

Faculty News

Fourth Quarter 2014



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Dear colleagues

A motion carried in Parliament, with a letter from the Speaker of Parliament, Baleka Mbete, to congratulate us on being the top faculty of health sciences in Africa – what a way to end our year!

As always, our last quarter is our busiest as years of hard work bear fruit - evident from the announcements of academic achievements for both students and staff. This year has been no exception. I am absolutely delighted with recent announcements of several premier scholarly awards – from life-time achievements at the 2014 MRC Awards ceremony (Professors Robin Wood and Gregory Hussey); Fellows of UCT (Professors Gregory Hussey and Naomi Levitt) and recognition of teaching excellence (Prof Del Khan) to Rhodes scholarships at Oxford for three of our medical graduates (new graduates Dr Tinashe Chanuka and Dr Jessica Posel Price, and alumnus Dr Alex von Klemperer). This is the second year running, in my 18 months at UCT, that I have the honour of celebrating such prestigious levels of achievement within the Faculty.

A highlight on our annual calendar is always our Final Year Students' bash, followed by another wonderfully heartwarming, happy celebration at our graduation ceremony. Our students have excelled again, with high pass rates across all disciplines. The Dean's class medal was for the first time in ten years awarded to a male student – congratulations to Gordon Audley.

As you all know, this period is synonymous with Faculty student achievements, and not only in terms of academic results. This year, we took top UCT student awards - the Most Outstanding

Undergraduate Faculty Council: Health Sciences Students' Council and Most Outstanding Society Executive: UCT Surgical Society awards. Of note is that the UCT Surgical Society initiated and organised a very successful international student surgical conference in July.

Congratulations to those colleagues who received ad hominem promotions, announced recently. Your achievements are well-deserved following years of commitment and hard work.

Another highlight is the IDM Tenth Anniversary Wolfson Memorial Lecture and Symposium, which attracted the participation of world-leaders in Infectious Disease research. The IDM has become a world-renowned hub for cutting edge postgraduate training and research in infectious diseases impacting Africa, and for its translational research in developing settings. The UCT Lung Institute also had its 15-year anniversary in October; this institute has been a bastion in entrepreneurship and relevant scholarship within the Faculty. Congratulations also to Prof. Heather Zar, Head of the Department of Pediatrics, who was awarded an MRC Research Unit for the study of Child and Adolescent Pulmonary health. This newsletter is packed with news on a range of activities which space does not allow me to mention, but which I am very proud of.

As you know, I will in April 2015 be taking up my new position as Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the University of Stellenbosch. It has not been an easy decision to leave: it is a tremendous privilege to be associated with the top Faculty in Africa, and my work with Faculty leadership has been gathering momentum through many initiatives we have started, with more in the pipeline. However, these will continue to be carried forward by internal champions and the strong leadership of the Interim Dean, Prof Gregory Hussey (from 1 January 2015) and Deanery with support from Heads of Department. An announcement by VC DR Max Price has informed you that I will vacate my post at the end of December, after which I will work in the VC's office till I take up my new post. I extend my best wishes to the Faculty community and heartfelt thanks for the support given to me during my tenure.

2014 has been an exhilarating year with significant outputs. A big thank you for your hard work and contributions; enjoy the festive season, and for those taking a break, rest well.

Warm regards

Wim de Villiers

Parliament congratulates Faculty on its top African status

The South African Parliament recently passed a motion of congratulations to honour the Faculty's achievements of the past year. A motion is a proposal by a member that the House do something, order something to be done or express an opinion with regard to some matter. A motion, if adopted, becomes a resolution of the House.



PARLIAMENT
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4 November 2014

Prof. WJS de Villiers
Dean: School of Medicine
University of Cape Town
Private Bag X3
Rondebosch 7701

Dear Prof. de Villiers

MOTION OF CONGRATULATIONS

On 28 October 2014, the National Assembly agreed to a motion noting that the University of Cape Town's School of Medicine was announced as the only university in Africa to make the top 100 universities in the world.

The Assembly further noted that it was named the best institution of its kind in Africa, in the world university rankings compiled by the *Times of London's* Higher Education Supplement.

The Assembly acknowledged that the University of Cape Town received an excellent review from the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), which commended them for their clinical training.

The Assembly congratulates the University of Cape Town for making it into the top 100 universities in the world and for all its outstanding achievements.

A copy of the Minutes of Proceedings of the National Assembly dated 28 October 2014, containing the full text of the motion, is attached.

Yours sincerely

Baleka Mbete MP
Speaker of the National Assembly

Our students rock December graduations

Faculty of Health Sciences graduations are known for the spontaneous cheers, ululations, standing ovations – and celebratory atmosphere.

The 2014 ones held on 15th (undergraduate) and 16th (postgraduate) December were no exception when friends, family and Faculty members shared this special occasion with more than 600 health sciences students. Throughout the ceremony, graduands and parents applauded, danced and waved their arms excitedly as friends and loved ones were called up to be capped. The Gold medalist for the MBChB class was Gordon Audley.

This year saw 23 Doctoral candidates; 127 recipients of Diplomas; 344 Bachelors; 71 Honours; and 74 Master's graduate. Also honoured at the ceremony were new UCT Fellows Prof Naomi Levitt from the Division of Endocrinology & Diabetology and Prof Greg Hussey from the Division of Medical Microbiology. Prof Delawir Kahn of the Department of Surgery, who received a 2014 Distinguished Teacher Award, delivered the keynote speech.

Addressing the graduands, Prof Khan said he hoped the students would see their profession as a career and not as a job. Kahn said being a healthcare professional was all about the patient, teaching, and research.

Among the special family moments at the ceremony was the "double" for MBChB graduate Jessica Posel Price, who was capped by her father, Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price & hooded by her mother, Prof Deborah Posel.

For the graduation highlights and to watch the full version of ceremony, click [here](#).

