

A+ for Kit Vaughan

Congratulations are in order as Prof Kit Vaughan has been re-awarded an A-rating by the National Research Foundation.

Prof Vaughan received a letter from the Foundation on 27 January, confirming that he has been placed in the A category at level A2, and that the rating is valid until the end of 2014.

The A category is defined by the Foundation as: "Researchers who are unequivocally recognized by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs."

Stop press!

The inaugural lecture of Professor Karen Barnes, of the Division of Pharmacology in the Department of Medicine, takes place on Wednesday 18 February 2009 at 17.30 in the Student Learning Centre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences. Her topic is: *A quest without borders: Improving malaria treatment in policy and practice.*

Health and human rights training



The delegates of the Train-the-Trainer course convened by the School of Public Health and Family Medicine.

In January, the Health and Human Rights Programme in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine hosted its 10th annual Train-the-Trainer course in Health and Human Rights.

Convenor, Prof Leslie London, explains: "The course targets teaching staff who train health professionals, to assist them in introducing human rights into their own teaching curricula. This year, there were 16 participants from universities in South Africa (including UCT, and the Universities of Stellenbosch and

the Western Cape), from local NGOs and from other African countries; including Zimbabwe, Burundi, Botswana, Swaziland and Cameroon."

Since the inception of the Train-the-Trainer programme in 1998, more than 200 participants have been trained; and this critical mass has contributed to the Health Professions Council of South Africa's extension of graduate competencies to include human rights and has also contributed to building partnerships across Africa through affiliates of the

International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organizations (IFHHRO). The organization has sponsored the participation of five delegates from several African countries this year.

"The course is unique in providing post-secondary educators with the knowledge, skills, material and educational support to integrate human rights into health professional training in both formal and informal ways," he added.

The programme is scheduled to run again in the first half of 2010.

DEAN'S CORNER

A belated Happy New Year to all of you—may this year bring all that you have hoped for and more!

Looking back on 2008, it was a challenging year, but one that we can agree was full of achievements, from successful academic reviews to student results. Looking ahead to 2009, there is no doubt that we will face more challenges; after all, it wouldn't be our Health Sciences Faculty without them!

Some of our challenges include managing our finances in what seems to be an ever-increasingly downward economic spiral and our relationships with provincial and national health structures—sometimes rewarding, many times fraught with tension and conflict. It remains a

reality that we partner with government structures to meet our goals, so I urge you to persevere with them this year and continue to build these important relationships.

Our new Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price, envisions UCT as an Afropolitan university, reaching out to the countries of Africa to share our knowledge and also to learn from educational institutions across our continent. I am proud to say that our Faculty has already made inroads into Africa. One of the major projects currently underway is the Namibia Heart Project; at its core, the establishment of a cardiology unit in Namibia.

It is impossible to analyse our outreach in Africa without considering the situation in Zim-

babwe. This week, the VC issued a statement to the media, condemning Robert Mugabe and his government for the state of health structures in the country and calling for his government to allow international non-governmental organizations immediate access to alleviate the suffering of the people of Zimbabwe. As a Faculty, we add our voices to this appeal.

Back within our borders, indeed within our walls, there is a strong focus on leadership within the Faculty in 2009; more specifically developing and nurturing this pivotal aspect of our business.

If you have any suggestions or constructive comments, please email them to the editor, Melanie.Jackson@uct.ac.za.

Publication of the Month

Our Faculty is challenged to engage with issues surrounding global health, which is the focus of this month's featured publication.

Macfarlane SB, Jacobs M, Kaaya EE (2008) "In the name of global health: trends in academic institutions", *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 29: 383-401.

Marian and her colleagues, Sarah Macfarlane from San Francisco and Ephata Kaaya from Dar es Salaam, describe the accelerating development of programmes in global health, particularly in North American academic

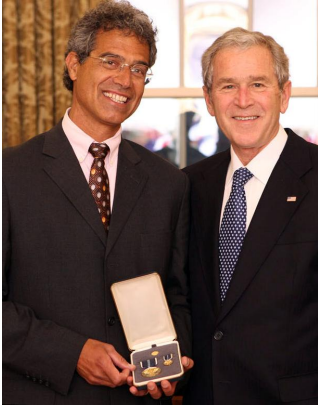


institutions, and set this phenomenon in the context of earlier programmes in tropical medicine and international health that originated in

Europe. If global health is about the improvement of health worldwide, the reduction of disparities, and protection of societies against global threats, it is essential that academic institutions reach across geographic, cultural, economic, gender and linguistic boundaries to develop mutual understanding of the scope of global health.

One indication of success would be the emergence of a new generation of truly global leaders working on a shared and well-defined agenda – and doing so on an equal footing.

Congratulations ...



... To FHS alumnus, Dr Mitch Besser, (above) who was recently presented with the US Presidential Citizens Medal, which is one of the highest honours the country can bestow on a citizen. Dr Besser is the Medical Director of Mothers-2Mothers.

