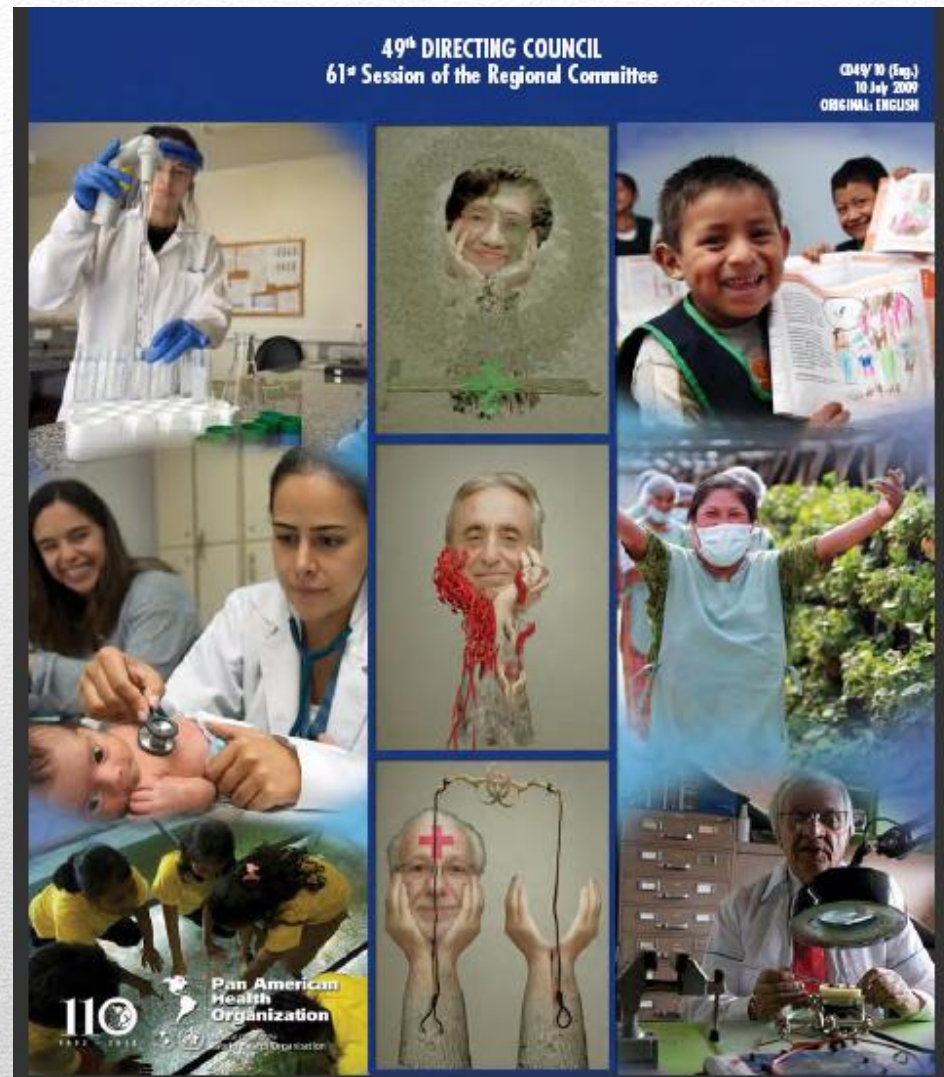


Building a Cadre of Epidemiologists to Support Public Health in the Caribbean

Marshall Tulloch-Reid

Director, Epidemiology Research Unit
Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR)
The University of the West Indies





PAHO Policy On Research For Health

- Established in 1948, a regional University
- 3 main campuses in Jamaica, Barbados & Trinidad
- Open Campus in 17 English Speaking Islands



The University of the West Indies

Structure

- Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR) (formerly the TMRI) - Established in 1999
- Brought together independent research units on the UWI campus

➤ Tropical Metabolism Research Unit & Sickle Cell Unit in Jamaica, the Chronic Disease Research Centre in Barbados and Epidemiology Research Unit was created