Dean hosts celebratory cocktail function for PhD graduands

The Postgraduate office hosted a cocktail function celebrating the award of Doctoral Degrees in the Faculty on Monday 16 December 2014 in the foyer of the IIDMM Building. Twenty-five candidates graduated with Health Sciences PhD's in December this year.

The cocktail function has become a popular bi-annual event on the Health Sciences calendar and provides an excellent opportunity for doctoral graduates to be honoured by the Faculty. It also enables them to celebrate their achievements with their families, supervisors and Heads of Department in an informal and relaxed environment.

The Dean, Prof Wim de Villiers, who paid tribute to the success achieved by the graduates, addressed the doctoral graduates, academic staff and invited guests. Prof De Villiers handed graduates a personalised, engraved gift as a memento of this great milestone in their careers.



Showers of blessing: final-year results rain down on students



The anticipation was palpable at this year's annual FHS Undergraduate Final Year Results Bash on the 25th of November.

This is the day when our final year students gather excitedly in the Barnard Fuller quad to find out if their many years of hard work have finally paid off. The results bash is a celebration organised by the Student Undergraduate Administration Office to announce the final results, top achievers and the list of students graduating in December.

Continuing with tradition, the Dean announced a summary of the results from the balcony above the student plaza, before throwing hundreds of folded papers with results onto the cheering students below. There was much to be excited about. Overall pass rates for all the disciplines were exceptionally brilliant. The Speech and Pathology programme achieved a 100% pass rate, Audiology 91%, Physiotherapy 96%, Occupational Therapy 98% and MBChB 99%. Gold medal winners, for all the programmes except Audiology, were also announced.

The most notable mention for overall top performance throughout their programme was Gordon Audley. He became the first male to receive the MBChB gold medal since 2004, breaking a decade-long record. More outstanding achievement shone through with the announcement of the Professor Mary Robertson Prize for Excellence. Recipient Jessica Posel Price achieved the astonishing feat of top MBChB female graduate, while at the same time completing all the coursework for the Master of Public Health degree. Even more astonishing, she scored firsts for all except three courses of both the MBChB and Master of Public Health degrees. Finally, Nina Carelese received a nod for the Professor Mary Robertson Progress Prize for the female who made the most progress throughout the MBChB programme.

After the exciting formalities, students celebrated the successful end to their undergraduate studies in style. Champagne and drinks, sponsored by the Medical Protection Society (MPS), along with music and dancing made for joyful festivities. In the presence of staff, parents and friends, the Bash is an excellent opportunity to recognise the support students have had throughout their studies. Having reaped the rewards of their perseverance and determination, the class of 2014 was truly deserving of all the fanfare.



Students celebrate their results

Faculty students and recent alumni awarded prestigious Rhodes Scholarships



Tinashe Chandauka

South Africa-at-Large, 2015

Tinashe Chandauka is the son of Emily Chandauka and Joshua Chandauka. He was born in Zimbabwe and completed his high school education (St Stithians College) and undergraduate medical training with honours (University of Cape Town) in South Africa. His passion for Surgery and healthcare training in Africa inspired him to co-found the International Association of Student Surgical Societies and lead it as its first President. Furthermore, he has excelled at sport and completed the Cape Town Marathon, the South African Ironman 70.3 and numerous half marathons. He partook in the South African President's Award for Youth Empowerment program and was awarded "Gold" status later representing the organization at a youth parliament debate.



Jessica Posel Price

South Africa-at-large, 2015

Jessica completed her MBChB with distinction at the University of Cape Town (UCT), and will begin her medical internship at Chris Hani Baragwaneth Hospital in January 2015. She is also busy with a Masters in Public Health at UCT. She was Vice President of the UCT Students Representative Council, and subsequently Vice President of SHAWCO Health - a student-run NPO that operates primary-care clinics in underprivileged communities around Cape Town. Her passion for politics and public policy stems from her longstanding involvement in debating, having represented South Africa at the World Schools Debating Championships in 2006 & 2007, and sitting on the organising committee to host the competition in Cape Town in 2012. At Oxford she plans to read for a DPhil in Population Health.



Alexander von Klemperer

KwaZulu-Natal, 2015

Alex is a medical doctor with a keen interest in neurology, who plans to study Neuroscience at Oxford. After matriculating as dux student from Kearsney College he attended medical school at the University of Cape Town. He graduated with first-class honours, winning a number of subject prizes. He recently completed his internship at Chris Hani-Baragwanath hospital. He is focused on clinical research, having worked on projects in both the Hatter cardiovascular laboratory and the stroke unit at Groote Schuur hospital. He continues to drive research intended to inform clinical practice. Throughout medical school he devoted much time to SHAWCO, a student run health clinic and remains passionate about projects promoting wellness in South Africa. In his spare time he enjoys running, cycling and is a voracious reader.



Did you know?

The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards supporting exceptional students from around the world to study at the University of Oxford.

Established in the will of Cecil Rhodes, the Rhodes is the oldest and perhaps the most prestigious international scholarship programme in the world, which aims to nurture public-spirited leaders for the world's future.

They are based at Rhodes House, Oxford.

Information sourced from the Rhodes Trust website

IDM's Ten-Year Anniversary Symposium showcases diversified cutting-edge research



Vice Chancellor Dr Max Price, Dean Prof Wim de Villiers and Minister Naledi Pandor



IDM Director Prof Valerie Mizrahi

The IDM's Ten-Year Anniversary Symposium 2-4 November 2014 was held under the banner of "Driving Research for Human Health in Africa". This was a celebratory Symposium marking 10 years of growth since the IDM's official opening, with the IDM now commanding world class track records in various focus areas.

The Symposium programme clearly demonstrated the IDM's rich capacity and thematic strengths. Speakers included IDM Members, selected UCT academics affiliated to the IDM, and a number of international and national speakers, all of whom collaborated in some way with IDM researchers and added depth to topics discussed.

