



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & REHABILITATION SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

- Communication Sciences & Disorders •
- Disability Studies • Nursing & Midwifery •
- Occupational Therapy • Physiotherapy •



DHRS

Department of Health and
Rehabilitation Sciences

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

DHRS COMMUNIQUE

JANUARY - JUNE 2021

FROM THE HOD'S DESK



HOD: A/PROF LEBOGANG RAMMA

Fellow Colleagues,

The past year and a half have arguably been one of the most challenging times majority of us have lived through. The burden brought upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic has been too much to bear for a significant number of colleagues. However, we have always found ways to adapt to our rapidly changing world; fluctuating lockdown levels (including 'adjusted' levels), switching between Zoom and Teams, and not to mention mastering navigation of the 'mute/unmute' button.

I am excited to share with you the latest DHRS newsletter. In this edition, we reflect on some of our activities over the past 6 months. These range from several of our colleagues who recently obtained their postgraduate qualifications (mostly PhDs) to our colleagues presenting or chairing in international meetings. This issue of the newsletter also gives some insights into some of the collaborative research activities that are taking place across our department.

While the activities presented in the current edition of the newsletter are by no means a complete one, the few that are included give a glimpse of the excellence that has now come to characterize us as a department. We are indeed a department of winners!

Sincerely,
Lebogang

COVID-19 AWARENESS

It has been 15 months since the country went into the first national lockdown following an outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have lost many lives; loved ones, family members, students and colleagues, and some of whom were in the front-lines battling this pandemic. The loss was not easy to comprehend but out of it came a deep appreciation of our connectedness as humans and a reminder to attach more value to some of the little and yet important things that we have grown to take for granted e.g. walking in public without a mask over your nose.

We also came to accept working remotely from our homes as an alternative way of doing our daily work. We successfully completed an academic year (2020) via an online blended teaching/learning platform and through our collective efforts, our final-year students graduated.

We have lived through various 'waves' of this pandemic. At present, we are living through a third wave of the coronavirus, namely the "Delta variant". The Delta variant is believed to be more contagious than the previous variants. It is important that we continue following existing (and ever-changing) COVID-19 regulations from health authorities. Let us continue practicing good hygiene protocols and take extra precautions!!!

Following COVID-19 prevention measures after vaccination is still important.

COVID-19 vaccines provide protection against developing severe disease or death but do not provide protection from infection and even transmission to others.

Those who have been inoculated in your workplace and community should continue following prevention measures which include:

- Wearing face masks correctly.
- Maintaining physical distancing of 1.5m or more.
- Staying home when you are sick with COVID-19/ influenza symptoms.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
- Opting for ventilated spaces.
- Avoiding common areas in the office.
- Avoiding crowds.

We can all make a difference. Each of us practicing prevention measures against COVID-19 and vaccinating brings us one step closer to herd immunity and ending the pandemic.

Stay safe.



COVID-19 Protocols for Students:

Students MUST complete the UCT Daily Health Screening app

<http://icts.evlink9.net/servlet/link/70048/615456/108121549/2305410>

Mid-Year Online Exams:

CILT has put together a set of student tips for online exams which you can share with your students. See... <http://www.icts.uct.ac.za/online-exam-tips>. [Read the COVID-19 protocols for student examinations](#)



DHRS PROGRAMS

Division of Nursing and Midwifery: Contribution by Dr Sheila Clow

Part A:

- The International Day of the Midwife is recognised each year on 5 May. This year the theme is "Follow the data: Invest in midwives". It was therefore appropriate that the day was marked by the release of "The State of the World's Midwifery 2021" (SoWMy 2021) report. Co-led by UNFPA, WHO and ICM, SoWMy 2021 provides an updated evidence base and detailed analysis on the impact of midwives on maternal and newborn health outcomes and the return on investment in midwives.