Caribbean Institute for Health Research

History



**Sickle Cell & Epidemiology
Research Units**



Chronic Disease Research Unit

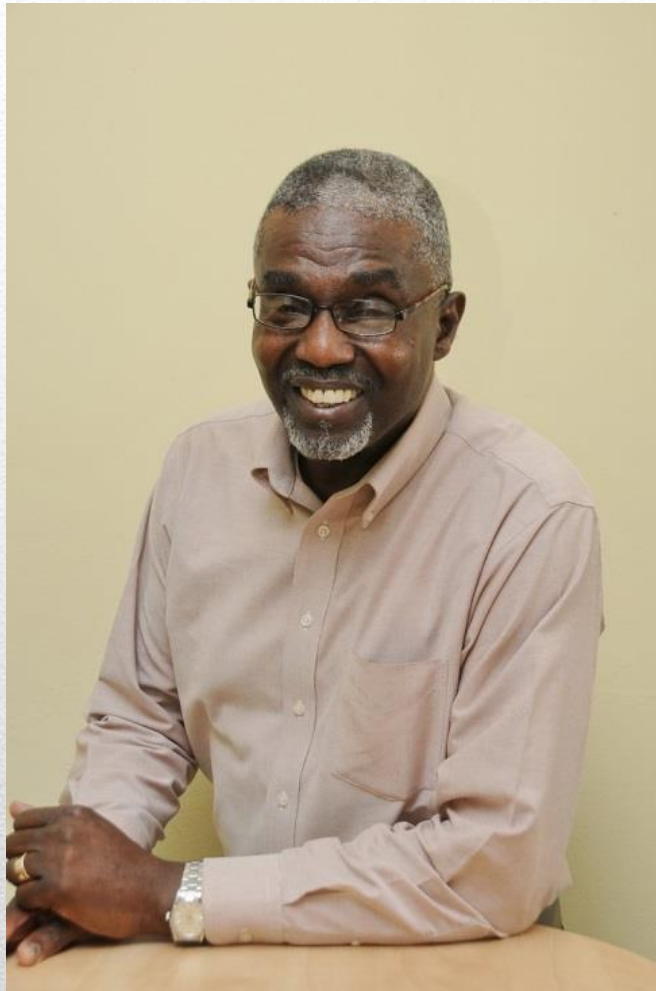


Tropical Metabolism Research Unit

Caribbean Institute for Health Research

- Few trained epidemiologists in the region – predominantly expatriates or regional nationals trained overseas
- Little change over time as capacity dependent on
 - ✓ training opportunities outside the region for Caribbean nationals
 - ✓ attracting and retaining persons with these skills – including trained Caribbean nationals

Epidemiology Training



- Creation of the ERU has been critical in the development of several initiatives
- Pulled together several epidemiologists / statisticians under one roof
- Creation of a focus for capacity building in the region

Epidemiology Training

- Curriculum based on *London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine* with modification of content to meet regional needs
- First cohort enrolled in 2006



MSc Epidemiology

- University of Cambridge - Professor Carol Brayne
First External Examiner
- University of the West Indies - Department of
Community Health and Psychiatry & the Deans
Office, Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI
- Ministry of Health, Jamaica
- University of Manchester
- University of Leeds
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- University of Arizona
- Pan American Health Organization

MSc Epidemiology Partners

- Offered alternate years
- Tuition of \$US 8,000 /year
- Approximately 20 graduates



MSc Epidemiology

- PhD programme established 2 years later
- First Graduate in 2013 – Thesis on *Depression and the Built Environment* awarded with high commendation
- Currently 4 candidates enrolled in programme
- Formed template for PhD programme offered by Barbados UWI campus

PhD in Epidemiology



Chronic Disease Group Epidemiology Research Unit

- International Clinical Epidemiology Network
- WHO/TDR Effective Project Planning & Evaluation Training Network
- Cochrane Collaboration

PAHO & Capacity Building

In February 2009, the UWI became part of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN) with the creation of the UWI Clinical Epidemiology Unit (UWI-CEU)



**International Clinical Epidemiology
Network (INCLEN)**



INCLIN – CEU

- **Damain Francis** -
PhD Epidemiology
Candidate
- Emerging Leaders in
the Americas (ELAP)
Fellowship to the
University of Ottawa
for Training in
Systematic Reviews



Imagine

SPENDING A SEMESTER OR TWO IN CANADA

Scholarships for post-secondary students from the CARICOM:

- ✓ Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarships Program
- ✓ Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP)

INTERESTED?

1. Contact your international student office to see which Canadian institutions partner with yours.
2. Visit the following website for advice:
www.scholarships.gc.ca



"My Emerging Leaders in the Americas (ELAP) scholarship opened the door for me to study in a world class academic environment. It was a unique opportunity that significantly enriched my own learning experience and helped me to develop policies on how to bridge the gap between the lab, field, and society."

- Damain K. Francis
University of the West Indies, Jamaica
ELAP Awardee, 2009-2010
University of Ottawa

Canada



Training in Systematic Reviews

- **Chisa Cumberbatch** – MSc Epidemiology Graduate went on to train at Ottawa – part sponsored by University of Ottawa and the Epidemiology Research Unit - 2011
- **Nadia Bennett** - Internal Medicine Graduate went on to train at the US Cochrane Centre at Johns Hopkins University – funded through PAHO – 2012 & now Wellcome Trust Fellow in the Unit

Capacity Building

- Facilitated cross campus and interdepartmental collaborations
- Creation of new links with international partners
- Special supplement of the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology published in 2015 highlighting the work of the UWI-CEU



INCLIN / UWI-CEU
Journal of Clinical Epidemiology



Effective Project Planning and Evaluation (WHO/TDR)



The Launch of the Caribbean Branch of the United States Cochrane Center



**June 6th-7th
2013**

**UWI Regional
Headquarters**



**Symposium: Translating Research for Policy Impact and Practice
An Evidence-Based Approach**



Caribbean Branch of the US Cochrane Centre (CBUSCC)

- Systematic Reviews with University of Ottawa, CAIHR
Scoping Reviews & Systematic Reviews
- Annual Cochrane Author Training Workshops with US Cochrane Centre
- New networks



Cochrane Outputs

- Increase regional reach – development of distance learning & flexible learning opportunities
- Funding to support Graduate Students who are interested in Epidemiology Careers
- Increase core staff and diversity of skills among faculty
- Develop additional partnerships with larger Epidemiology training programmes

Next Steps