The opening afternoon included the 3rd Annual Wolfson Memorial Lecture, presented by Prof Mark Davis of Stanford University, USA (more details below). In introducing the event, UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences Dean Prof Wim de Villiers noted that in 2014/2015, UCT was ranked 48 of all "clinical, pre-clinical and health" universities globally, in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. "Research and internationalisation are strong influencers of ranking, so the IDM plays a significant role in UCT's international recognition."

The Minister of Science and Technology Dr Naledi Pandor and the South African Medical Research Council President Prof Glenda Gray added significance to the occasion, informing the audience of future support and possible directions of medical and scientific research and capacity development in South Africa. They both acknowledged the valuable role that the IDM played in research into, in particular, HIV/AIDS/HPV and TB.

Opening the event, UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price described the IDM as a "pathbreaker", noting its great success, in infectious diseases research in particular, making it a partner of choice for institutes and funders worldwide. "The bar has been raised through the 10-year IDM history for the country and for the Global South." Prof Valerie Mizrahi, Director of the IDM, then gave some research

highlights exemplifying why this was so, and the opportunities that lay ahead.

The opening ended with a cocktail party where plaques for Emeritus Professor Wieland Gevers (founding interim IDM Director) and Professor Gregory Hussey (IDM's first Director) were unveiled in the IDM'S Wolfson Pavilion foyer, acknowledging their pivotal roles in the development of the IDM to where it is today. The Sizophila Choir, of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre based in the IDM, provided entertainment to those attending.

Delivering the **Wolfson Memorial Lecture**, Professor Mark Davis, Director of Stanford University's Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and Infection said researchers have lifted the lid on the immune system in the past 50 years. Despite this, discoveries in basic immunology have led to few improvements in human health.

"Some of the deep complexities of our immune system, once seen as a "black box" in medicine, have been demystified, but we need new approaches to reveal all its mysteries", said Davis.

As a result new approaches to human immunology in health and disease are needed. In a seminal study, Davis and his team waded through blood-bank blood from adult donors and newborn babies and "surprisingly" found anti-HIV memory cells in people who were HIV negative, and antibodies for bird flu in people who had never had bird flu. This casts doubt on previously held dogma that the body builds a memory of a pathogen or bug and develops an enhanced ability to fight the bug once it has been exposed to it or to components of it in a vaccine.

The symposium was widely covered in the media – to view the eNCA insert, please click [here](#)

Lung Institute celebrates 15th anniversary



From left: Associate Professors Rodney Dawson, head of the Centre for Tuberculosis Research Innovation; Richard van Zyl-Smit, head of the Lung Clinical Research Unit; Lara Fairall, head of the Knowledge Translation Unit; with Prof Keertan Dheda, head of the Lung Infection and Immunity Unit, and Emeritus Professor Eric Bateman, director of the UCT Lung Institute.

UCT's Lung Institute recently celebrated fifteen years of research excellence, teaching and learning and community engagement.

The institute's research output has increased significantly in the last 10 years. It boasts the publication of 50 book chapters, 500 scientific papers in local and international journals and more than 100 articles in non-peer-reviewed journals and magazines.

Innovative implementation research by the **Knowledge Translation Unit**, one of five units housed within the institute, has resulted in the development of integrated guidelines for the management of common diseases. These guidelines have been adopted by government and are being rolled out to health workers in primary care clinics countrywide. Other examples of service to the community are the R1.2-million renovation of the Chapel Street Clinic in Woodstock, the establishment of a Smoking Cessation Clinic, and educational courses for health professionals and the public.

"It has been a privilege to be part of this novel venture within the **Faculty of Health Sciences** at UCT," said institute director Emeritus Professor Eric Bateman. "All who have been involved with the institute should feel a warm glow of satisfaction in a job well done. Let us draw on our past successes for inspiration and even greater energy for the next 15 years."

Close on 10 000 patients have benefited from the allergy clinics operated by the institute's **Allergy Diagnostic and Clinical Research Unit**. The **Centre for Tuberculosis Research Innovation** has to date been involved in the clinical evaluation of all significant global compounds in the search for new TB drugs. The centre is also the leading research site in the STAND study, which is investigating the first novel drug combination with the potential for treating both drug-resistant and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Among several awards that have gone to Institute researchers are the National Science and Technology Forum BHP Billiton award, given to Bateman and Professor Keertan Dheda, head of the **Lung Infection and Immunity Unit**, for their

contributions to science, engineering, technology and innovation. A full report on the Lung Institute's activities over the last 15 years is available by clicking [here](#)

The Lung Infection and Immunity Unit hosts MDR/XDR TB Conference that provides clinically orientated guidelines for clinicians, healthcare workers and scientists in Africa.

Over 120 clinicians, healthcare workers, scientists and policy makers from across South Africa gathered at UCT from 10 – 12 October 2014 to discuss improving the quality of patient care for MDR/XDR-TB patients. Hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences' Lung Infection and Immunity Unit, the MDR/XDR TB Conference was organised by TB expert Professor Keertan Dheda, of UCT's and Groote Schuur Hospital's Department of Medicine.

"MDR and XDR-TB is a major public health threat in South Africa with TB currently the biggest killer in the country. This is a problem that needs urgent attention as there are now even incurable strains of TB," says Professor Dheda. "The conference recognised the urgency of this – its main purpose was to provide cutting-edge clinically orientated guidelines for clinicians, healthcare workers and scientists in Africa, who are interested in management, policies and intervention strategies related to MDR/XDR-TB."

The conference focused mainly on improving the quality of patient care through the training and teaching of clinicians, healthcare workers and scientists on the diagnosis, treatment and management of drug resistant TB.