Midwives are uniquely positioned to deliver on human rights

- Investments in midwives is a direct route, and one of the most cost-effective strategies, to achieving full sexual and reproductive health coverage and reproductive freedom for women and all who give birth.
- Midwives are central figures in the fight for the rights of women, children and communities. All too often, they are deprived of their own rights: to rest and self-care, decent work and pay, and protection from discrimination.
- There are many challenges and opportunities for established Midwifery programmes to collaborate with Midwifery education institutions across the African continent in order to contribute to meeting some of the need for appropriate preparation of midwives to serve the needs of the childbearing woman and her family.

Part B:

- The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) (which has 143 member organisations from 124 countries) was due to hold its triennial international congress in Bali in June 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic plans changed - first to delay for a year, and then to change mode to a completely on-line conference.



The ICM 2021 congress graphic

DHRS PROGRAMS

DN&M Continues....

Given that participants joined from each of the 24 time zones, the organisers decided to organise the five-day congress across the five Wednesdays in June (2021). Each Wednesday had a different time schedule for everyone to have equal opportunity for optimum convenience, as well as inconvenience! A session I chaired had presenters from Vancouver, Canada (03:30) all the way across the world to Sydney, Australia where it was 21:30. We were thrilled to have one of our MSc(Nursing) graduates, Elizabeth Füzy presenting her research on the experience of childbirth among middle adolescents - her first presentation to an international conference.

Her paper was well received. Her comment to me afterwards was that having me chairing the session was a bit like having a birth companion - an appropriate comment to a midwife! Another UCT MSc(Nursing) graduate, Hilma Shikwambi from Namibia, was part of the opening plenary session reflecting on the SoWMy2021 report. I introduced her to the ICM at the 2014 congress held in Prague. She was so impressed with the work of the ICM, and disappointed that Namibia was not a member, that she set up the Independent Midwives Association of Namibia after submitting her minor dissertation and before her results were available! Namibia is now a member of the ICM and she now serves as the Anglophone Africa region representative on the ICM Board (the highest decision-making body of the organisation). Dr Sheila Clow was honoured to be asked to present and participate in the plenary panel on the final day. This was facilitated by a research group from Harvard and was addressing "Creating enabling environments for midwife-led continuity of care.

International NursesDay on 12 May 2021

Nicki Fouché, the outgoing HODiv of the Division of Nursing and Midwifery shared these sentiments on International Nurses' Day. The celebration takes place annually on the birthday of Florence Nightingale (the founder of modern nursing), and seeks to honour all nurses and highlight the contribution they make to society. Read More....
<https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2021-05-12-uct-celebrates-international-nurses-day>



DHRS PROGRAMS

DN&M Continues....

Graduations:

In the last graduation cycle, DN&M had a number of graduates across all programmes in the Division:

Two Postgraduate Diploma graduates:

Thozama Huluhulu and Dolly Zuba (both on the Child Nursing programme).

Masters Graduates:

Themba Matoetoe MSc(Nursing): His minor dissertation was entitled "*Prevalence of stalking in a Nursing college in Lesotho*". Supervisors: Dr Tania de Villiers and A/Prof S Matthews in the Department of Public Health.

There were also five graduates (MSc, Child Nursing) who graduated in 2021. They are Andrea Amos, Eljiesha Crous, Nadia Harris, Busisiwe Jama and Adess Mwale. The completion of this clinical programme required a lot of creative programming from the programme convenor A/Prof Minette Coetzee.

- PhD:

Everlyne Rotich graduated with her PhD at the December 2020 graduation. Her thesis was entitled "*Development of a Midwifery Model of Care to enhance delivery of midwifery services in Uasin Gishu County of Kenya*".

During her PhD journey, she was appointed Minister of Health for her County (equivalent of Province). She was supervised by A/Prof Minette Coetzee in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health and A/Prof Sheila Clow. Photo caption: Everlyne was fortunate to be able to pose with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Phakeng and "received" her degree in person on the morning of the virtual graduation ceremony.



