



# Faculty News

Faculty of Health Sciences

University of Cape Town

December 2012



*The Medical School, 1911*



*The Faculty of Health Sciences, 2012*

## Highlights

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Hot on the heels of celebrating our 100th birthday came the news that the Faculty is ranked among the top 50 worldwide.

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Interview with Alumnus and comedian, Riaad Moosa, keeps us in stitches.

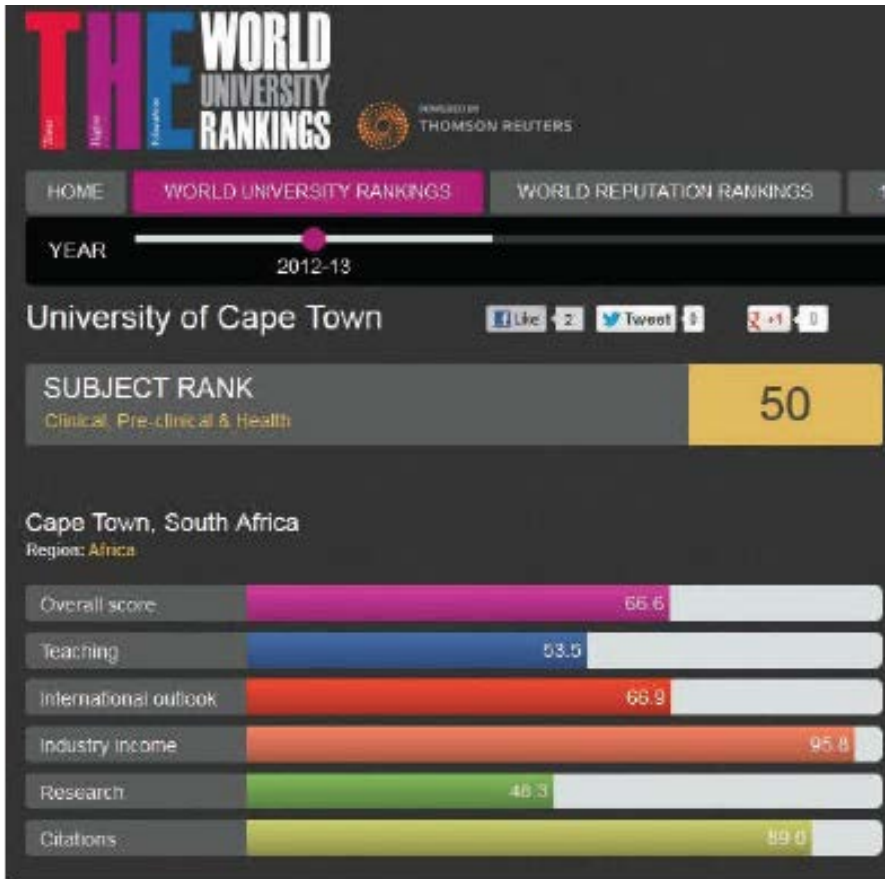
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Recent media coverage has raised debate about the relationship between diet and cardiovascular disease, specifically about the role played by cholesterol in the diet as a contributor to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in South Africa.



## Hamba kahle, Dean!

Professor Marian Jacobs, who has been at the helm of the Faculty for 7 years, retires at the end of 2012. Known for her feisty advocacy for social justice in health, her passion for the young, a great sense of humour and her love of fun, she leaves behind legendary memories for many in the Faculty, and will be sorely missed. A Monday Paper article on her Valedictory speech is on page 3....



# Health Sciences in TOP 50 World University Rankings

Hot on the heels of celebrating our 100th birthday came the news that the Faculty is ranked among the top 50 worldwide.

The 2012 *The Times Higher Education (THE)* World University Rankings rated us 50<sup>th</sup> amongst outstanding universities offering clinical and health subjects.

This affirms the Faculty's prominent global standing, and comes in the midst of our celebrating 100 years of excellence in health research, teaching and education. This is an enormous acknowledgement by

the Faculty's international peers of our outstanding performance in terms of teaching, international outlook, industry income, research and citations.

The ranking also places for the first time an African University amongst the top 50 health sciences faculties in the world, signalling an opportunity to further advance our teaching and research agenda to respond appropriately to the health needs of the continent and the rest of the developing world.

A few years ago, the Faculty set itself the goal of being ranked among the top 50 by 2020. That we achieved this in 5 years is phenomenal and can be

attributed to the hard work and dedication of so many of our current and former colleagues and students. We are privileged to have some of the world's leading scientists and academics work amongst us.

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# Dean of Health says adieu

Outgoing Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Prof Marian Jacobs thanked those who'd shaped her UCT career.

Her valedictory lecture, titled *Of Care and the Unconventional: The Retiree's Oath*, gave retiring Professor Marian Jacobs an opportunity to thank the many people and institutions who'd shaped her career and life.