Areas covered included incurable strains of TB and how to deal with this; clinical and molecular epidemiology of drug resistant TB and how it influences practice and policy; the clinical and laboratory diagnosis of drug resistant TB in the 21st century; resistance beyond XDR-TB; public health implications of DR-TB; preventing transmission and the way forward.

doctor of science congratulations honorary doctorate fellow kudos highest honours president's awards excellence **kudos** doctor of science honorary doctorate congratulations fellow highest honours president's awards **excellence** fellow excellence **kudos** congratulations awards

Dean and Faculty members receive ASSAF Awards

Prof Wim de Villiers was recently appointed a new member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF) at the annual awards ceremony in Pretoria. Other notable recipients include Dr John Ele-Ojo Ataguba who was admitted as a Member of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) and Dr Keren Middlekoop who received one of the two AU-TWAS Young Scientist National Awards. The AU-TWAS award scheme aims to recognise and award talented young scientists in Africa. Dr Middlekoop, who is from Desmond Tutu HIV Centre in the Department of Medicine, was awarded the prestigious Life and Earth Sciences Prize.

Dr Sophia Kisting appointed Executive Director of the National Institute for Occupational Health

Dr Sophia Kisting was recently appointed the Executive Director of the National Institute for Occupational Health in Johannesburg. Dr Kisting is an honorary senior lecturer and occupational medicine specialist. She was previously a senior researcher at the Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Research (CEOHR) before taking up her position as director of the global International Labour Organisation (ILO) Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work based in Geneva until 2012.

Professor Tim Noakes awarded the Gold South Africa Medal by the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science

Professor of Sports Science Tim Noakes was awarded the prestigious South Africa Medal (Gold) by the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science (S2A3) for his work in sports science. The medal is awarded annually to a person who has contributed to the advancement of science, in Prof Noakes' case, sports sciences. It is one of the highest awards to a scientist in Southern Africa. "Professor Noakes is nationally and internationally recognised as the force or impetus behind the growth and acceptance of the sports sciences in South Africa and indirectly to the growth of biokinetics and sports medicine," said Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Prof Wim de Villiers. This award is a great acknowledgement of his contribution to the field.

Dr Grant Theron receives three prestigious accolades in one year

Dr Grant Theron a Senior Scientist in the Lung Infection and Immunity Unit in the Department of Medicine achieved a successful year after receiving one international and two national science awards. He received The Union Young Investigator Prize, from the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, which acknowledges a researcher for work in lung health published in the last five years. On the home front he was awarded the Medical Research Council (MRC) Silver Medal and the Meiring Naudé Medal from the Royal Society of South Africa. Dr Theron's research has focused on the design and field evaluation of diagnostics for tuberculosis and drug resistance.

Emavundleni profiled in the Lancet

Prof Linda-Gail Bekker and her team at the Emavundleni ("Ema") site of the DTHC and DTHF were recently profiled in the *Lancet*. The Ema CRS, led by Surita Roux, is one of four clinical research sites within UCTCTU, a Clinical Trials Unit funded by the NIH and directed by Linda-Gail. Read the full article [here](#).

IDM Members receive prestigious MRC Awards

Several members of the prestigious Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) were recognised for their outstanding scientific achievements by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) at the 2014 MRC Scientific Merit Awards. Both Platinum Medals conferred for **lifetime achievement** went to Gregory Hussey, Professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Director of VACFA, former Director of the IDM and Founding Director of SATVI; and Robin Wood, Professor in the Department of Medicine and Director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre (DTHC). Two of the six Silver Medals for recent post-doctoral researchers who have made substantial scientific contributions, or who have made substantial contributions to capacity building in medical research in South Africa went to: Tom Scriba, Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics and Deputy Director: Immunology of SATVI; and Helen McIlroy, Associate Professor in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology. These awards bear testament to the excellent science being conducted at IDM which celebrated ten years of outstanding growth and contribution to health research this year.

Soft Funded Academic and Research Staff (SFARS) Awards recipients announced

Recipients of the Soft-Funded Academic and Research Staff Awards (SFARS) were recently announced in recognition of outstanding research conducted by soft-funded staff. The award is intended to contribute to salary support for awardees for a year. Among the recipients were Dr John Ataguba, Associate Professor Aqiel Davie and Dr Mary-Ann Davies from the department of Public Health and Family Medicine. In addition, Associate Professor Mark Hatherill of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) and Dr Alison September of the Human Biology department also received an award.

Dr Shrish Budree awarded 2014 South African Thoracic Society GSK Research Fellowship

Dr Shrish Budree has been awarded the 2014 South African Thoracic Society GSK Research Fellowship for his study "Nutrition, micronutrient deficiency and childhood pneumonia in the first year of life in a South African Birth Cohort." Dr Shrish will be investigating the relationship between nutrition and pneumonia in the Drakenstein study towards his PhD.



TIME magazine named the Ebola Fighters its 'person of the year', among them Dr Kathryn Stinson. [Read more](#)

Faculty celebrates ad-hominem promotions

The university recently announced ad-hominem promotions

PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR

A/Prof	Marc	Mendelson
A/Prof	Brian	Rayner
A/Prof	Crick	Lund
A/Prof	Pradeep	Navsaria
A/Prof	Nicola	Mulder
A/Prof	Ernesta	Meintjes
A/Prof	Landon	Myer

PROMOTION TO CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER (A/PROF TITLE)

Dr	Alison	September
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PROMOTION TO SENIOR LECTURER (JOINT STAFF PROMOTION AS APPROVED BY THE DEAN)

Dr	Llewelyn	Padayachy
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PROMOTION TO SENIOR LECTURER

Dr	Dee	Blackhurst
Dr	Karen	Shires

Dr	Judith	McKenzie
Mrs	Vivienne	Norman
Dr	Sudesh	Sivarasu
Mrs	Johannah	Keikelame

PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Dr	Ivan	Joubert
Dr	Dirk	Blom
Dr	Ikechi	Okpechi
Dr	Catherine	Orrell
Dr	Ian	Ross
Dr	Jeannette	Parkes
Dr	Neil	Davies
Dr	Darlene	Lubbe
Dr	Elmi	Muller
Dr	Stephen	Roche
Dr	Darrin	Martin
Dr	Digby	Warner
Dr	Romy	Parker
Dr	Lester	Davids
Dr	Chris	Scott
Dr	Christopher	Colvin

PROMOTION TO SENIOR CLINICAL EDUCATOR (AS APPROVED BY THE DEAN)

Ms	Nicola	Keeton
Mrs	Zarina	Ebrahim
Mrs	Fiona	Herrmann

FACULTY NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM

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VACFA Vaccines course increasingly popular on Continent

For the 10th consecutive year, the University of Cape Town's Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA) has successfully hosted the annual African Vaccinology Course at the Upper East Side Hotel, Woodstock, Cape Town.