DHRS PROGRAMS

Division of Occupational Therapy reports:

The OT Division welcomed the following new staff members in 2021:

- Lizelle Jacobs (CE and ad-hoc lecturer) - started at the beginning of January 2021 as Rabia's maternity leave replacement and is assisting with some undergraduate teaching tasks.
- Naiema Razack (lecturer and 3rd-year course convenor) - started in February 2021 as Amshuda's sabbatical replacement.
- Meghan Krenzer (1st-year convenor) until the end of this year (2021).
- Sarosha Pillay, started on 1 July 2021 as an OT lecturer. Sarosha brings a wealth of experience in working with children with ASD. Her research interests are in the areas of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in children and special education systems, and she is currently busy completing her PhD supervised by Prof Petrus de Vries and Madie Duncan.
- OT also welcomed back Fadia Gamielien who was away on study leave for two years.

Other news from OT:

- Amshuda Sunday is on sabbatical leave until early November 2021.
- Mellisa Francke was invited to chair a panel discussion at the NAPP programme.
- Several staff members attended the NAPP (Zarina Syed and Shireen Damonse) and ESSAP (Established and Seasoned Academics Programme) (Amshuda Sunday, Hanske Flieringa, Liesl Peters, Tasneem Mohamed and Helen Buchanan). This is the first ESSAP cohort so we are proud to be part of it.
- We were thrilled that we finally completed the 2020 academic year for our third years on Monday 8 Feb 2021. We had two cohorts of 3rd years for a short time as the 2021 third-year class started on 8 February.
- OT Division participated in the UCT Virtual Open Day - Shireen Damonse, Mellisa Francke and a 4th-year student presented with Hanske Flieringa as moderator.



DHRS PROGRAMS

Division of Disability Studies reports:

- Prof Theresa Lorenzo was officially appointed as the new Head of the Division of Disability Studies for two years.
- Nicolette Pasqualle has been appointed on a 3-year contract as the convener for Higher certificate programme.
- Nafisa Mayat and Adele Ebrahim joined DSD in part-time positions on fixed-term contracts.
- DSD had a large cohort of PhD graduates during the 14 July 2021 graduation cycle: Dr Olwethu Sipuka, Dr Unathi Stimela, Dr Michelle Botha and Dr Kofi Nseibo

Right Pic: Michelle McFarlane and Roxy Davis. Michelle won the South African Para Surfing Champion - Womens open champion - visually impaired division in May 2021 in Durban



Right Pic: Theresa celebrates with Michelle and her guide dog, Panda, her achievement of graduating with her PhD which investigated the role of blindness rehabilitation services in shaping the subjectivity of visually impaired persons and which questioned the present dynamics of power-knowledge in rehabilitation services for visually impaired adults in South Africa. Michelle was supervised by Dr Brian Watermeyer; we congratulate both of them!



Right Pic: Unathi Stimela and the VC celebrating with Harsha her supervisor, and Theresa as PhD programme convener - Unathi explored the career preparation and guidance for Deaf learners in rural schools in Eastern Cape



Above Pic: Theresa met with Michelle McFarlane, the South African women's para-surfing champion in June, when she was observing research Roxy Davis is doing for her MPhil in Disability Studies on the benefits of adapted surfing for disabled children.



Above Pic: One of our HCDP students, Debbie van der Berg, graduated on 14 July and is congratulated here by the VC



DHRS ADMIN

ADMIN TEAM:

- Dominica Arendse has been appointed as the Admin Line Manager on 1 January 2021 to lead the admin team.
- Celese Williams has been appointed to a permanent position as Senior Secretary in the Division of Physiotherapy.
- Itumeleng Likhoele's contract was extended till the end of 2021 as Receptionist/Secretary.
- Monique September has been the replacement for Margo Rathanas an administrator in the Division of Physiotherapy and her contract was extended for a few more months.
- We welcome back Margo Rathana - we are happy to have you join us again.
- The admin team had their first socially distanced admin team meeting lunch on 25 February 2021 and was held outdoors at the Two Rivers Urban Park in Observatory. It was the first time some of the administrators/secretaries had physically seen each other since March 2020.