These include, she listed, her family, her patients, her students, her academic and clinical teachers, her parents (her mother was one of her teachers, her father the school principal), writer Richard Rive (who was another of her school teachers), the unsung nurses she studied under at Somerset Hospital, countless community, health and political organisations, and a whole school of "informal teachers".

"All these informal teachers - outside the wall of the academy - taught me life lessons that have been foundational in my understanding of the world, education, and the political economy of health - an understanding that has also supported my own practice as a teacher and doctor."

It framed her work at UCT, where she had to negotiate the middle ground between the values of the oath taken in the faculty's graduating year, "as a community of colleagues, teachers and students", and the system of direct accounting used in performance management at the university. In establishing the master's programme in maternal and child health, for example, the faculty adopted some very unconventional practices ('students' became teachers, and teachers became learners), Jacobs recounted.

Similarly, the Children's Institute, which she had a key role in setting up as director, had purposely aimed to produce research not just accessible to fellow academics, but specifically to policymakers and the public.

Jacobs reserved her penultimate farewell to her students. "You are the reason I took the Dean's job," she told them.

## Memorable moments with the Dean





# Go well, retirees

## 2012 RETIREES - ACADEMIC STAFF

- Dr Lesley Henley, Research Directorate
- Prof Patric Commerford, Cardiology
- Prof Jonathan Myers, Public Health
- Prof Marian Jacobs, Dean: Health Sciences
- Prof Eric Bateman, Medicine
- Prof Zephne Van Der Spuy, Obs & Gynae
- A/Prof Doris Khalil, Nursing and Midwifery
- Prof Alastair Millar, Paediatric Surgery
- A/Prof Richard Barnes, Urology
- Prof Janet Seggie, General Medicine
- Prof Gail Todd, Dermatology
- Dr Farieda Desai, Paediatric Medicine
- Dr Peter Berman, NHLS
- Prof Mike James, Anaesthesia
- A/Prof Jake Krige, Surgery
- A/Prof Teddy Hoffman, Paediatric Surgery
- Dr George Draper, Paediatrics

- A/Prof Peter Gordon, Anaesthesia
- Mr Rauf Sayed, Public Health and Family Medicine
- Prof Shirley Pendlebury, Children's Institute
- Mr Jan Hough, Medical Physics
- Dr Jeanne Rousseau, Human Genetics
- Dr Solly Bhalla, Surgery

## 2012 RETIREES - PASS STAFF

- Mrs Helena Essel, Surgery
- Mrs Patricia Kelly, Dermatology
- Mrs Pamela Smorenburg, Gastroenterology
- Mrs Dorothy Wilmot, Radiation Oncology
- Mr Bruce Allan, Virology
- Mrs Patricia Cowie, Lipidology
- Mr Gerrie Maree, Medical Physics

We wish our 22 colleagues who are retiring a fond farewell.



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

**EMERITUS PROF LIONEL OPIE** has been awarded an honorary doctorate by Stellenbosch University - in the same ceremony where the former President of Mozambique was similarly honoured.

**PROF ROBIN WOOD** is obtaining his DSC (Med) at the December graduation, and his wife, **Linda Gail-Bekker**, has just been given full Professorship. The DSC(Med) is the highest possible degree offered at this university – higher than a PhD and based on seminal contribution to a particular discipline at global level. This is an exceptional achievement!

**PROF MPIKO NTSEKHE** in Cardiology has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology. This is a rare honour that is accorded to a select list of cardiologists who are international leaders in their fields. Here at UCT, he joins Professors Opie and Commerford, among others, as a Fellow.

**PROF ERIC BATEMAN** won the 2012 European Respiratory Society President's Award last week. This is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a pulmonologist by the European Respiratory Society.

**PROF LYNETTE DENNY** was the winner of the Extraordinary Service to Medicine Award Category in the 2012 South African Medical Association Awards on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The award recognises the outstanding achievements of doctors and specialists in their respective fields from both the public and private sectors.

In order to qualify for the award, the recipient must have demonstrated, amongst others the following attributes:

- An iconic international footprint
- In the pursuit of his or her ideals, the individual may have been detained, interrogated, tortured or incarcerated.
- In the most prestigious instances, reserved for the ultimate human effort an individual has sacrificed his or her own life in the cause of humanitarian service.