Under the leadership of Prof Gregory Hussey, Director of VACFA, and with generous funding from GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, MSD Pharmaceuticals, Sanofi Pasteur and Pfizer, the course provides a unique opportunity for researchers, medical practitioners and public health administrators wishing to gain detailed insight and knowledge about vaccinology and challenges in the uptake of vaccines on the continent.

Prof Tania Douglas, Deputy Dean for Research, at the Faculty of Health Sciences officially welcomed the participants at a cocktail function, highlighting the critical need for skilled vaccinologists in Africa.

Based in the Faculty of Health Sciences' Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM), VACFA's vision, she explained, is an Africa free of vaccine-preventable diseases.

"The course has become very popular, with a total of 67 participants from 23 different African countries participating in this year's 2014 course," said Prof Hussey. Since inception, the course has trained over 800 participants from almost all African countries. The Vaccinology course is intended to benefit vaccinology programme managers, doctors involved in vaccination programs as well as basic scientists involved in vaccines research within the African continent.

Focussing on the aims of the 10th Annual Vaccinology Course, Prof Hussey said they were to provide participants with essential expertise to support national immunisation programmes, build sustainable research capacity for vaccine development and conducting high quality phase 1-IV vaccine trials in Africa, and foster communication and networking among African vaccinologists.

In one of the now very popular course sessions "meet the specialist", participants had the opportunity to ask any vaccine-related question or challenges faced on the ground. Some questions were on vaccine advocacy and introducing new vaccines: both questions pivotal to increasing vaccine uptake on the continent.

The course was presented by local and international experts in the field of vaccinology and immunology - from academia, industry and private practice. In closing the course, Prof. Hussey commented on the exceptional quality of the participants for the 2014 course. The participants were overwhelmingly positive in their feedback on the contents and structure of the training.



High-level visit to UCT HIV clinical trial sites on World AIDS Day

Visit coincides with launch of Phase 2 of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTPII) programme



EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Carlos Moedas

Prof Graeme Meintjes and Prof Robert Wilkinson at the CIDRI site

On World AIDS Day 1st December, the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor and the European Union Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Carlos Moedas, visited two clinical research sites involved in HIV research. The visits to the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation (DTHF) Youth Centre in Masiphumelele and the Clinical Infectious Diseases Initiative (CIDRI) clinical research site in Khayelitsha coincided with the launch of Phase 2 of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTPII).

Launched on the 2nd of December, EDCTPII is a €630 million program of European investment in Clinical trials and associated capacity development against HIV, Malaria, tuberculosis and other neglected diseases. The DTHF used the opportunity to exhibit its groundbreaking contribution to HIV research. Prof Linda-Gail Bekker, Chief of Operations at the DTHF, showcased how a previous grant from the EDCTP (SASHA study in 2009-2012) initiated a program in adolescent health and HIV prevention at the University of Cape Town's Desmond Tutu HIV Centre.

She spoke of the highly successful SASHA study that has provided critical data in preparation for biomedical prevention options. The study contributed to knowledge on the involvement and retention of adolescents in prevention research. More importantly, it underscored the value of research among adolescents, in both clinical and socio-behavioural research.

Amidst a lively day filled with games and entertainment, Minister Pandor took the opportunity to speak directly to the youth, kindly but firmly telling them that they have the choice to become an HIV free generation. Driving the message home in isiXhosa and English she reiterated the mantra of the Youth Centre: that youth must take

responsibility for their health and make healthy choices

In a more formal affair, Robert Wilkinson, Graeme Meintjes and members of the CIDRI team hosted the high-level delegation at CIDRI's clinical research site in Khayelitsha. Along with Commissioner Moedas, the event welcomed approximately 200 delegates, including African and European government representatives, major research funders, scientists, industry representatives and other experts in the field.

Delegates had an opportunity to see first-hand the important work that CIDRI is doing to tackle HIV-associated TB. CIDRI supports extensive research in Infectious Diseases, and one of its objectives is to improve clinical and laboratory research facilities. In addition to operating as a site for clinical research, the Khayelitsha Site B Community Health Clinic is one of the first in South Africa to successfully integrate HIV and TB healthcare services.

The event also provided an opportunity to discuss the role and strategic vision of the second EDCTP programme as well as explore possibilities for synergies with other international initiatives. EDCTPII will continue to promote the integration of national programmes of EDCTP European Member States and the development of a genuine partnership with African counterparts.

It was a day where research, science and innovation came together with young people who are collaborating to be the beneficiaries of these endeavours; building a healthier South Africa.

Mental Health Summit brings together civil society to engage journalists



Prof Crick Lund presenting at the Discovery Mental Health Summit

The take-home message presented to delegates by Centre for Public Mental Health Director, Prof Crick Lund, at the recent Mental Health Summit hosted by the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) in partnership with Discovery Health was that it makes economic sense for governments to invest in mental health care. Highlighting the burden of disease in South Africa, neuropsychiatric disorders are ranked 3rd after HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; there are also strong links between mental health problems and poverty.

Themed 'Making Mental Health Matter' the summit was aimed at the media to inform, update and help journalists to report on mental health issues. Prof Lund emphasised the importance of journalists reporting mental health research accurately, citing a recent example of a newspaper headline exaggerating the number of South Africans living with mental illness.

