

6th Newsletter

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Preventing HPV infections and pre-cancers in HIV-positive women

By Sandra Chisholm-Ford



Sandra Chisholm-Ford

The current COVID 19 pandemic has shifted the focus of health promotion and health education strategies of healthcare policy makers from primary healthcare programmes to COVID 19 prevention and mitigation. However, the concern still exists regarding the monster; cervical cancer. Cervical cancer occurs in the lower part of the uterus and usually produces no symptoms. It is the third most common cancer affecting women worldwide and the second leading cause of cancer death among Jamaican women. It is the 13th leading cause of death in Jamaica ranking us 31st in the world. Deaths from cervical cancer are 3 times higher in Latin America and the Caribbean than in North America with almost 70% of the global burden falling on less developed countries. However, when detected early it is 100% treatable.

The most common risk factor for cervical cancer is exposure to the human papillomavirus (HPV). Unlike many cancers, cervical cancer can be prevented using cost-effective interventions including immunization with the HPV vaccine, which is believed to prevent approximately 70% of cancer cases and contribute significantly to the reduction in cancer mortality. There are over 150 types of the HPV with Types 16 and 18 the most common causes of cervical cancer; more than 40 types are known to be spread sexually. HPV is quite possibly the most common STD, and is the first ever identified cause of a human cancer. Women who are HIV positive have a weakened immune system and are five times more likely of contracting HPV. Additionally, HPV infection occurs more frequently in HIV-positive women increasing their risk of developing cervical cancer.

As much as 50% of these women will develop a cervical cancer that progresses faster than in non-infected women. HIV-positive women have a high prevalence of human papillomavirus (HPV), and are infected with a broader range of HPV types than HIV-negative women. The AIDS Clinical Trials Group Protocol 5240 concluded that even with a low CD4 count, HIV-positive women responded well to the HPV vaccine. A study conducted in Canada by Jessica Khan et al, discovered that women with HIV may benefit from the HPV vaccine despite having already been exposed to HPV. Vaccination will reduce morbidity and mortality, subsequently improving the financial, social and economic circumstances of individuals, families and communities. The death of a woman to cervical cancer is a painful

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and completely avoidable experience and efforts should be placed in the reduction or elimination of the HPV that causes the untimely death of so many of our women.

Following the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) in 2017 introduced the HPV vaccine in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). This programme of HPV protection for girls ages 9 to 14 years has seen a disappointing uptake of less than 50% since its introduction and will not provide sufficient coverage from the HPV in later years. Additionally, older girls who are more vulnerable to HIV are not beneficiaries of the programme. The current pandemic resulted in the closure of schools, scaling down of non-essential clinic activities and redeployment of public health personnel. The subsequent social distancing policies reducing face to face interactions, brought the already struggling programme to a screeching halt.

Consequently, thousands of unused doses of HPV vaccine previously earmarked for the programme are at risk of expiration and wastage. However, in light of the WHO recommendations and the benefits to be derived from the use of the vaccine I would strongly recommend that the excess not being utilised by the projected cohort be diverted to the HIV/STI clinics and utilized for the reduction of the risk of morbidity and mortality among our HIV positive women. The effects of cervical cancer can be very crippling, especially when it affects women in their most productive years. It is important to ensure that unnecessary cervical cancer deaths are prevented with the expansion of the availability and utilization of the HPV vaccine to these vulnerable HIV-positive women.

Reprinted from The Gleaner, published: Wednesday | August 26, 2020

Welcome to New Members

Mrs. Yvette Cameron-Harris	Mona School of Business and Management
Dr. Schuyler Esprit	Open Campus
Mrs. Shara A. Williams-Lue	Faculty of Social Sciences
Mrs. Tamaia Wilson	University Health Centre
Ms. Tanya Shirley	Literatures in English
Dr. Maziki Thame	Institute of Gender & Development Studies
Dr. Therez Walker	Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management
Dr. Sherri-Ann Spencer	Department of Pathology
Dr. Sophia Green	Department of Pathology

New WIGUT (JA) Loans Agreement

Effective March 1, 2020

	Maximum amount/payable	Interest Rate
Car Loans	\$3,000,000 for 5 years	7%
Consumption Loans	\$600,000 for 3 years	5%
Mortgage Loans	\$1,000,000 for 15 years	9%

NB: Relaxation on committee's approval for loans up to \$300,000

Mortgage rates reduced from 12% to 9%. Applies only to mortgages in good standing

Apply Now! [Loan Application Form](#)

UWI Blue Book and You!

SPECIAL GRANT - Death Benefit [Clause 199]

The University shall pay, in accordance with Clause 199, such amounts as relate to the salary of the member of staff at the time of death as indicated below:

- Up to 10 years' service - 2 years' salary
- 10-20 years' service - 2 1/2 years' salary
- Over 20 years' service - 3 years' salary

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Members should complete the form "Special Grant (Death Benefit) Nomination of Beneficiaries Form" available from HRMD.

Your FSSU & You

Members are being reminded to visit the Human Resource Management Division to complete documentation on FSSU, including beneficiaries, if you have not already filled out this form.