Academic accolades





# Congratulations!

## NEW posts & positions

### New heads

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE

Prof Mohamed Jeebhay

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT AND CHAIR OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Professor Lynette Denny

PROFESSOR OF PULMONOLOGY AND HEAD OF DIVISION OF PULMONOLOGY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE Professor Keertan Dheda

HELEN AND MORRIS MAUBERGER CHAIR OF CARDIOLOGY AND HEAD OF DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Professor Mpiko Ntseke

CHARLES FM SAINT CHAIR OF PAEDIATRIC SURGERY Professor Alp Numanoglu

HEAD OF ANAESTHESIA

Professor Justiaan Swanevelder

HEAD OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE

Professor Mohamed Jeebhay

HEAD OF DERMATOLOGY

Associate Professor Nonhlanhla Khumalo

### Ad hominem promotions

Professor

Linda-Gail Bekker  
Susan Fawcus  
Arieh Katz  
Malcolm Collins  
Tania Douglas  
Lauriston Kellaway

Assoc. Professor

John Lazarus  
Ambroise Wonkam  
Jo-Ann Passmore

Senior Lecturer

Debbie Ockhuis

### Newest UCT A-rated academic

Professor Heather Zar, Head: Department of Paediatrics, has been named the latest UCT A-rated scientist, the culmination of more than a decade of work to develop strategies to improve child health.

# Health Sciences students *do* ROCK



Tears, cheers, hugs and dancing at the FHS annual Final Year Results **bash** on 27 November is how many graduates will remember this occasion. Loud music and the presence of lecturers, family and friends heightened the anticipation. As is customary, the Dean announced the results from the balcony above the student plaza. And the wait was worth it, with the Dean announcing 100% pass rates for the MBChB, Speech Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy programmes. Gold medallists, with outstanding results for the various discipline,s were also announced.



New Health Sciences graduates cheer their lecturers and families in appreciation of their support at the Undergraduate graduation ceremony on 12 December.

## 2012 graduation facts

### UNDERGRADUATES

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MBChB 182      PHYSIOTHERAPY 40

### COMMUNICATION SCIENCES

*Speech Language Pathology* 24

*Audiology* 11

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

*Occupational Therapy* 40

### POSTGRADUATES

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Diplomas: 155

Honours: 76

Masters: 77

PhD: 27

DSc: 1

Total graduating in December: 336

Total graduating in 2012 (June & December): 442

Doctorates for 2012: 40



# Centenary HAPPENINGS

As centenary activities come to an end, we highlight a few since 6 June

## Health Sciences immortalised on film

One hundred years ago, UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences opened its doors to groom the next generation of medical professionals.

To commemorate its centenary - part of a long programme of celebrations throughout the year - a short film, entitled, "The UCT Faculty of Health Sciences at 100" - documenting the faculty's evolution - was produced to reflect on its captivating past, present and future. Revealing interviews with its oldest known living graduate, veteran academics and ambitious current students paint a picture of an institution that has negotiated a tumultuous political climate to consistently attract and produce students and staff of the highest calibre; one that can be proud of its many cutting-edge research advancements.

Guests at the film's launch on 28 November journeyed with the faculty from its original Hiddingh Campus home that it quickly outgrew to its current Observatory base, through to the dark days of apartheid bigotry that was punctuated by world class innovation, spearheaded by Dr Christiaan Barnard's pioneering heart transplant. It was an era, explained the dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Marian Jacobs, that witnessed the "juxtaposition of world with the worst in humanity".

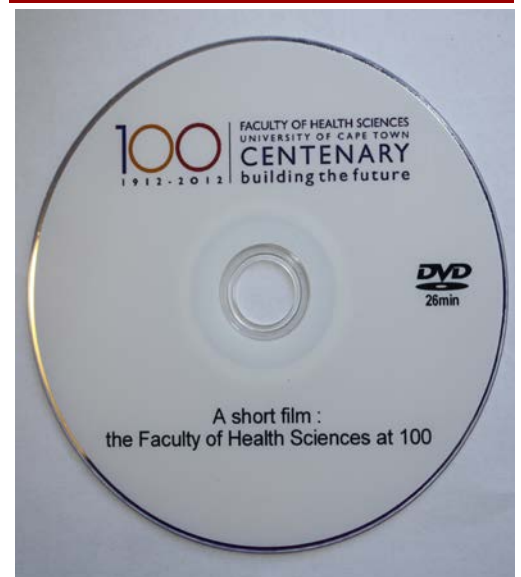
The film also speaks about the transformation that has taken place over the past 100 years, not only in the demographics, the curriculum, and in growing peer status worldwide, but also the integration of the allied health sciences encompassed in the move from being a Medical School to a Faculty of Health Sciences, and the adoption of the Primary Health Care approach based on a philosophy of social justice in healthcare.

Rich with insights from the faculty's esteemed academics and knowledgeable students, the documentary, much to Jacobs' delight, captures the essence of the faculty in terms of its cutting-edge research, excellent teaching and rich innovation, with a committed focus to responding to the health needs of the country and beyond.

The film was produced by UCT's Centre for Film and Media Studies (CFMS). So successful was the partnership between the faculty and the CFMS that the latter's director, Professor Ian Glenn, observed that he was "keen to keep the collaboration going".

Here's to the next 100 years of excellent medical academia, during which Jacobs said, "I will be watching from above and cheering".

The Faculty of Health Sciences's short film gives viewers an inside look at one of Africa's leading medical research and teaching institutions.



