

Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit



Dr. Vernon DaCosta

DIRECTOR, HUGH WYNTER FERTILITY MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit (HWFMU), led by Dr. Vernon Da Costa, has an ambitious agenda to brand Jamaica as a destination for medical tourism and become a centre of excellence in sexual and reproductive health.

In the year under review, HWFMU made excellent headway in this endeavour; first by staging the inaugural International ISGE-CAGES Minimally Invasive Surgery Congress and Postgraduate Courses. Then the International Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy made HWFMU a Centre of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Gynaecologic Surgery. Further, Dr. Da Costa and the Unit's consultants formed the first Caribbean Association of Gynaecologic Endoscopic Surgeons (CAGES).

FINANCIAL

HWFMU continues to repay The UWI for funds advanced to acquire equipment and technology for the refurbished building. Its opening balance of J\$232,675,500.87 has been reduced, resulting in a closing balance of J\$210,739,944.17. The University Grant's Committee budgetary allocation was J\$18,251,210.49, of which J\$17,039,542.00 was used to cover expenses. Income from Cost Recovery was J\$173,714,254.04; expenditure, J\$142,715,677.31.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Administrative Officer Mrs Veronica Forbes' workshop, *"Navigating the deep waters of conflict in the workplace"*, improved relationships among staff members and promoted greater productivity and wellness. Sister-in-Charge Nurse Marjorie Lambert successfully completed the Operating Theatre Nursing Course at The University Hospital of the West Indies while some of the Unit's academic staff attended a number of relevant conferences and seminars.

INTERNAL OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

Adding two registered nurses to the team in July will improve the Unit's service delivery to patients.

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Master in Counselling by Distance Education programme was suspended for the academic year 2016/2017 to review content, streamline delivery, and make it more student-friendly.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

HWFMU partnered with CAGES and the International Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (ISGE) to host the International Congress and Postgraduate Courses in gynaecologic endoscopy in March 2017. Endoscopic surgeries were performed, prior to the Congress, free of charge in the Unit's operating theatres on 10 Jamaican women with complicated gynaecological problems. These surgeries were recorded and segments used to demonstrate novel techniques in endoscopic surgeries to the participants. The surgeries were performed by doctors from Jamaica and overseas.

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OUTREACH

Several successful outreach activities took place in 2016/2017. These included:

- A presentation on Sexuality and Reproduction to Holy Trinity School students by Dr. Loxley Christie, HWFMU Consultant.
- A three-day Population Conference focussing on the potential of population planning to achieve sustainable development goals of Jamaica and the region.
- A presentation to the Jamaica Urology Society on paternal aging and IVF outcome by Dr. Loxley Christie.
- Participation in Mona Campus 2017 Research Days.
- Participation in Wellness Day at The UWI Regional Headquarters.
- Participation in Endometriosis Month 2017, including radio interviews and panel discussions.
- Newspaper publicity about the 10 surgical solutions led to two of the women and Dr. Loxley Christie appearing on the pre-recorded television 'Susan Show' on April 27, 2017.
- A Jamaica Observer feature on the Unit, including an interview with Director Dr. Vernon Da Costa and other academic staff.
- Participation in the 28th Annual Nursing Research Conference and 27th Mary J. Seivwright Day.
- Participation in a Grants Management Workshop.
- Delivery of motivational speech at the Annual Girls' Day at Kingston High School by Programme Officer for the MSc. Counselling, Ms Elaine Jackson.

Quality Assurance Review (QAR)

Following several consultations with staff, the HWFMU QAR report was completed and submitted by May 8, 2017.



Italy-based gynaecological endoscopic surgeon Professor Stefano Bettocchi shows Drs. Donna-Lee Townsend and Kimberley Lewis-Patten how to operate the simulator.



Drs Shaun Wynter (right), Noe Gunter (centre) and Michelle Bailey (left) operate on a patient on March 21, 2017 in the HWFMU operating theatre.



Embryologist Dr Kamali Carroll explains her research posters at Research Days 2017.



Two of the ladies (left) who benefited from the free surgery in March 2017 appeared on the Susan show



Dr Mark Hans Emanuel addressing the audience

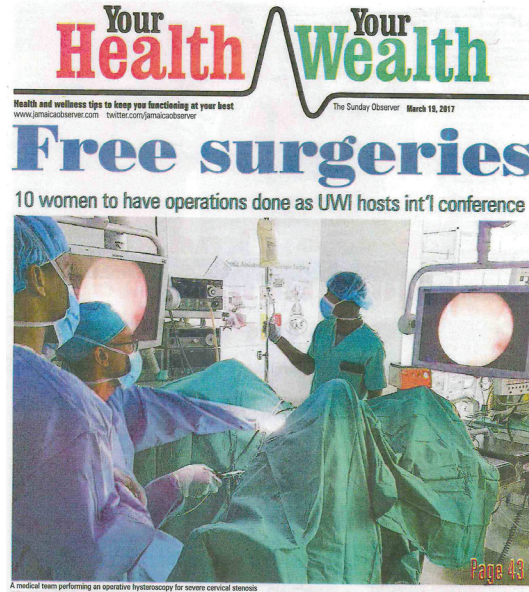
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Feature on the Free Surgeries done on March 21 2017 in the Sunday Observer



A hysteroscopic removal of polyps performed by Surgeon Dr. Michelle Bailey in the presence of Anaesthetist Dr. Kelly Fletcher in HWFMU's Operating Theatre



Feature on the Free Surgeries done on March 21 2017 in the Sunday Observer



Dr Stefano Bettocchi from Italy addressing the audience



Drs De La Haye (Chief Medical Officer Ministry of Health) and Bruce (Senior Director of Clinical Services of UHWI) greeted Dr. Vernon DaCosta (Director - HWFMU)



Local and Germany-based obstetrician and gynaecologists Dr. Shaun Wynter and Dr. Noe Gunter performing free surgery on March 21, 2017



Professor Lilo Mettler (Germany) demonstrating the use of a hysteroscopic trainer with Montego Bay Consultant