Congratulations and Welcoming our new additions to the DHRS Family:

- Vera, Hlayisi gave birth to a baby girl, Tlangelani Xihlovo Mayimele on 12 Feb 2021.
- Rabiah Hassam gave birth to a bouncing boy on 28 December 2020 and returned to work on 1 May from maternity leave.
- Naila Edries gave birth to twin princesses on 12 July 2021.

GOOD BYES!!!

We said farewell to the following staff members and wish them well in their future endeavours:

- Ntsikelelo Pefile resigned from the Division of Physiotherapy as Senior lecturer.
- Tracey Lee Cloete resigned from the Division of CSD as Audiology lecturer.



DHRS RECOGNITION/ACHIEVEMENTS

- Heartfelt congratulations to all our colleagues who completed their postgraduate degrees this year and a big shout out to all their fantastic Supervisors. Well done on persevering through all the highs and lows and we look forward to celebrating with you at graduation:
 - Dr Candice Hendricks completed her PhD. The title of her thesis: *"Osteoarthritis in Women living in Cape Town: prevalence, characteristics, and the effects of a non-pharmacological intervention"*. Supervisor: Prof Romy Parker (Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine) and co-supervisor: Prof Jennifer Jelsma.
 - Dr Olebeng Mahura has passed her PhD with flying colours and will be graduating in December. The title of her dissertation: *"The acquisition of Setswana phonology in children aged 2;0 - 6;5 years"*. Supervisor: A/Prof Michelle Pascoe and co-supervisor: Prof Heather Brookes.
 - Shireen Damonse passed her MSc (Occupational Therapy) by coursework and dissertation. The title of Shireen's dissertation: *"Educators' perspectives of the implementation of a classroom-based, educator-led occupational therapy intervention for fine motor skills"*. Supervisors Dr Pam Gretschel and Ms Adele Ebrahim!
 - Amour McCarthy (Admin staff) has successfully passed and obtained her Honours in an Environmental Management degree.

- We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following DHRS colleagues for their outstanding work/achievements:
 - Tracey Cloete, Elrietha Olivier, Genevieve Gonsalves, and Tara Kuhn for wonderful presentations at the IPAB meeting hosted by the University of Ghent. Excellent showing!
 - Roshan Galvaan - presenting the prestigious Wilma West lecture at the University of Southern California on 5 November 2021. Topic: "Occupations disrupted: Pandemics and the reshaping of everyday life".
 - Matumo Ramafikeng - Keynote speaker at the OTASA Virtual Congress 2021.
 - Nomusa Ntinga and Shamila Manie received Research Development Grants.
 - Theresa Burgess has been re-appointed to the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC).
 - Gillian Ferguson received the Teaching Advancement in University (TAU) scholarship.
 - Liesl Peters received an award for Start-up Emerging Researcher for the year 2021.
 - The IDEA research unit was awarded salary support for the COVID period from the URC.
 - Judith McKenzie received a research grant for her doctoral student in Cameroon, Bridget Fobuzie from the FRC.
 - Fadia Gamiendien has been awarded Scholarship funding under the Bongani Mayosi National Health Scholars Program. The Scholarship is to support the completion of Fadia's PhD.
 - Fadia Gamiendien was also awarded the Harry Crossley Clinical Research Fellowship for 2021.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH COMMITTEE BIDS FAREWELL TO THEIR RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR AND WELCOMING THE NEW CHAIR.

Associate Prof Dr Gillian Ferguson served as the Departmental Research Chair for the past three years. Her term has now ended, and she will be handing over to Dr Christine Rogers starting 1 August 2021. As the DRC, Gill reconvened the departmental research committee to develop a stronger research culture, support developing researchers, showcasing the unique contribution of the DHRS researchers. A very dedicated person who is so passionate about research, Gill has done a great job and the committee will miss her being part of the team. Gill will be succeeded by Christine who will be bringing positive energy, innovative ideas, and renewed commitment to achieving the strategic research goals of the committee. *Welcome on Board Dr Rogers!*

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: PUBLICATIONS

DHRS researchers have been very productive this year! Well done to all the colleagues who have had their work published in 2021. We look forward to publishing a full list in the next newsletter...