Acknowledgements: Monday Paper



# Some Centenary activities since June

## INAUGURAL WOLFSON MEMORIAL COLLOQUIUM



### BUILDING THE FUTURE

As we stand on the threshold of a new era, we must strengthen our capacity to respond appropriately to the health needs of our country and our continent by expanding our teaching and training platform, revitalising our research programmes, and seeking ways to contribute to securing universal access to quality health care across the world.

To meet this commitment, we will engage with our health partners and our alumni to help mobilise resources for growing the Faculty into the next century in order to sustain our rich legacy of advancing health.

There is no better time for us to reflect on our past, celebrate our achievements, and strengthen our commitment to building a future to benefit the people of South Africa and beyond.

www.health.uct.ac.za  
Enquiries: +27 21 406 6686



## ALUMNI APPEAL



CENTENARY COIN SET

## WALK OR RUN FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

SUNDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2012

FHS STUDENTS AND STAFF...

Fancy yourself as a **RUNNER OR WALKER** of note – OR NOT?

Want to enjoy some exercise and contribute to a good cause?



ENTER NOW!

**2012 MEDICAL 10**  
(10km run or walk)

OPEN TO ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND STAFF AND STUDENTS OF FHS IN HONOUR OF OUR CENTENARY

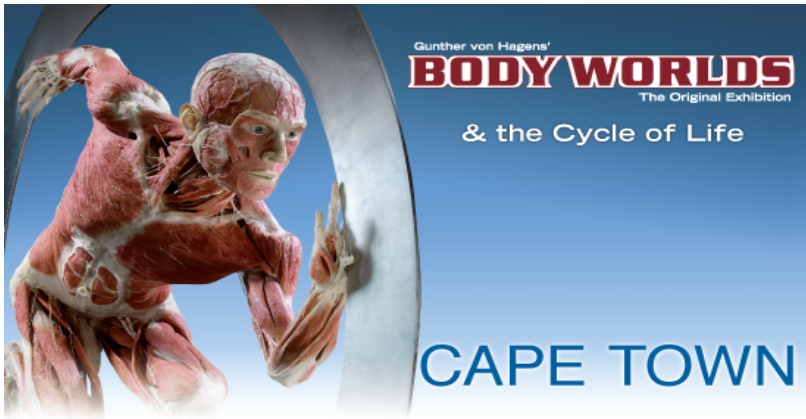
ENTRIES CLOSE 11 NOVEMBER 2012

YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT FHS STUDENTS IN NEED!

HALF OF ALL PROFITS WILL BE DONATED BY THE ORGANISERS TO THE FACULTY'S STUDENTS-IN-DISTRESS FUND

ENTRY FORMS + DETAILS AVAILABLE FROM UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE





As part of the celebrations for the Centenary of the Faculty of Health Sciences, we formed a partnership with Blue Ocean Exhibitions and anatomist Dr Gunther von Hagens to be part of the African Première of Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town from 31 October, 2012, for a period of four months.

The exhibition has been shown in more than 70 cities throughout the world and seen by over 35 million people and is having widespread appeal among South African and international audiences.

Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life is an anatomical exhibition that has an established body donation programme and the informed legal consent of all those on display. It includes more than 200 plastinates — specimens preserved through ‘plastination’, which is a process of preserving human tissue invented in 1977 by Dr von Hagens. Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life is the original ground-breaking anatomical exhibition by the trailblazing scientist, Dr Gunther von Hagens and shows the complexity, resilience and vulnerability of the human body through anatomical studies of the body in distress, disease and optimal health.

Visitors to Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life witness the arc of ageing — the body living through time from the spark of conception to old age — refracted through the latest findings in longevity and ageing science. “The older I get, the more I realise that death is normal and that it is life that is exceptional” said Dr von Hagens, “I hope this exhibition will encourage people to strive to live with inspiration every day throughout their lives.”

Blue Ocean Exhibitions says: “The Body Worlds series has always intrigued and proved irresistible to the public. This exhibition will no doubt become one of Cape Town’s must see attractions this summer and will appeal to everyone who is interested in knowing how their body works. We believe this is probably the biggest exhibition of this scale ever to hit African shores so we’re enormously proud to be able to work with Dr von Hagens and Body Worlds in bringing it to Cape Town.”

The Department of Human Biology of the Faculty of Health Sciences worked alongside the Inspector of Anatomy and the Department of Health of the Western Cape Government in order to ensure that permission was obtained to enable the exhibits to be on display for the general public. **The official logo of the Faculty appears on the bottom left hand corner of the posters and brochures advertising this exhibition.**



BY DR GRAHAM LOUW

## Some Centenary ACTIVITIES since June

### Celebrating a Public-Private Partnership



CEO of Fresenius Medical Care, Brian Prinsloo (far-right), and his regional representative (far left), flank UCT's Tasmien Mack, Prof Charles Swanepoel of UCT and FMC, Sinegugu Duma (Head: Nursing Division, and Programme Co-ordinator, Debbie Ockhuis.

