

## CRI QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER:

January – March 2020

**Welcome to the first CRI quarterly newsletter for 2020.** The newsletter showcases the many cancer-related research activities in the Faculty of Health Sciences to research colleagues, clinicians, funders and the public. The quarterly newsletter is available via email and is published on the [CRI website](#).

Millions of people around the world are in lockdown in an effort to curtail the spread of COVID-19. We salute the hardworking teams of healthcare professionals who working around the clock.

### News & events

●During the pandemic **CRI will present a summary of emerging research articles and clinical practice guidelines related to cancer and COVID-19.** We will send out a weekly email with this information to all on our CRI cancer mailing list. You can also access the information on our twitter page ([@UctCri](#)) and on [our website](#).

●**Congratulations to Prof Prince** for being awarded the following grants:

- ❖ Faculty Health Science Stimulus award (Category 3:Research Centre/Unit/Established Researchers Stimulus Grant)
- ❖ University Equipment Committee (UEC) grant (sourced from UCT CAPEX) for an EVOS M5000 Imaging System
- ❖ NRF Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers grant
- ❖ NRF/São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) of Brazil Joint Science and Technology Research Collaboration grant
- ❖ Openheimer Memorial Trust Sabbatical Fellowship and a Sao Paulo Research foundation (FAPESP) grant as a Visiting Professor in the Departamento de Farmacologia, Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil from 1st June to 30th November 2019.

●The **Prince laboratory** is hosting Prof Stefan FT Weiss, from the University of Witwatersrand for a 1 year period (July 2019 to July 2020) during his sabbatical.

●The UCT/SAMRC **Gynaecology Cancer Research Centre** has received news of funding of R2 million per year for a further 3 years. **Congratulations** Prof Denny and the team.

●The Community Health Intervention Programmes (CHIPs) of Sports Science Institute of South Africa (SSISA), the Division of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine at the University of Cape Town will be piloting a **new community-based rehabilitation programme for breast cancer survivors** called Opti-Arm and funded by **CANSA** and **UCT**. The programme is designed by **A/Prof Delva Shamley** (Clinical Research Centre) and will be integrated with the OptiFit Outreach programme of CHIPs in the Delft community and community leaders. It aims to establish a sustainable programme to help breast cancer survivors regain full functionality in their upper limbs as well as promote general physical activity. Over time, this program will also empower community leaders with knowledge and skills to include other community members with upper limb issues, into the current OptiFit Outreach programme. Additionally, the programme will aim to establish the feasibility, sustainability, and effectiveness of this programme through a long-term research study.

●The 14th UCT Karl Storz Head and Neck Surgery Fellow, **Dr Getachew Melese**, will be completing his training at the end of March to return to Ethiopia. The 15th fellow will be from Madagascar. **Congratulations Dr Getechew.**

●**World Cancer Day 2020.** Thank you to all that participated in the photo awareness campaign. Here are a few photos ....



You can find all the photos on the [UICC](#) and [CRI](#) twitter pages under these hashtags: [#IamandIwill](#) [#WorldCancerDay](#). UICC has acknowledged our efforts to combat cancer with a [certificate of appreciation](#).

For details on events and more visit the [CRI website](#) and our Twitter page: [@UctCri](#)

●**Farewell:** Sharing a moment of farewell in appreciation of **Amanda Edwards**. Thank you for your commitment and dedication. Wishing you all the very best Amanda.



●**Welcome** to Dr Chukwudi Nnaji who recently joined the CRI core team. Chuks is a PhD student with a background in clinical medicine (MBBS) and in public health (MPH), His research interests include evidence based medicine and implementation science.

### Database feature

This year we would like to feature the various hospital cancer databases that the CRI supports in our Quarterly Newsletter. In this quarter we feature the **Breast Cancer Database**, managed by Dr Françoise Malherbe. The database is designed to document all cases diagnosed with breast cancer and their outcomes. Patients are followed from outpatient department through to surgery, radiation oncology and palliative care.

Dr Malherbe and team developed a poster for the 2020 **Annual Global Health Conference** based on data in the Breast Cancer database.

Poster title: Breastfeeding as a protective factor for Breast Cancer in South African Women: A Pilot Study. 8th Annual Global Health Conference. Houston, United States. March 2020

Authors: Booker, QS; Messiah, SE; Malherbe F; Roodt L; Cairncross L; Jetelina KKJ.

### Upcoming events

**Postponed** till further notice: sexuality and gynaecological cancer seminar by UCT/SAMRC Gynaecological Cancer Research Centre (GCRC) in collaboration with the UCT student society SCORA