The international guest speaker was Stefan Hofmann, from Boston University. He was joined by other professionals in the field, as well as mental health service users who spoke of their personal experiences in seeking treatments and how they overcame their personal challenges. General topics of discussion included mental health issues, such as depression, social phobia, substance abuse, trauma and suicide and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

Mental illness and the stigma surrounding it, is a critical issue in South Africa, with one in three people suffering from a mental illness in their lifetime. According to the World Health Organisation, by 2020 mental illness will be the main burden of disease worldwide.

[Click here](#) to view the full presentation

Centre for Public Mental Health hosts leader in field of global mental health



The Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health recently hosted Prof Vikram Patel from the Centre for Global Mental Health. He gave a seminar titled "Rethinking mental health care - bridging the credibility gap". Prof Patel is also a PRIME Research Director.

Health workers highlight importance of health committees



Prof Leslie London speaking at the event

Health committees at public clinics are "critically important vehicles" for community participation in health, and provincial government should urgently pass legislation recognising these committees' roles and functions.

So said health workers from across the country in one of the resolutions made at the National Colloquium on Health Committees on 29 September 2014. A number of UCT academics joined colleagues from other institutions and sectors to discuss how communities could be best represented in South Africa's public health system.

Professor Leslie London of UCT's School of Public Health and Family Medicine opened the event, which brought together health professionals from academia, government, NGOs and community forums.

In particular, participants discussed how to make best use of health committees, which comprise the facility manager, ward councillor and community members, in building a health system that is responsive to the community's needs.

The colloquium was held in response to a number of factors that hindered the optimal functioning of these committees. Among these were a lack of clarity on their role and function, lack of clear mandates and a lack of support from the community and the state.

Professor Leslie London said the colloquium had two aims:

"One is to provide clarity on the roles of health committees, and the other is to identify the best way in which we can institutionalise health committees, in other words integrate them into the health system."

Delegates from civil society demanded that government provide the necessary resources for health committees to work optimally, as it is obligated to do so by the National Health Act. This includes human resource support, training, physical infrastructure, and reimbursement of costs.

The meeting also resolved that there must be participation by health committees and communities in developing regulations on health communities, and called for a tiered structure for participation from facility to national level that allowed for two-way communication.

A number of areas that needed more work were identified including; how best to support health committees with fundraising, inter-sectoral interventions that require co-operation from other government departments, the idea that participation is a matter of human rights, and putting in place monitoring and evaluation systems for health committees to formalise what a functional health committee is.

The colloquium was sponsored by the European Union Mission to South Africa as part of the EU's Strengthening of Primary Health Care Programme.

Getting doctors and nurses back on the road to health



Associate Professor Tony Westwood (Advocacy Committee, School of Child and Adolescent Health), Lori Lake, Dr Chris Scott, Professor Heather Zar (Head of Department of Paediatrics and Child Health) and Dr Rowan Dunkley at the launch of the Road to Health pledge campaign.

Keeping an accurate record of a young child's treatment is critical to their overall health.

That's why South Africans have the Road to Health. The book – issued at birth – provides a means for health workers to record and monitor a child's growth, development and clinical care including immunisations, Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, PMTCT (prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV), TB and HIV status, and any illness, treatment and hospital admissions. It also contains essential health promotion messages.

It's a powerful tool for promoting young children's optimal development, empowering parents and families, and enhancing comprehensive care and continuity of care. But it is rarely put to optimum use. Failures to keep an accurate record of treatment or to respond to persistent growth faltering can have fatal consequences.

In response to these challenges, the Advocacy Committee of the School of Child and Adolescent Health initiated a pledge campaign to put doctors, nurses and children back

on the road to health, formally launched at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital at the Department of Paediatrics Clinical Meeting on 15 October 2014.

The two-pronged campaign targets both health workers and children's caregivers. It includes a poster encouraging caregivers to ask about the Road to Health book, and a pledge by doctors and nurses to use the Road to Health book effectively.

Health workers should record the child's treatment and progress every time the child visits a clinic, doctor's rooms, or hospital. They should also use the Road to Health book to help caregivers make informed decisions so that they are better able to support their child's health and development.

In addition, the book is designed to enhance continuity of care, but it can only facilitate effective communication between clinicians if clinic, general practitioner, hospital and other visits are well documented.

Preventing violence against children – breaking the intergenerational cycle

South African Child Gauge 2014 is released

The ninth issue of The Children's Institute our popular annual review of the situation of South Africa's children was released recently in partnership with UNICEF South Africa, the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development in the Presidency, World Vision South Africa, the FNB Fund, and UCT's Safety and Violence Initiative.

The South African Child Gauge 2014 focuses on the theme of "Preventing violence against children – breaking the intergenerational cycle". It is accompanied by a poster, policy brief and child- and youth-friendly summary.

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Read about the Gauge series and access earlier issues

Over half of South Africa's children frequently experience some form of violence from a very early age. Violence against children has long-term consequences, which can be avoided by investing in prevention initiatives. While violence against children is widespread, South Africa lacks systematic research on the extent and range of experiences. The South African Child Gauge 2014 was recently released to contribute to this debate by providing evidence of successful violence prevention initiatives.

Published by the Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town (UCT), the ninth issue of this annual review of the situation of South Africa's children was produced in partnership with UNICEF, the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD) in The Presidency; World Vision South Africa; the FNB Fund; and UCT's Safety and Violence Initiative.

The only publication of its kind in the country, the 2014 issue focuses on the theme 'Preventing violence against children - breaking the intergenerational cycle'. Shanaaz Mathews, Director of the Children's Institute and the 2014 lead editor of the publication says that prevention programmes need to be designed to work in local settings, and such initiatives should be evaluated and the promising ones scaled up for maximum reach. Families especially have the potential to protect children from harm, and are the most influential socialising environment for children to learn values, norms and expected behaviour.