### Postgraduate Diploma in Nephrology Nursing a model of Public-Private Partnership

A cocktail reception hosted by the Dean, Professor Marian Jacobs, on 11 December acknowledged the generous contribution of Fresenius Medical Care towards the development of the Postgraduate Diploma in Nephrology Nursing. Mr Brian Prinsloo, CEO of Fresenius Medical Care, confirmed the company's ongoing support for the programme, which he believes is contributing to building capacity to address a growing need in the country.

Fresenius Medical Care (FMC), based in Germany, is a leading world class dialysis product and service provider for patients in End Stage Kidney Disease.

In 2007, Nephrology Consultant Associate Professor Charles Swanepoel and Associate Professor Sinegugu Duma, Acting Head of UCT Division of Nursing and Midwifery began a dialogue with the Faculty of Health Science regarding the need for establishing a Postgraduate Diploma in Nephrology Nursing. The establishment of the pathway proposal was approved by UCT and South Africa Nursing Council. 2010 was the pioneer year of the Postgraduate Diploma in Nephrology Nursing, with an intake of seven students. Interest in the course has grown steadily with 10 students in 2011 and 18 registered in 2012.

The establishment of the Postgraduate Diploma in Nephrology Nursing was warmly received by the Multidisciplinary team members of the Nephrology Setting: Renal Registrars, Consultants and Renal Surgeons, Dieticians, Social Worker, Transplant Co-ordinators and staff of the various specialty of Haemodialysis, OPD, Peritoneal Dialysis and Transplant. They gladly teach in the programme, making a significant contribution to the knowledge level of the students.

Professor also Jacobs announced that a venue is to be named after Fresenius Medical Care as an acknowledgement of their contribution.

Acknowledgement: DEBBIE OLCKHUIS





## Interview keeps us in STITCHES!

student at UCT. He chats to **Faculty News** about being on stage, medicine and the Long Walk To Freedom.

**Faculty News (FN):** What made you want to initially study medicine?

**Riaad Moosa (RM):** Both my parents are doctors. For as long as I can remember I wanted to do medicine and emulate my folks. Even though the comedy has seemingly taken over, I still have the sincere intention to continue with medicine in some form. I'm pretty sure my folks would also like to see that, even though they support my comedy career. My father always used to say to me that I could do anything I want to do as long as I become an orthopaedic surgeon first...

**FN:** How did you come to realise that you had a talent for comedy? Why did you end up studying medicine and not further this talent at the time?

**RM:** I've always had an inclination for mimicry and the performance arts, but I never imagined following this as a career path. I always wanted to do medicine and still do. The comedy crept up insidiously. I started doing it after 4th year

medicine as a hobby. Over the years I nurtured both fields, obviously concentrating on the medicine. You can't do well in exams saying, "I don't know how to treat your pancreatitis, but do you want to hear a joke? You know they say laughter is the best medicine..." While doing my internship and community service, I started doing bigger shows and over a period of two years the opportunities in the comedy world opened up. I followed the path of least resistance and find myself here at this point doing comedy and movies without having planned to do so. Ideally I'd like to do both. My show KEEPING YOU IN STITCHES is an aim at bridging the fields. I'm able to use my comedy to raise funds for medical education.

**FN:** At what point did you decide that you wanted to make the change from medicine to comedy and were your friends and family supportive? Did they ever encourage you to get a "proper" job?

**RM:** There was never a moment when I had to confront my parents and say, "Mom, Dad...I just wanna

be FUNNY!" There was very little objections and concern to it because it happened insidiously. I guess, my parents understood that this was a path that took over my life as opposed to me specifically aiming to follow it. One advantage

in doing the comedy is that I never received applause when I did medicine. I've never had a person spontaneously start clapping after a consultation, "That was an AMAZING prostate exam doctor. Do you have any DVD's of your prostate exams?"

**FN:** Gynae or Pysch, if you had to choose? (any area you would have likely specialized in?)

**RM:** Neither. Firstly, everything related to woman is overtaken by men. Even the words...It's MENarche, MENstruation...'GUY'- naecology. It's even a 'HIS'terectomy - it should be a HERterectomy...I'm not going to

join in. With regards to psychiatry, I remember doing my rotation at Valkenberg and finding it difficult to

distinguish between the patients and the doctors.

**FN:** How did your friends and lecturers take your comedy while at UCT, any pranks in the labs, etc?

**RM:** I was very quiet and serious at Med school. I did do shows at some of the Medics functions, but by and large was not too extroverted.

**FN:** Your first feature film "Material" received widespread reviews and praise.

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# Diet and cardiovascular disease



... we are committed to exploring the evidence in this area and commit to hosting a more detailed scientific dialogue with the protagonists in this debate in the near future.

