UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

SDG REPORT 2024/2025

3
GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

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SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

How the University of Mauritius trained health professionals, worked with health partners and supported the well-being of students, staff and the community.

Overview

The University of Mauritius' Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences works with national and international partners, including the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the World Health Organization, to address workforce needs, enhance research capacity and improve healthcare delivery.

The Faculty offers six undergraduate programmes, three postgraduate taught programmes and MPhil/PhD research degrees, attracting both local and international students. It is a member of the Consortium of Medical Schools – Africa (COMS-A). In response to national healthcare priorities, the Department of Health Sciences introduced the Diploma in Medical Imaging Technology and the Diploma in Biomedical Sciences to strengthen the country's paramedical workforce and support the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The flagship Doctor of Medicine (MD) Programme is delivered in collaboration with the University of Geneva and the Ministry of Health and Wellness. In response to growing demand for medical education, the Faculty is exploring a phased increase in student intake.

Highlights 2024/2025

1. 317 graduates from the health programmes listed in this report at the June and October 2024 graduation ceremonies, including 71 in medicine and 129 in nursing and midwifery.
2. More than 1,110 publications by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals.
3. Two Faculty members recognised among the world's most-cited researchers for five consecutive years.
4. 13 Medical Update Group Talks organised with the Medical Council of Mauritius.

Research on health and well-being

UoM researchers worked on mental well-being, cancer prevention and surveillance, diabetes, nutrition and biotechnology. The Faculty of Medicine

and Health Sciences continues to lead the University in research productivity, and its academics have secured competitive research funding from international agencies and private-sector partners.

Externally-funded projects

Lead investigator	Project	Value (Rs)	Funder
Assoc Prof M M N M Heenaye-Mamode Khan	Building an Innovative Low-cost Set Up for Brain Waves Signal Capture to study the Effects of Exercises on Mental Well-being	610,400	Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
Assoc Prof V S Neergheen	Development of Value-added Products from Fermented Milk: From Scientific Validation to Commercial Success	1,890,544	Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
Prof A Bhaw-Luximon	Setting-up of the Regional Biotechnology Experimental Platform, for the purchase of Microscopes, 3D Bio-printers and other equipment (including 5 years maintenance costs)	44,312,718	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Development

- **Older adults.** Mr Jaunbuccus S and Dr Elaheebocus R are assessing technology readiness among older adults for the future development of health and well-being programmes (MRIC-funded, June 2023 to present).

MPhil/PhD research

Researcher	Title	Faculty
Hip Kam A K S L	Effect of domestic processing on the cancer chemo preventive actions of locally grown foods using proteomics (degree awarded)	Medicine and Health Sciences

Researcher	Title	Faculty
Koon Sun Pat M K C	Improving cancer surveillance for better cancer control in the Republic of Mauritius (degree awarded)	Medicine and Health Sciences
Hurree N	Investigating sugarcane bagasse as a functional food ingredient and its application in the development of high dietary fibre bread	Medicine and Health Sciences
Cheerkoot-Jalim S	Text Mining Approaches for Data-Driven Evidence-Based Clinical Decision Support for Diabetes	Information, Communication and Digital Technologies
Degambur L N	An In-Depth Examination of Cyberpsychology for Safeguarding Mental Health and Reinforcing Cybersecurity	Information, Communication and Digital Technologies
Muiruri S M	Optimizing Healthcare Resource Allocation in Rural Kenya using Machine Learning and Geospatial Analytics	Engineering

Graduates in health professions

UoM students graduated in medicine, nursing, midwifery, public health, physiotherapy, psychology and other health fields. The table shows graduates at the ceremonies held in June 2024 and October 2024.

Programme	Level	Graduates
Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery	Undergraduate	71
BSc (Hons) Psychology	Undergraduate	40
BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences	Undergraduate	19
BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy	Undergraduate	8
BSc (Hons) Occupational Health and Safety	Undergraduate	2
BSc (Hons) Nutritional Sciences	Undergraduate	1

Programme	Level	Graduates
Master of Public Health	Postgraduate	36
Postgraduate Certificate in Radiation Physics and Radiation Safety	Postgraduate	9
Diploma in Midwifery and Obstetrical Nursing	Diploma	80
Diploma in Mental Health Nursing	Diploma	49
Diploma in Sanitary Science	Diploma	2
Total		**317**

- **Nursing certificates.** The Vice-Chancellor attended the Award Ceremony for the Certificate in Midwifery and Obstetrical Nursing and Mental Health Nursing at Polytechnics Mauritius, Pamplemousses. The certificate is awarded by UoM.

Collaborations and health services

UoM worked with health institutions in Mauritius and abroad, ran health outreach for students and the public, and supported the physical and mental well-being of its students and staff.