FSSU Members handbook

http://wigut.uwimona.edu.jm/sites/default/files/UWI_FSSU_Members%27_Handbook_September_2017_Revision.pdf

Check your balances on Hartlink

<https://www.hartlinkonline.co.uk/uwi-fssu/hopl.chi/wui/homepgui.html>

Know your Representatives



Mrs. Sandra Chisholm-Ford,
Faculty of Medical Sciences
Lecturer, UWISON

Sandra Chisholm-Ford is a Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, and a Public Health Nurse who currently lectures at the UWI School of Nursing, Mona Campus. She is a member of the Omega Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Caribbean Network of Nursing and Midwifery Educators, The Nurses' Association of Jamaica.



Ms. Janett Levy
Norman Manley Law School
Faculty Representative
Tutor, Attorney at Law

Janett Levy is an Attorney-at-Law and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She joined the legal fraternity in 2009 and in 2015 joined the Norman Manley Law School as a Tutor and in 2017 joined as a full time member of staff at the Legal Aid Clinic. She has conducted primarily on the Estates (planning and administration) and Civil Litigation portfolio within the Clinic.

Remembering...

WIGUT (Jamaica) is deeply saddened by the passing of our dear member, Clayton McEwan. Clayton became a member of the Executive Committee in 2017/18 and served on the Management and Membership Committees as well as being Grievance Secretary.

Clayton brought much experience to WIGUT (Jamaica), having served prior as President of MONATS. His experience and knowledge of the infrastructure and the operations of the Campus were invaluable, enabling him to make a positive impact on the committees on which he served by adding worthwhile perspectives and workable solutions especially when it came to the planning and execution of our social events. He could be seen briskly criss-crossing strategic locations, playing his part to ensure

safety and success at events. He could be depended on to carry out any task for which he was responsible.



Mr. Clayton McEwan
Grievance Secretary

As Grievance Secretary, Clayton was attentive to the needs of members while upholding good management practices to harmoniously settle complaints and grievances. Notwithstanding his energy and the complexity of the cases with which he may have had to contend, he had a calm disposition, which belied the struggles experienced while in the pursuit of his portfolio responsibility and any personal challenges.

Clayton was active, hardworking and a spirited person. We can vividly remember his energetic entry into the meeting room, his mischievous remarks and bright smile. We will miss his energy and friendly personality.



Esperanza Tomlinson



Mary Alison McLean

Welfare Fund

As part of its service to membership WIGUT (Jamaica) has established a welfare fund to assist members and retirees in need. Funded by members' dues, the fund is not intended to provide long-term support. Applications are considered by a sub-committee and are treated confidentially. Interested persons may contact the WIGUT Office.

Support YOUR Union

Volunteer to serve on committees:

- Public Relations & Publications
- Membership
- Pensions
- Professional Development
- Faculty/Section Representative

Contact: wigut@uwimona.edu.jm

Contribute to the WIGUT Bursary Fund

We extend this call for members to contribute to the scholarship and bursary fund that supports the needs of students. You may make a one-time commitment or you may choose to establish continuous support by filling out the [bursary fund salary deduction form](#) and submitting to the WIGUT Secretariat. These amounts will be deducted from your salary and deposited directly to the bursary fund. **Come... Help to support this worthy cause!**

WIGUT (Jamaica) Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting is proposed to be held on Thursday October 29, 2020. Stay tuned for further information from the Secretariat.

WIGUT Special Bursaries

WIGUT (Jamaica) is pleased to inform the membership that a special bursary in honour of Miss Joy Dickenson, long-standing Executive member and past Treasurer, has been added to the list of bursaries.

60th Anniversary
(1958-2018)

YES Are you registered in an undergraduate programme at the UWI?

Are you continuing into your second or third year of study?

Check out these WIGUT SPECIAL BURSARIES

Apply now!!!

The following Special Bursaries are available for one year in the first instance:

Faculty of Medical Sciences:

- A.B. Rao - *Medical Sciences*
- E.V. Ellington - *Medical (Pre-Clinical)*
- Syringa Marshall-Burnett - *Nursing*
- Milton Pinnock - *Community Health & Psychiatry*

Faculty of Science & Technology:

- Bill Bartley - *Chemistry*
- Lloyd Coke - *Botany*
- Leighton Henry - *Mathematics and/or Computer Science*

Faculty of Social Sciences:

- Carl Stone - *Government*
- Derek Gordon - *Sociology*
- George Beckford - *Economics*

Faculty of Humanities & Education:

- Gloria Greene - *Library and Information Studies*
- Jaquie Roberts - *Library and Information Studies*
- Samuel Bandara - *History/Archaeology*
- Peter Whitely - *Science Education*

Apply through the Office of Student Financing who administers these bursaries on behalf of WIGUT (Jamaica).

Contact: **Office of Student Financing,**
Tel: 876-702-4646 | Fax: 876-702-4647
Email: stufinc@uwimona.edu.jm

<https://www.mona.uwi.edu/osf/sites/default/files/osf/wigut-special-bursaries-2020.pdf>

Memorabilia for Sale



**Ceramic Mug
with secure lids
\$850**



**Umbrellas
\$1,775**



Polo - Shirts
Male and Female
Sizes: Small, Medium,
Large, 1XL, 2XL, 3XL
\$1,385



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Contact: Miss Frances Richards
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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(876) 927-1660; Ext. 2307



Location: Ground floor - New Arts Block
Faculty of Humanities & Education