## Centenary debate

A debate was held on 6 December between Professor Tim Noakes and Dr Jacques Rossouw. Over 1200 watched the debate at the venue and via live streaming.

Presenter's slides are available on [www.health.uct.ac.za](http://www.health.uct.ac.za). A video recording of the debate will be uploaded shortly. Check the Faculty website for progress on this.

### Letter to the Editor, Cape Argus:

Recent media coverage has raised debate about the relationship between diet and cardiovascular disease, specifically about the role played by cholesterol in the diet as a contributor to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in South Africa.

This debate has been aired within the University of Cape Town and in the media. While we welcome differences of opinion, tested in open debate, the Faculty of Health Sciences wishes to make clear the following point in response:

The current debates are being voiced by individual members of the faculty, and do not reflect any official faculty or university position with regard to the debate. Scientific progress is made possible by such engagement, and we encourage open debate based on available evidence.

However, for patients, the debate might appear to be confusing, since eminent experts appear to be contradicting each other. The nature of creating new knowledge will always involve grappling with uncertainty and interpreting scientific data to the best of one's scientific ability. For that reason, it would perhaps help readers

consult the Website of the SSISA ([www.sissa.com](http://www.sissa.com)) which provides a balanced and evidenced-based opinion about the risks from cholesterol in the diet. The existing balance of scientific opinion remains in favour of reducing cholesterol in the diet as a key preventive measure with regard to cardiovascular disease. Though it is important to continuously challenge our existing understanding by reviewing new scientific findings, the current balance of evidence does not, at the current point, constitute more than a hypothetical argument warranting changing the training received by our students or the health promotion advice our practitioners give to their patients. However, we are committed to exploring the evidence in this area and commit to hosting a more detailed scientific dialogue with the protagonists in this debate in the near future. Should the evidence point to the need to rethink our approach to preventive measures to reduce the risk of coronary artery disease, UCT will definitely take the lead in ensuring our teaching is attuned to the most recent and reliable evidence.

**Professor Marian Jacobs**

**Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences**

# Impacting BEYOND

## Health Economics Professor to advise international body on health policy

'Your selection attests to fantastic academic achievements and leadership in health economics, and the impact these have had on health in SA, Africa and throughout the global south.'

A senior colleague congratulating  
Prof McIntyre

Professor Di McIntyre has been selected as a foreign associate to the National Academy of Sciences', Institute of Medicine (IOM) in Washington, DC. IOM members provide policy advice on health issues.

Being selected as an IOM member is considered one of the highest honours in the health and medicine fields because the organisation recognises individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

There are 1,700 members and foreign associates and Professor McIntyre was one of 70 new members and 10 foreign associates to be named during the IOM's 42nd annual meeting.

Professor McIntyre is based at UCT's Health Economics Unit in the School of Public Health and is the SA Research Chair in 'Health and Wealth'. She also serves on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on National Health Insurance.

She founded the Health Economics Unit in 1990 and was its director for 13 years. In addition to general technical support activities in South Africa and other African countries, she has served on a number of policy committees. She also chaired the Minister of Health's Medicine Pricing Committee from its establishment in 2003 until 2008. Over the last couple of decades, her reputation as a credible researcher offering evidence-based policy advice in health care financing has flourished. She will be drawing on this expertise to work on pressing public health issues for the IOM.



## H3Africa – a multi-country collaboration to improve health in Africa

The inaugural research grant to the Human, Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium (H3Africa) to support genomic studies in Africa.

The University of Cape Town is proud to be a recipient, along with several African institutions, of an inaugural research grant to the Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium (H3Africa) to support genomic studies in Africa. This project is intended to improve the health of Africans through the study of genomics and environmental determinants of common diseases. The H3Africa initiative will help develop expertise among African scientists, foster increased collaboration among African investigators, enhance the

infrastructure for genomics research in Africa, and contribute to the training of the next generation of African researchers in the use of contemporary genomic approaches in the study of important health problems.

Nine principal investigators, representing twenty-two African countries, will collaborate on the project with the National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust. From the University of Cape Town, the project will be led by Faculty of Health Sciences' Principal Investigators, Prof Bongani Mayosi, Head of the Department of Medicine and Assoc Prof Nicola Mulder, Computational Biology Group, Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine.

More information on the H3Africa initiative can be found at:

<http://www.h3africa.org/>.



This project is intended to improve the health of Africans through the study of genomics and environmental determinants of common diseases.

# Health Sciences students keep ROCKING!

## First graduates of intercalated programme set to revitalise clinical research

*A group of four pioneering students will graduate with honours degrees in December as part of their intercalated MBChB/medical research studies, funded by Boehringer Ingelheim South Africa (BISA).*

In finance and investment they would probably call it 'diversifying your portfolio'.