"The current epidemic of violence is a serious barrier to sustainable development; it undermines the fabric of society, affects productivity, well-being and prosperity", explains Hervé Ludovic De Lys, UNICEF's country representative. "The good news is that all forms of violence against children can be prevented and drastic change can happen by effectively tackling the issue from all angles and at all levels. It is possible to see a dramatic reduction in violence against children in a relatively short time by implementing the right strategies, allocating enough resources and mobilising the highest political will", says De Lys.

The book and an accompanying policy brief, poster and child-friendly summary can be downloaded from www.ci.org.za

Health and health care 20 years after Mandela - Dean's Open Forum



Prof David Sanders, Prof Bongani Mayosi, Director General Malebona Precious Matsoso, Prof Wim de Villiers and Assoc Prof Andrew Boulle

A special Dean's Open Forum hosted on 8 October focused on health and healthcare in South Africa 20 years after democracy. Prof Bongani Mayosi and Emeritus Prof Solly Benatar presented the main findings of their special article on the topic that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Emeritus Prof David Sanders

of the University of the Western Cape discussed the article and shared his viewpoint on it. The final contribution was made by the Director General of the National Department of Health Malebona Precious Matsoso.

Memorial lecture honours 'father of gastroenterology'

The inaugural Solly Marks Memorial Lecture was delivered by visiting Professor Eamonn Quigley recently.

Titled *The Gut Microbiota: Learning to know and understand our bacterial partners*, Quigley's lecture gave a perspective on his pioneering research to investigate the human microbiome in health and disease. The gut microbiome refers to the bacterial ecosystem in the gastrointestinal tract.

Among the guests at the memorial lecture were Marks' wife, Inge, his daughter, Karen Tolman (pictured with Quigley at the event) and sister Freda Davis.

UCT's Division of Gastroenterology created the visiting professorship, which sees a leading academic gastroenterologist invited to amongst others interact with young and mature counterparts regarding clinical and research aspects of the field.

Quigley is a specialist of considerable stature, who currently holds the David M Underwood Chair in Digestive Disorders and serves as the chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Weill Cornell Medical College in Houston, Texas. He is also a principal investigator at his alma mater, University College's Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre in Cork, Ireland.



Professor Eamonn Quigley and Prof Marks' daughter Karen

Faculty bids farewell to retirees after years of dedicated service



The Faculty recently held its annual function for retirees their families and their colleagues, where it honours staff for their long service and dedication to the Faculty. Each retiree received a gift from the Dean. Prof Alan Morris speaking on behalf of the retirees shared amusing anecdotes of his experience of UCT. This year there were 21 retirees:

- Emer Ass Prof Charles Swanepoel Division of Endocrinology & Diabetology
- Emer Ass Prof Stanley Ress Department of Medicine,
- Prof Alan Morris Department of Human Biology
- Prof Timothy Noakes MRC/UCT RU for Exercise & Sports Medicine
- Prof Raymond Abratt, Department of Radiation Medicine
- Dr Vicki Janse Van Rensburg Education Development Unit
- Prof George Swingler Dept. of Paediatrics & Child Health
- Dr GH Moller Division of Paediatric Medicine
- Dr MV Madden Division of General Surgery
- Dr Geeta Dua Dept of Child & Adolescent Health
- Mr HG Stuurman, Department of Anaesthesia
- Ms Y Blomkamp MRC/UCT RU for Exercise & Sports Medicine
- Mrs MP Mullins SATVI
- Mr MR Phillips Department of Human Biology
- Mrs SE Botha Division of Endocrinology & Diabetology
- Mrs Joan Tuff Dean's Office
- Ms SE Machutchon Health Economics Unit
- Miss El Nel Division of Radiation Oncology
- Mrs GS McKinnon Division of Immunology
- Ms NP Jansen Van Vuuren Department of Surgery
- Mr CMH Wildman Division of Paediatric Surgery
- Ms Jean Anderson Fermor Division of Communication Science & Disorders
- Ms S Nyembenza Department of Medicine
- Mr Cyril Keating Animal Unit
- Mr Clive Keating Animal Unit
- Mrs Julie Dudley, Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Mrs Jeanette van Rooyen Division of Otolaryngology

Health Sciences' students win big at Student Leadership awards

Most Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Council: Health Sciences Students' Council

The 2014 Health Sciences Students' Council, led by Tumiso Lenong, was recognised for providing the student body with numerous opportunities for growth and creating a visible presence in the faculty.

Praised for going beyond the call of duty in many instances, not least for securing a 24-hour study venue for students, the council also successfully negotiated with vendors for students to use meal vouchers throughout the day to buy food. This is a major convenience as it saves students from having to interrupt their schedules by returning to residences for meals.

The council also raised R20 000 for the transport distress fund that students can apply to if the curriculum requires them to visit areas around Cape Town. This is almost double the amount provided by the university.



The HSSC of 2013 – 2014 was awarded most outstanding undergraduate students' council

Most Outstanding Society Executive: UCT Surgical Society

The UCT Surgical Society came out ahead of 106 other student societies to take the award for the most outstanding society executive.

It's not surprising that their mission is to be the best society of its kind in the world – and the affirmation lent by the award supports this, says 2013/14 chairperson and final-year medical student Tinashe Chandauka.

"This is recognition that the health sciences faculty's students are helping the university become a world-class African institution that adds meaningfully to our continent and the globe."

The society hosts over 25 events annually for its 550 members, a tough ask on a limited budget. Among these are monthly lectures by pioneers in specialised fields, which top up students' skills development.

But the pinnacle of 2014 was a red-letter event: an international symposium for over a 100 international and local students, on behalf of the International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS).



The Surgical Society won most outstanding society executive

Successful research days encourage innovative research



Undergraduate Research Day

The 2014 annual Faculty of Health Sciences Undergraduate Research Day was held in October this year. The theme was "Growing future researchers".