### Recent Cancer Publications

1. Blom B, Aldeghi N, Romano D, Marschner C, Biswas S, Chakraborty S, Prince S, Ngubane S (2020) Facile Entry to Germanate and Stannate Complexes [( $\eta$ -6-Arene)RuCl( $\eta$ -2-dppm)]+[ECl<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> (E = Ge, Sn) As Potent Anti-Cancer Agents, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, in press.
2. Sims D, Maranyane HM, Damerell V, Govender D, Isaacs AW, Peres J, Prince S (2020) The c-Myc/AKT1/TBX3 axis is important to target in the treatment of embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma, *Cancers*, 12, 501; doi:10.3390/cancers12020501
3. Del B. Sahm B, Rezende-Teixeira P, Santos EA, Branco PC, Bauermeister A, Kimani S, Moreira EA, Bisi-Alves R, Bellis C, Mlaza M, Jimenez PC, Lopes NP, Machado-Santelli GM, Prince S, Costa-Lotufo LV (2020) Targeting the oncogenic TBX2 transcription factor with DNA binding natural products as a novel strategy to treat cancers, *Frontiers in Chemistry*, DOI: 10.3389/fchem.2020.00110.
4. Omoruyi SI, Ekpo OE, Semenya DM, Jardine A, Prince S (2020) Exploitation of a novel phenothiazine derivative for its anti-cancer activities in malignant glioblastoma, *Apoptosis*, doi: 10.1007/s10495-020-01594-5.
5. Welsh A, Rylands L, Arion V, Prince S, Smith GS (2020) Synthesis and antiproliferative activity of benzimidazole-based, trinuclear neutral cyclometallated and cationic, N<sup>^</sup>N-chelated ruthenium(II) complexes, *Dalton Transactions*, In press, doi: 10.1039/c9dt03902c.
6. Khan SF, Damerell V, Omar R, Du Toit M, Khan M, Maranyane H, Mlaza M, Bleloch J, Sahm BDB, Peres J, KN A, Prince S (2020) THE ROLES AND REGULATION OF TBX3 IN DEVELOPMENT AND DISEASE, *GENE*, 726, 5 February 2020, 144223.
7. Omar R, Cooper A, Maranyane HM, Zerbini L, Prince S (2019) COL1A2 is a bona fide TBX3 target that mediates its impact on fibrosarcoma and chondrosarcoma cell migration, *Cancer Letters*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.canlet.2019.06.004>.
8. Berg C, Chari S, Jurgaityte K, Laurora A, Naldony M, Pope F, Romano D, Medupe T, Prince S, Ngubane S, Blom B (2019) Modulation of the solubility properties of arene ruthenium complexes bearing stannyl ligands as potential anti-cancer agents, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*,



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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jorganchem.2019.04.002>

9. Bleloch J, du Toit A, Gibhard L, Kimani S, Ballim R, Lee M, Blanckenberg A, Mapolie D, Wiesner L, Loos B, Prince S (2019) The palladacycle complex AJ-5 induces apoptotic cell death while reducing autophagic flux in rhabdomyosarcoma cells, *Cell Death Discovery*, 5:60 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41420-019-0139-9>.
10. Denny L, Wild CP. "Part 3-Tackling social inequalities in cancer" Reducing social inequalities in cancer: evidence and priorities for research. Vaccarella S, Lortet-Tieulent J, Saracci R, et al. International Agency for Research on Cancer.183-184.France.2019.
11. Denny L, Jemal A, Schubauer-Berigan M, et al." Social inequalities in cancer risk factors and health-care access" Reducing social inequalities in cancer: evidence and priorities for research. Vaccarella S, Lortet-Tieulent J, Saracci R, et al. International Agency for Research on Cancer.95-108. France.2019
12. Denny L. 'Focus 4: Social Inequality in cancer: Perspectives from Africa" Reducing social inequalities in cancer: evidence and priorities for research. Vaccarella S, Lortet-Tieulent J, Saracci R, et al. International Agency for Research on Cancer. 61-62. France.2019.
13. Kuhn L, Saidu R, Boa R, Tergas A, Moodley J, Persing D, Campbell S, Tsai WY, Wright TC, Denny L. Clinical evaluation of modifications to a human papillomavirus assay to optimize its utility for cervical cancer screening in low-resource settings: a diagnostic accuracy study. *The Lancet Global Health*, 2020; 8 (2): e296-e304
14. Sharma N, Fagan J, Wallace M, Joubert E, Greef L, Konney A, Simonds H, Vanderpuye V, Sewram V, Young T, Mehanna H. Prioritisation of research topics for head and neck cancer in Africa – Report of the International Collaboration On Improving Cancer outcomes in low and middle income countries – IConIC Africa. *Oral Oncol*. 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oraloncology.2019.104503>
15. Douglas-Jones P, Biadgelign MG, Burrows S, Fagan JJ (2020) Parotid Tumours: A Conservative Investigative and Surgical Approach. *J Surg* 5: 1282. DOI: 10.29011/2575-9760.001282 <https://www.gavinpublishers.com/articles/research-article/Journal-of-Surgery/parotid-tumours-a-conservative-investigative-and-surgical-approach>
16. Zafereo, Yu J, Onakoya PA, Aswani J, Baidoo K, Bogale M, Cairncross L, Cordes, D Adekunle, Diom, Maurice ME, Mohammed GM, Biadgelign MG, Koné FI, Itiere A, Koch W, Konney A, Kundiona I, Macharia C, Mashamba V, Moore MG, Mugabo RM, Noah P, Omutsani M, Orloff LA, Otiti J, Randolph GW, Sebelik M, Todsén T, Twier K, Fagan JJ. African Head and Neck Society Clinical Practice guidelines for thyroid nodules and cancer in developing countries and limited resource settings. *Head & Neck*. 2020;1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hed.26094> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/hed.26094>
17. Rolvix H, Patterson BA, Fischman VG, Wasserman I, Siu J, Shrimme MG, Fagan JJ, Lock W, Alkire BC. Global Burden of Head and Neck Cancer: Economic Consequences, Health, and the Role of Surgery. *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. 2020. 1-8 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599819897265>
18. Fagan JJ. Salivary Gland Surgery in Developing Countries. Ch 55, pp 360-363 in *Surgery of the Salivary Glands*. Robert Witt (Ed) 1st Edition Elsevier 2020 Hardcover ISBN: 9780323672368 eBook ISBN: 9780323672375
19. McGuire JK, Lentin R, De Villiers A, Fagan JJ. Pharyngoesophageal spasm after total laryngectomy: A clinically guided technique for management. *ECAJS* Dec 2019;24(3) DOI: 10.4314/ecajs.v24i3 <https://journal.cosecsa.org/index.php/ECAJS/article/view/20190027/1503> ISSN: 2073-9990

**Please send any cancer-related news, events, publications and conference information for the period April- June 2020 for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter to:**

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