- Gamielien, F., Galvaan, R., Myers, B., Syed, Z., & Sorsdahl, K. (2021). Exploration of recovery of people living with severe mental illness (SMI) in low/middle-income countries (LMICs): a scoping review. *BMJ open*, 11(3), e045005.
- Gamielien, F., Galvaan, R., & Duncan, M. (2021). The Perspectives of Males with Serious Mental Disorders on their Community Integration following a Residential-based Rehabilitation Programme in South Africa: "It's a catch-22 situation". *South African Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 51(1), 63-71.
- Gamielien, F., Galvaan, R., & Duncan, M. (2021). "It's a catch-22 situation": Perspectives of male mental health service users with serious mental disorders on their community integration following a residential-based rehabilitation programme in South Africa. *South African Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 51(1), 63.
- Emmanuel, A., & Clow, S. E. (2021). Determinants of exclusive breastfeeding and overall duration of breastfeeding among mothers in Plateau, Nigeria. *African Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health*, 1-11.
- de Villiers, T., Duma, S., & Abrahams, N. (2021). "As young men we have a role to play in preventing sexual violence": Development and relevance of the men with conscience intervention to prevent sexual violence. *PLoS one*, 16(1), e0244550.
- Likumbo, N., de Villiers, T., & Kyriacos, U. (2021). Malawian mothers' experiences of raising children living with albinism: A qualitative descriptive study. *African Journal of Disability*, 10.
- Karisa, A., McKenzie, J., & De Villiers, T. (2021). 'Their status will be affected by that child': How masculinity influences father involvement in the education of learners with intellectual disabilities. *Child: Care, Health and Development*.
- McKenzie, J. (2021). Intellectual disability in inclusive education in South Africa: curriculum challenges. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 18(1), 53-57.
- McKenzie, J. A., Kahonde, C., Mostert, K., & Aldersey, H. M. (2021). Community participation of families of children with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities in South Africa. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 34(2), 525-536.
- Moepeng, M., Singh, S. & Ramma, L. (2021). Contextually appropriate school entry hearing screening protocol for low- and middle-income countries: A scoping review. *International Journal of pediatric Otorhinolaryngology*, 147; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijporl.2021.110788>
- Ramma, L. (2021). Patterns of noise exposure and prevalence of hearing loss amongst Cape Town Minstrel Carnival musicians. *South African Journal of Communication Disorders* 68 (1); 789



RESEARCH CONT...

- McKenzie, J., Shanda, N., & Aldersey, H. M. (2021). Family-teacher partnerships: families' and teachers' experiences of working together to support learners with disabilities in South Africa. *British Journal of Special Education*, 48(1), 26-49.
- Southwood, F., White, M. J., Brookes, H., Pascoe, M., Ndhambi, M., Yalala, S., ... & Alcock, K. (2021). Sociocultural Factors Affecting Vocabulary Development in Young South African Children. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 1645.
- Dean, J., Pascoe, M., & le Roux, J. (2021). Pilot evaluation of a partner-supported online reading intervention for Grade 3-6 children. *Child Language Teaching and Therapy*, 0265659021989400.
- Dean, J., Pascoe, M., & le Roux, J. (2021). Information and communication technology reading interventions: A scoping review. *Reading & Writing*, 12(1), 16.
- Foster, N., Cunnama, L., McCarthy, K., Ramma, L., Siapka, M., Sinanovic, E., ... & Cleary, S. (2021). Strengthening health systems to improve the value of tuberculosis diagnostics in South Africa: A cost and cost-effectiveness analysis. *Plos one*, 16(5), e0251547.
- Derrett S, Herdman M, Ngwira LG, Moore EY, Jelsma J. A New Approach to Assessing Children's Interpretation of Severity Qualifiers in a Multi-Attribute Utility Instrument-The EQ-5D-Y-5L: Development and Testing. *Patient*. 2021 Mar 2. doi: 10.1007/s40271-021-00496-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33650034.
- Rogers C (2021) Perspectives: Evaluation of Older Adult Cochlear Implant Candidates for Fall Risk in a Developing Country Setting. *Front. Neurol.* 12:678773. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2021.678773.
- Watermeyer, B., Lourens, H., Botha, M., Khumalo, B., Kelly, J., & Shanda, N. (2021). Emotional and Embodied Aspects in the Education of Learners with Visual Impairment: The Use of Standpoint 'Panel Chats' in Teacher Training. *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education*, 1-17.