"The research day is an occasion where the talents, skills and fruit of students' research are showcased and we are immensely proud of the hard work done", said Dr Virginia Zweigenthal (Chair) of the Organising Committee. There were a record number of entries for this year's event.

Prizewinners for the poster and presentation competition are: First prize: Amy Booth, Second prize: James van Duuren, Third prize: Elisheva Sacks. The poster winners are: First prize: Jarryd Lunn, Gracia Ngoie, Siphumelele Khuzwayo, Kumantha Naidoo, Nadia Khanyile Second prize: Haroon Moola Third prize: Gibwa Cole, Duncan Miller, Rory Simpson, Tasneem Ebrahim, Tannith Dreyden



Paediatrics Research Day

The Department of Paediatrics & Child Health held its annual research days on 28 and 29 October this year. Prof Heather Zar opened the event and Stellenbosch University Dean of Health Sciences Prof Jimmy Volmink delivered the keynote address titled "Reflections on inequalities in research capacity."



Department of Medicine Research Day

The Department of Medicine celebrated its 41st annual research day with a packed schedule which included the 6th Annual Jack Brock lecturer delivered by MRC President Prof Glenda Gray, the 36th Bernard Pimstone lecture delivered by Prof Valerie Mizrahi, as well as an exciting Red Carpet Session.

The Red Carpet Session saw graduate students interviewing academics and prominent researchers, Prof Keertan Dheda, Prof Nonhlanhla Khumalo, and Dr Dirk Blom on their various research initiatives.

Western Cape Provincial Health Research Day

At the recent Western Cape Provincial Health Research Day on the 26th of October, the Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health (CEOHR) poster *Innovative Translation of Pesticide Poisoning Research – from Algorithm to App*, attracted particular attention. The poster, co-authored by Associate Professor Andrea Rother, Professor Leslie London and Dr. Katya Evans from Emergency Medicine, presented innovative translation of research findings and was one of three posters selected from 11 submissions from the Health Sciences Faculty at UCT.

In 2014, after recognising the value of and using the algorithm in a Cape Town Emergency Centre, Dr. Katya Evans, Emergency Medicine Registrar and member of The Open Medicine Project, embarked on the process of adapting the tool to be included as a component of a mobile smartphone app.

Anatomy students honour cadavers in moving dedication ceremony

Bodies donated to UCT's anatomy laboratory for dissection by second-year medical students, are a vital part of medical education says Professor Graham Louw.

Louw was speaking at the cadaver dedication ceremony in the Student Learning Centre. Each year students honour the body donors and thank their families, often in song and verse. The observance provides what health sciences dean Professor Wim de Villiers called "a time of reflection and celebration".

Body donors - 'silent mentors' to students as they discover the intricacies of human anatomy - are a gift to the university and are treated with care and dignity, Louw told their families. "Respect and ethics are vital in training to be a doctor," added Professor Malcolm Collins, head of the Department of Human Biology. For many students it's a rite of passage, said De Villiers: their first confrontation with death.

Each cadaver is a mirror of a life: the appendectomy scar; the stainless steel pins in a bone; pacemakers; breast implants; prostheses; and synthetic lenses. "Every body has a story to tell," said Louw. The Faculty receives bodies from individuals through the UCT body donation programme, Somerset Hospital and other public entities. Half of the adult bodies donated are unclaimed: paupers, prisoners, and the homeless.

Louw paid tribute to them too. "We remember the people who came to us without an identity, without a name. They were marginalised by society, and at least today we can express gratitude that we were able to use their bodies and give them a dignified passing." Paradoxically, donors help improve quality of life.

"The donors make it possible for future doctors to understand anatomy; not just to learn it from a book, but to actually see the three-dimensional structure of the body - and this, even with all our modern technology, is critically important," said Collins. After the ceremony, a son whose mother had donated her body said to the students: "Thank you. You guys are the future and my mom would have been so proud of you."

In closing, De Villiers said that as part of their training, students were being hardwired to care for patients in a community, "part of a transformative experience". Body donors, he added, were examples of a 'good death': selfless, and with a greater cause in mind.





CMC ends off busy year with competition



Deputy Dean Dr Reno Morar with CMC representatives draw the names of winners

UCTs Conference Management Centre (CMC), now settled into its new offices in the Standard Bank Building on Main Road in Mowbray, has had a very busy 2014.

“During 2014 we coordinated over 65 conferences, workshops and seminars, more than half of which were organised in the Faculty of Health Sciences,” says CMC Director Deidre Raubenheimer. Speaking fondly of two of the CMC’s longest-standing events, she says that the annual GP Refresher Conference and the now biannual General Physicians Conference both took place this year.

“Working with the committees from The Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Medicine over the years has meant we’ve developed a great understanding of the conference, which helps us deliver a successful and enjoyable event for the committee, delegates and sponsors,” she adds.

Numerous returning clients also came from the Faculty. They have also been fortunate enough to work with many other UCT faculties and external organisations and companies. “It is great to know the reputation of the CMC is starting to spread across the University!” she says.

Their biggest event in 2014 was the 55th International Maths Olympiad (IMO), which took place in July. Around 560 teens from 109 nations participated in the gruelling tests that took place over two days – “and the CMC were there for every registration and every speaker!” she says.

Another focus for CMC this year was to develop a new

website and also offer an online platform for delegates to register for events. (www.uct-cmc.co.za). The CM has also made its presence known on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Looking to 2015, and beyond, the CMC hopes to engage with many more UCT departments and faculties and continue to grow its base of repeat business.

“If you are planning events for 2015 and beyond, we’d be delighted to hear from you”, says Deidre. As their motto says, ‘Your conference, our business’!

The winners of the CMC Quality Survey are:

The **1 night’s bed-and-breakfast for 2 at the Garden Court Nelson Mandela Boulevard** was won by:

Caroll Lakey

Student Systems & Support

The **1 night’s bed-and-breakfast for 2 at the Premier Hotel Cape Manor** was won by:

Maldwin Williams

Examinations Officer