In the Faculty of Health Sciences, they call it an intercalated degree, which allows a select group of students - they have to be picky, because the programme is so demanding - to squeeze in honours and PhD research degrees while working on their MBChB degrees. This is part of the faculty's plan - ie the UCT Clinical Scholar Programme, funded by a Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Award and led by Professor Arie Katz and Professor Bongani Mayosi - to jog the production of clinical scientists over the coming years.

The faculty took their cue from European and US models, and a 2010 study by the Academy of Science of South Africa titled *Report on Revitalisation of Clinical Research in South Africa*.

Come the December graduation ceremonies, four of the five students who signed up for the inaugural Clinical Scholars Programme in 2011 will graduate from step two of the intercalated degree.

Step two - following on from step one, a course in molecular medicine that they had to include in the third year of their MBChB studies - is an honours degree known as BSc (Med) Hons, which Valmy Craffert, James Francis, Jacob Hoffman and Vinasha Ramasamy have now wrapped up. While there had been concerns that the students wouldn't have the background in biological sciences for this honours degree, the four finished the course with aplomb - three managing first-class passes, the fourth scoring an upper second.

Craffert and Hoffman were the best students of the BSc (Med) Hons programmes.

To do this degree, the four had taken a year's break from their medical degree. For 2013, Craffert, Francis and Hoffman will return to their MBChB studies, choosing to put off part three of the intercalated degree, a three-year PhD, until after graduating. But the research bug has bit Ramasamy, who had chosen to leave medical studies and go for a master's degree, and thereafter, doctoral studies.

## VC's AWARDS

The Award for the **Most Outstanding Student Leader in a Postgraduate Faculty Council** - LUKE KANNEMEYER

Chairperson of the Health Science Students' Council, has worked tirelessly to improve career development for postgraduate students in his faculty and managed to secure sponsorship to refurbish the beloved Medical Alumni Club.

The Award for the **Most Outstanding Student Leader in a Society** - SEAN TROMP

Chairperson of the UCT Surgical Society, is the leader of a large organisation that is managed with enviable efficiency.

"The top performance of the medical students in BSc (Med) Hons vindicates the proposers of this programme," says Katz, "and are a testament that the intercalated BSc (Med) Hons/MBChB programme will generate the future clinician-scientists that will lead and revitalise clinical research in SA."

The numbers are proof of that. Five students who did the molecular medicine course in the third year of their MBChB studies in 2012 have signed up for the BSc (Med) Hons degree in 2013, and over a dozen have applied for the intercalated programme for next year, hoping to kick-start their dual careers with the selfsame molecular medicine course.

Acknowledgements: Monday Paper

## undergraduate

The Faculty of Health Sciences held its 6th Undergraduate Research Day on Thursday 18 October 2012. The event is designed to showcase student research conducted over the past year. It brings together students from both the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and the MBChB programmes. Research conducted is either self-initiated or part of the course work for various curricula.

"We want to promote a spirit of enquiry and an enthusiasm for research amongst our undergraduate students" says Deputy Dean of Research, Professor Karen Barnes. "This fits in well with UCT's ethos of being a research-led university, as well as the Faculty's goal of producing well rounded professionals whose experience in research will encourage them to practice evidence-based health care," she adds.

This year the 12 studies were orally presented and a record 14 posters were showcased. These were selected from 34 entries assessed by a scientific panel of senior staff members in the Faculty. Judges for the day were clinical, basic science, health and rehabilitation and public health academics. Prizes were awarded for the best three oral presentations and poster presentations:

### Awards for poster presentations were given to:

1. Alessandro Aldera, "The incidence and determinants of post-operative infection in posterior distraction osteogenesis for the treatment of craniosynostosis" (R3000)
2. Kopano Malebo, "The contribution made by physiotherapy students on the rehabilitation platform in the Cape Town Metropolitan area" (R2000)
3. S'bongiseni Mashinini, "Understanding barriers to health education: an observation of the efficacy of epilepsy health talks, support groups and information materials." (R1000)

### Oral Presenters awards were given to:

1. Sarah Murless and Catherine Janari, "The Predictors of Glycaemic Control in Children and Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes, as indicated by HbA1c levels, in a population of patients from a Diabetes Clinic in Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa" (R4000)
2. Luigina Del Fava, Vera-Genevey Hlayisi, Jessica Joko, Pulane Jonkomane, Nandipha Magxala, Amanda Mbaso, "A retrospective survey review of the hearing status in hospitalized patients with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis receiving ototoxic medication" (R3000)
3. Moratoa Joale and Luke Kuttschreuter, "Male Health-seeking Behaviour in Mitchell's Plain" (R2000)

The project was driven by Undergraduate Research Day Chair: Dr Virginia Zweigenthal, and Undergraduate Research Day Organiser and contact person: Ms Carlette Hlungwani.