****Apologies to all whose work is not featured this time. Remember to send your publications to Anele as they come in for capturing.**

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

A showcase of Interdisciplinary Research in Action in the DHRS! We are proud to showcase some of the newer initiatives in this newsletter. Please do keep us informed of your various projects to feature in the next newsletter.

Challenging normative boundaries of how we teach, learn and practice: Towards transdisciplinary ways of engaging. Dr Kristen Abrahams (SLT), Mellisa Francke (OT), Letitia Rustin (Physio) Genevieve Gonsalves (Audio) and Liesl Peters (OT).

"In response to the COVID-19, the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences came together to think through our responsibility to society and the ways in which our specialised knowledges could address the shifting needs of communities within the pandemic. Through engagements within the department and divisions and with different community groups, it became clear that the needs in the community were complex - influenced by social, political, historical, and economic factors which created a context of inequity. The complexities challenged us to rethink our roles within communities. We realised that our individual disciplinary knowledges (SLT, A, PT, OT) were not sufficient, and that in order to work towards larger societal change, we needed to transcend our disciplinary boundaries toward transdisciplinary ways of engaging"- SR grant recipients.

RESEARCH CONT...

In the presentation, Dr Kristen Abrahams (SLT), Mellisa Francke(OT), Letitia Rustin(Physio) Genevieve Gonsalves (Audio) and Liesl Peters (OT) discussed the conceptual development of our work which lead to their application for the Social Responsiveness Grant and reflect on their learning thus far in relation to the professions, education and clinical practice as a basis to generate discussion around transdisciplinary ways of working.

Describing the process of developing an interdisciplinary, caregiver coaching teaching module; Dr Michal Harty (CSD), A/Prof Gillian Ferguson (PT), and Dr Pam Gretschel (OT)

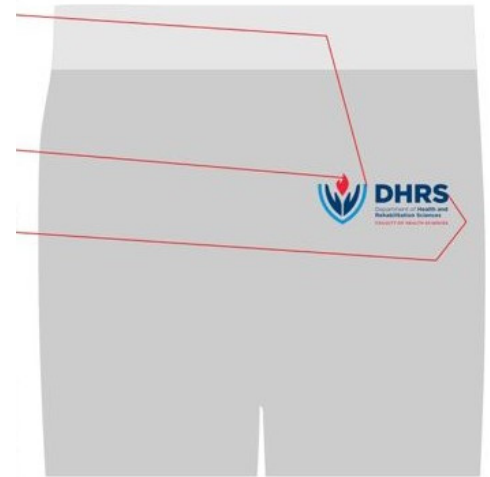
As a group of researchers, we share an interest in working with families of children with developmental disabilities. Despite an espoused intent to work in a collaborative and sustainable manner with families, we realised that this is not currently addressed in a systematic way in our undergraduate degree programs. So, we have embarked on a research journey (with input from Liesl Peters our research facilitator) in which we plan to document the process of designing an interdisciplinary, caregiver coaching teaching module for caregivers of children with disabilities. We aim to develop a contextually relevant family-centered interdisciplinary teaching module empowering rehabilitation science students to partner with caregivers of diverse backgrounds to meet the needs of children living with developmental disabilities in South Africa. Given the complex and novel nature of this educational project, we are simultaneously describing the process of developing the module, as we engage in developing the education product (teaching module). The research component of this project will describe the process of designing the interdisciplinary, caregiver coaching teaching module from the perspectives of the developers (us). The project will use a case study design, underpinned by an action research methodology. Using a change laboratory (CL) approach, which is based on the theoretical framework of Cultural Historical Activity Theory (CHAT; Vygotsky, 1978), we will examine tensions in our existing practice and use this as a stimulus to develop new ways of working with caregivers. We believe that process-related research is essential to identify tensions and contradictions linked to the positionality of health care professionals and caregivers. We hope that this project will result in novel ways of engaging with caregivers to co-create this teaching module. We look forward to sharing more about this project as we progress.