Collaborations with health institutions

- **Key partners.** The Faculty works with the World Health Organization (WHO), Université de Bordeaux – UFR des Sciences Médicales, CHU de Bordeaux, Université de La Réunion – UFR Santé, CHU de La Réunion, the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI). These partnerships support curriculum development, capacity building, research and knowledge exchange on emerging global health challenges.
- **New agreements.** A Specific Agreement on the "University of Mauritius's eLearning Program" with the University of Geneva and the Health Sciences e-Training Foundation, and a Memorandum of Affiliation with SSR Medical College for new postgraduate programmes.
- **National health planning.** Assoc Prof M F Chan Sun is a member of TWG 10 (Research and Development) for the new Health Sector Strategic Plan,

and Mrs B Z Toorabally is a member for the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2025–2030.

- **Work with WHO.** Staff took part in the WHO Regional Office online workshop on the NITAG Mpox recommendation note (3 December 2024), the WHO evaluation of the Mauritius National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (19–21 February 2025), and training on Building Climate Resilient Health Systems in Mauritius by the Ministry of Health and Wellness with WHO (27–29 November 2024). Assoc Prof M F Chan Sun also attended the Pandemic Fund validation workshop, Ebène (8 May 2025).
- **Regional and international health forums.** Prof (Dr) M F Mahomoodally attended the 73rd Health Ministers' Conference of the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community in Tanzania (June 2024), the WHO Regional Review for Global RECAP countries in Kampala (October 2024) and the RECAP workshop on legal approaches to preventing non-communicable diseases in Jakarta (May 2025).
- **Ministry of Health and Wellness.** Dr B Z Toorabally attended the first meeting of the 'Healthy Eating' Subcommittee (16 September 2024) and the orientation session on Breastfeeding Legislation with WHO (5–8 August 2024). The Vice-Chancellor met the Minister of Health and Wellness on 16 January 2025 and attended the High-Level Drugs and HIV Council chaired by the Prime Minister on 4 June 2024.

Health outreach programmes

- **Mega Blood Donation 2024.** On 9 August 2024 the FMHS Students' Representative and the National Blood Transfusion Services of the Ministry of Health and Wellness organised a blood donation, with an educational talk and screening by PILS.
- **First aid training.** On 4 September 2024 students, the Red Cross and the Global Association for Indian Medical Students Mauritius ran a First Aid Awareness Drive to prepare people to respond to medical emergencies.
- **FMHS Week.** From 31 March to 5 April 2025: blood donation, a talk on first aid, a talk on preventing substance abuse, and autism awareness.
- **Drug prevention.** MACOSS gave a talk on illicit drug addiction and prevention to students on 27 September 2024.
- **Medical Update Group Talks.** Thirteen talks with local or international speakers, organised by Dr P Bunwaree and Dr M Manraj with the Medical Council of Mauritius, from June 2024 to June 2025, on topics including cancer epidemiology in Mauritius, dialysis, dementia, heart failure,

anaemia, hypertension, insomnia in psychiatric illness, coronary intervention and interventional radiology.

- **Training and workshops.** Assoc Prof M F Chan Sun took part in training for women community leaders on tobacco control (12 December 2024), a World No Tobacco Day workshop (6 June 2025) and training for officers of the Mauritius Prison Service (12–19 June 2025).
- **Schools.** Dr S D Biranjia-Hurdoyal gave a talk for National Science Week 2025 at Phoenix SSS on 27 March 2025.

Sports facilities

The UoM Sports Unit offers sports training sessions, intramural games, recreational activities and the chance to compete at higher levels. UoM is one of the best-equipped tertiary institutions on the island for sport. Its facilities include:

- **UoM Gymnasium Complex.** Badminton, basketball, futsal, handball and volleyball, with a Fitness and Cardio Centre, a weight training room and a dance/aerobic room.
- **Maryse Justin Multi-Sports Complex.** An outdoor complex for basketball, handball, street soccer, volleyball and tennis.
- **Other facilities.** A beach pitch for handball, soccer and volleyball, a boulodrome, and a Students' Centre for recreational games.
- **Events.** The Classic Games Extravaganza (6 August 2024), the FoICDT Futsal Competition (17–18 April 2025) and sports activities during Students' Week (24–28 March 2025).

Mental health support for students

- **Referral to professional support.** Students facing personal problems, trauma or conflicts with peers are referred through the Office of the Registrar and the Admissions and Student Records Office to UoM psychologists, family counsellors and psychiatrists, or to Programme Coordinators for academic matters.
- **Stress management workshop.** On 16 April 2025 the SU and BSc (Hons) Web & Multimedia Development students ran a workshop on stress management, emotional intelligence, AI-related anxiety and personal resilience.
- **Mental well-being talk.** On 11 October 2024 a well-being trainer from Abhyas gave an online talk on stress management, covering anxiety about the future, finding purpose and healthy lifestyle habits.

- **Awareness campaign.** Posters on well-being and seeking help were produced for UoM's 60th anniversary in 2025.

Mental health support for staff

- **Stress Management and Mindfulness.** A workshop for all UoM staff in 2025.
- **Staff well-being training.** The Office of Human Resources included the Heartful Campus Faculty Development Programme and yoga sessions among the training programmes it organised during the year, which aimed in part at staff well-being.