

Welcome

Welcome to the fourth and final CRI quarterly newsletter for 2019. 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 published on the CRI website: www.health.uct.ac.za/fhs/research/groupings/cri

As the year draws to a close, we rest well knowing the hard work of 2019 has laid a strong foundation for the future. The CRI team would like to wish you a peaceful festive season and a prosperous New Year.

News & events

- **Congratulations to Prof Lyn Denny** for being awarded the prestigious **SAMRC Gold Medal** for her 25-year contribution towards **cervical cancer research** in South Africa. The medal recognises senior scientists whose research has made a significant impact on the health of people living in developing countries as well as raised the profile of science in the country. Read more about her award here: bit.ly/2WVDFGV



- **AORTIC's 12th International Conference on Cancer in Africa** was held 5-8 November in Maputo, Mozambique. The conference focused on innovation, strategies and implementation to reduce the impact of cancer in Africa. Cancer researchers from UCT were strongly represented.
- The **AWACAN** (African Women Awareness of CANcer) project research team met in November to disseminate their findings on **breast and cervical cancer awareness** to community leaders and healthcare staff in **Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape**.



- **Congratulations to Ramadhani Chambuso** for receiving one of UCT-IDM's Postgraduate Student Publication Awards. These awards support the publication of high-quality **postgraduate research** in the Faculty and serve as important recognition for emerging researchers.



- As part of the **David & Elaine Potter Foundation** seminar series, PhD student, **Melissa Blumenthal**, hosted a Translational Research Seminar entitled "**Bridging the Gap between the Laboratory and the Clinic**" in October. The seminar introduced postgraduate students and early-career scientists to the skills necessary to undertake translational research. **Dr Georgia Schäfer** (Division of Medical Biochemistry, IDM), **A/Prof Delva Shamley** (Clinical Research Centre), **Dr Zainab Mohamed** (Division of Radiation Oncology, GSH) and **Dr David Choveaux** (FHS Research Office) spoke on their experiences and perspectives of clinical research. Seminar attendees left equipped with insight into practical ways of promoting collaboration between scientists and clinicians toward successful clinical research in South Africa.
- The **CRI** has provided continuous support to **11 hospital cancer databases** in 2019. Two additional databases are currently under development. One **REDCap course** and two skills transfer seminars were also hosted in collaboration with the **Clinical Research Centre**. Our **cancer database administrator** is facilitating possible integration between databases working on similar cancer sites in order to minimise duplication, improve standardization, monitoring and follow up.
- **Congratulations to the following MMed & MPH postgrad cancer researchers graduating in December:**
 - ❖ **Dr Kudakwashe Simba**
Thesis title: The impact of vascular calcification among dialysis dependent South African CKD patients. a five year follow up study. cardiovascular mortality and morbidity, ethnic variation and hemodynamic correlates.
 - ❖ **Dr Paul M Chilwesa**
Thesis title: Comparison of 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography and conventional imaging for locally advanced breast cancer staging: a prospective study from a tertiary hospital cancer centre in the Western Cape.
 - ❖ **Ms Trish Muzenda**
Thesis title: Comparing prompted and unprompted recall of women's knowledge of breast and cervical cancer risk factors and symptoms

New websites launched in 2019

- **African Head and Neck Society (AfHNS)** Clinical Practice Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancer in Developing Countries and Limited Resource Settings: <https://developingworldheadandneckcancerguidelines.com/>



- **AWACAN** (African Women Awareness of CANcer) tool measuring awareness of breast and cervical cancer: <https://www.awacan.online/>



- The **Gynaecological Cancer Research Centre (GCRC)** website: <http://www.samrc-gcrc.uct.ac.za/>



Upcoming events

For details on events and more visit:

CRI website:

www.health.uct.ac.za/fhs/research/groupings/cri

Twitter: @UctCri

Recent Cancer Publications

1. Chambuso R, Kaambo E, Denny L, Gray CL, Williamson AL, Migdalska-Sek M, Agenbag GR, & Raj Ramesar R. **Investigation of Cervical Tumor Biopsies for Chromosomal Loss of Heterozygosity (LOH) and Microsatellite Instability (MSI) at the HLA II Locus in HIV-1/HPV Co-infected Women.** 2019. *Frontiers in Oncology* 9(951): 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fonc.2019.00951>
2. Chiesa-Estomba CM, Lechien JR, Fakhry N, Melkane A, Calvo-Henriquez C, de Siati D, Gonzalez-Garcia JA, Fagan JJ, Ayad T. **Systematic review of international guidelines for perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis in Head & Neck Surgery.** A YO-IFOS Head & Neck Study Group Position Paper. *Head & Neck*. 2019;1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hed.25856>
3. Fagan JJ. **Transoral lateral oropharyngectomy (radical tonsillectomy) for cancer of the tonsil** <https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/group/ba5fb1bd-be95-48e5-81be-586fbaeba29d/Transoral%20lateral%20oropharyngectomy%20radical%20tonsillectomy%20for%20cancer%20of%20the%20tonsil.pdf>
4. Fagan JJ. **Early Oral Feeding Following Primary Total Laryngectomy.** In: Gooi Z., Agrawal N. (eds) *Difficult Decisions in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery. Difficult Decisions in Surgery: An Evidence-Based Approach.* pp 107-11. 2019. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-15123-2_10
5. Fagan JJ, Zafereo M, Onakoya P. **African Head and Neck Society (AfHNS) Clinical Practice Guidelines for Head and Neck Cancers in Developing Countries and Limited Resource Settings.** *ENT & Audiology News*. May/June 2019; 28(2):26 ISSN 2042-2156
6. McGuire JK, Viljoen G, Rocke J, Fitzpatrick S, Dalvie S, Fagan JJ. **Does thyroid gland preservation affect local control and disease-free survival in patients with laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma undergoing primary total laryngectomy?** *Laryngoscope* 2019 Aug 8 <https://doi.org/10.1002/lary.28235>
7. Yeung Z, Fagan JJ. **Surgical closure technique of tracheoesophageal fistulae (TOF)** https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/group/ba5fb1bd-be95-48e5-81be-586fbaeba29d/Surgical%20closure%20technique%20of%20tracheoesophageal%20fistulae%20TOF_.pdf

Please send any cancer-related news, events, publications and conference information for the period January-March 2020 for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter to: Amanda.Edwards@uct.ac.za