, Steering Committee, National Committee on Values and Attitudes, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica

- Consultant, Think Tank, Council for World Mission Caribbean, Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Project

Samms Vaughan M.

- Chairman, Early Childhood Commission of Jamaica
- Deputy Chairman, Maxfield Park Childrens Home
- Director, Family Life Ministries
- Director, Usain Bolt Foundation
- Director, Vaz Preparatory School
- Director, Promise Learning Centre
- Patron, Jamaica Autism Support Association

Trotman H

- Chairman Education committee, Paediatric Association of Jamaica
- Assistant Editor, *West Indian Medical Journal*
- Paediatrician, Church of St. Margaret's Mother's Union Annual Health Fair

Thame M.

- Member, UHWI Representative Medical Review Panel, MOH
- Member, Research Advisory Committee for Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)