Acknowledgements: CARLETTE HLUNGWANE

## Research days

## postgraduate



On 20 November, the Health Sciences Postdoctoral Association (HSPDA) held its inaugural Postdoctoral Research Day as part of the Faculty Centenary Celebrations. Postdoctoral Fellows from throughout the University were invited to participate, with the aim of increasing awareness of the research being carried out by postdocs in other Faculties and encouraging further academic interaction between UCT postdocs. As a result, the audience of approximately 170 people, comprising postgraduate students and staff members as well as postdocs, was treated to a selection of presentations that covered topics ranging from Astronomy and Chemistry to Zoology and Immunology. We were particularly fortunate to have had the opportunity to host our three distinguished plenary speakers, Emeritus Prof. Wieland Gevers (IIDMM, UCT), Prof. Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan (Zoology, UCT) and Prof Robert Millar (IIDMM, UCT), all of whom delivered excellent lectures centred around the theme of how to succeed as a postdoc in academia. The Faculty of Health Sciences, together with the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, sponsored a very generous sum of R12000 prize money for the top three presentations in both the oral and poster categories (see below), which were decided upon by a selection of academics from within the Faculty. Overall, the event was a great success that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and we look forward to holding the next one in 2014.

**Oral:** 1<sup>st</sup> place (R4000) – Dr Susan Cunningham, Dept of Zoology; 2<sup>nd</sup> place (R2000) – Dr Reyna Deeya Ballim, Dept of Human Biology; 3<sup>rd</sup> place (R1000) – Dr Anna Coussens, IIDMM

**Poster:** 1<sup>st</sup> place (R2500) – Dr Pauline van der Watt (Div. of Medical Biochemistry); 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Dr Jacqueline Bracher (Div. of Medical Biochemistry); 3<sup>rd</sup> place (R1000) – Dr Serah Kimani (Dept of Molecular and Cellular Biology)

Acknowledgements: JO ANNE EVANS



# Welcome back, ALUMNI



The past five weeks have seen the influx of alumni from around the globe to the Faculty. Reunions in the Classes of 1962, 1972, 1987, 1997 and 2002 have celebrated with a 3-day programme.

The reunion programme includes registration on the Friday, followed by lunch in the MAC Club after which tours of the medical school and Heart of Cape Town Museum are conducted. Events on Saturday varied from a tour of the Bo-Kaap with lunch in a local restaurant to academic meetings in the Wolfson Pavilion, followed by lunch. The highlight of the weekend is the gala dinner which is held at Smuts Hall. The programme culminates with a tour and picnic in Kirstenbosch Gardens on the Sunday.

The reunions have increased in popularity over the years with approximately 50-60 doctors attending.



## Ernie's long-service SURPRISE

Ernie Dudley, from Faculty ICTs, was surprised by the Dean in honour of his long-service to UCT. Called to a meeting in her Boardroom, she surprised him with cake and tea and a bunch of flowers.

He has been working at UCT for 15 years, and graduates on Friday 14 December with an Honours in Information Science, before jetting off on a much-deserved holiday with his family to the USA and Canada.

Always game for a good cause, Ernie shaved his head and had the remainder left on his face sprayed green for cancer awareness, much to the amusement of colleagues.

... RIAAD MOOSA INTERVIEW CONTINUED FROM P12

## Interview keeps us in STITCHES

What was the change like from stage to camera?

**RM:** It was quite a challenge, as I have never acted dramatically before. The advice you receive from directors is weird. You ask them for advice on how to act they say, "just be real, don't ACT." And the advice works. In no other discipline, does that work. Excuse me, how do I swim? They can't say, "Don't swim". You'll drown.

**FN:** You're in London at the moment, how does the UK (international) comedy scene differ to back home?

**RM:** Just the references and what resonate with them. People all over the world laugh in the same way. You just need to talk about what's relevant to them.

**FN:** Anything you do before a show to get into character?

**RM:** Nope. Just say, "Bismillah" and

hope for the best.

**FN:** Your new show "Keeping you in

Stitches" opens in November, tell us a bit about it?

**RM:** My father, Dr NA Moosa (Orthopaedic and Hand surgeon), is

involved with Rondebosch Medical Centre and Hospital, which has decided to sponsor a show on 17 November to

raise funds for the UCT Department of Family Medicine's community projects. In this way I can use my comedic ability to support health initiatives.

I'll be performing along with three of Cape Town's finest comics - Conrad Koch, Stuart Taylor and Kurt Schoonraad.

**FN:** You're in the business of making others laugh, what makes you laugh?

My kids. My 4 yr. old son approached me the other day and said, "Daddy, I need to pee." I said, "Zameer, its' better manners to

say wee." He replied, " OK Daddy, WE need to pee."

**FN:** Going forward - any projects on the cards, what can your fans expect?

**RM:** I'll be appearing in the LONG WALK TO FREEDOM movie (based on the autobiography of Nelson Mandela) playing Ahmed Kathrada. The movie should be released next year some time.

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