Vice Chancellor’s Message

My warmest congratulations and sincere thanks to the current and past Editors-in-Chief, the editorial team, each contributor to this particular anniversary volume and all previous contributors for making the West Indian Medical Journal a significant source of information about medical research in the Caribbean. A perusal of the abstracts for this volume reflects the breadth of the research being conducted by our faculty across The University of the West Indies (UWI) system and with collaborators from across the world. Throughout the years, our research has had an impact on health policies across the region, on modalities of treatment, patient care and other facets of the healthcare system. I am proud that we have continuously worked toward raising the bar in terms of the quality and depth of investigative work done and on broadening the scope of that work to ensure maximum impact across societies and the medical profession.

In 2012, several significant anniversaries are being celebrated in the region. Two of our contributing countries – Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago – are celebrating 50 years of Independence and so too, is the University of the West Indies! In 1962, the University College of the West Indies was awarded its own Royal Charter and became a full degree granting institution in its own right as The University of the West Indies. We have much to be proud of, a record of research in a number of areas that have impacted positively on the societies of the region, our graduates have gone on to serve at the highest levels within and outside the region and the UWI has grown in terms of our enrolment, staff complement and our visibility among the societies of the Caribbean. There is much more to be done, but I do think that we have established a strong base from which we can continue to develop.

In 2012 as well, the UWI will embark on a new Strategic Plan, the fourth in a series of five-year plans to guide ongoing development. Strengthening research enterprise and outreach are key elements of the new Plan. Both areas are well served by the work being done by the medical faculty and I have every confidence that this will continue to be strengthened in the future.

My warmest congratulations again!

Professor E Nigel Harris
Vice Chancellor
The University of the West Indies
Mona, Kingston 7