Collaborative Covid-19 research project; A/Prof Shajila Singh and Colleagues

An interprofessional team of rehabilitation professionals (representing Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech Language Pathology) from UCT, Wits, University of Pretoria, Groote Schuur Hospital and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital are planning to conduct research on Covid-19 aligned with the consensus between the WHO Rehabilitation programme and Cochrane Rehabilitation REH-COVER (Rehabilitation - Covid-19 Evidence-based Response) Research questions. There are two projects planned. The one project focuses on (i) epidemiology of limitation of functioning due to Covid-19 and (ii) evidence of rehabilitation for limitations of functioning due to Covid-19 at the individual level (micro-level). The second project focuses on evidence on rehabilitation for limitations of functioning due to Covid-19 at service level (meso-level). The proposal for both these projects are being finalized for Departmental and HREC review.

DHRS BRAND

DHRS is launching its branded clothing pack. Here is a preview of the clothing items making its appearance soon and we will be hosting a competition in the 2nd semester for staff and students to win a DHRS branded item. Below Pics: Our admin team showing off their DHRS hoodies.



MISCELLANEOUS



WORLD HEARING DAY
3 MARCH 2021; 4th Year UCT Speech Therapy & Audiology Students, CSD

HOW DO I KNOW IF I SHOULD SCREEN MY HEARING?

- Difficulty hearing speech/certain sounds.
- Inability to hear in quiet/background noise.
- Avoidance of social settings or conversations.
- Turning the volume very high to hear music or the TV well.
- Hearing sounds in your ear (e.g., buzzing, ringing, etc.)

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN TEST YOUR HEARING AT HOME!

1. Download the free hearWHO app on google play or the app store.
2. Follow the prompts and start the test to screen your hearing.
3. If your score is below 50, consider making an appointment with audiologist.

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/hearing-loss>

Download the app

WHAT DOES AN AUDIOLOGIST DO?

- Screens hearing.
- Offer hearing aids where necessary.
- Refer to speech therapists for the assessment of communication and provision of communication strategies and rehabilitation.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT HEARING LOSS?

- Do not insert any objects into the ear.
- Use earplugs & earmuffs in noisy places.
- In case of any ear problems, consult a doctor immediately.
- Check if medicines you take can affect your hearing.
- Have your hearing tested regularly.
- If advised to do so, use a hearing device as indicated.

"World Hearing Day" on 3 March 2021.

As part of the awareness campaign, our 4th-year Audio and Speech students developed a poster to inform the public on how to screen their hearing in the comfort of their homes.

Left Poster:

#UCT FIRE:

Pics below: The Table Mountain fire on 18 April 2021 caused much damage to our University on Rondebosch campus. Several DHRS staff members responded to the call to support students who were evacuated from residences after the fire. DHRS stood in solidarity with the students who have been affected. All lectures and activities were suspended for a week. We acknowledge the exceptional work done by the emergency services support staff and particularly the Fire Fighters who worked assiduously to extinguish the fire.



DHRS COMMUNIQUE

JANUARY - JUNE 2021



DHRS