... To Emily Davis, who has been awarded the prestigious Roche Young Researcher Award for work that she published in a prestigious cancer journal, *Oncogene*, which reveals one of the mechanisms by which the Tbx2 protein contributes to oncogenesis. This work has important implications for our understanding of how Tbx2 can serve as a target in the development of novel cancer treatments.

... To Dr George Draper, who has been appointed as the first full-time Director of the Clinical Skills



Centre for the Faculty. He took up this position, in January 2009.

More PhDs for the Faculty of Health Sciences



The Faculty of Health Sciences rounded off a good year with another impressive crop of PhD's at the December graduation ceremony.

Plastic surgery PhD student on a winning streak

Dr Nick Kairinos, a UCT PhD student and registrar in plastic surgery at Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH), has added four more medals to his growing bag of honours.

Just recently he has won the Stratmed Prize for Best Research Paper for the South African Society for Surgery of the Hand, and the Best Scientific Research Paper and also the Best Invention Award, both from the Association of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons of Southern Africa. The latter was awarded for his concept on a tissue pressure regulating system to enhance nega-



Dr Nick Kairinos.

tive pressure wound therapy.

Kairinos was also awarded third prize at the UCT Surgical Research Day. For Kairinos, a registrar in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, winning has become a habit. He has won prizes

every year since joining GSH in 2005, totalling eight national and three local awards.

His current research has resulted in the concept of a new type of vacuum dressing, which regulates its own suction pressure so that wound pressures are always optimal for healing.

As a successful inventor, UCT Research Contracts and IP Services (RCIPS) have filed two provisional patent applications covering Kairinos' inventions.

- Author: Myolisi Gophe, courtesy of The Daily News.

Monthly Quiz

The Proteas recently returned victorious from Australia. In addition to the broken bone in his left hand, what other injury does Graeme Smith have and

what is the novel treatment method being applied by his doctors? Send your answers to: kit.vaughan@uct.ac.za.

The answer to last month's quiz: the Nobel Prizes are always awarded on 10th

December which is the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

Berry Neumann was the first (out of eight) with the correct answer and wins the R100 book voucher.

Dates to diarise in 2009

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>12 Start of Term 1 (MbChB 4th–6th Year)</p> <p>16 3rd Year: MBChB Registration <i>Start of Term 1 (MBChB 3rd Year)</i></p> <p>19 2nd Year: MBChB Registration 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year: Physiotherapy Registration <i>Start of Term 1 (MBChB 2nd Year)</i></p> <p>23 Anaesthesia Research Day and Memorial Lecture</p> <p>26 HOD Meeting 2nd, 3rd & 4th year: Communication Sciences Registration</p> <p>27 & 28 Environment Scan and Strategic Planning Workshop</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>2 Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>3 Parent Orientation Meeting</p> <p>4 First Year: Student Registration JMT (GSH)</p> <p>6 Faculty Research Committee Meeting</p> <p>9 HOD Meeting</p> <p>12 Sax Appeal Day</p> <p>16 Start of Term 1 (General) Academic Staff Forum</p> <p>19 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>23 HOD Meeting</p> <p>25 Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>2 Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>4 JMT Meeting Council Meeting</p> <p>9 HOD Meeting</p> <p>10 <i>Faculty Board Meeting</i></p> <p>18 Senate Meeting</p> <p>21–22 Surgery Update Conference</p> <p>23 HOD Meeting</p> <p>24 University Development Comm. Meeting (UDC)</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>1 JMT (GSH)</p> <p>3 University Strategy Forum Research Indaba End of Term 1 (General)</p> <p>4 Prizegiving</p> <p>6 HOD Meeting</p> <p>2 Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>9 Pesach (begins sunset on 8th)</p> <p>10 Good Friday</p> <p>13 Family Day</p> <p>Start of Term 2 (MBChB 2nd & 3rd Year) Start of Term 2 (General)</p> <p>20 HOD Meeting</p> <p>19 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>23 Senior Leadership Group (SLG)</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>4 HOD Meeting</p> <p>5 <i>Faculty Board Meeting</i></p> <p>6 JMT (GSH) Council Meeting</p> <p>11–15 <i>College Week</i></p> <p>18 HOD Meeting</p> <p>20 Senate Meeting</p> <p>21 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC) Ascension Day</p> <p>26 University Development Comm. Meeting (UDC)</p> <p>27 June Grad Exam Board</p> <p>29 Faculty Research Comm. Meeting</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>1 HOD Meeting</p> <p>3 JMT (GSH) Council Meeting</p> <p>8 Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>10 Quarterly Review (SLG)</p> <p>12 June Grad End of Term 2 (General)</p> <p>18 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>19 1st Year MBChB Exam Board</p> <p>21 HOD Meeting</p> <p>24 Quarterly Review (SLG)</p> <p>26 Physio and OT Exam Board End of Term (MBChB 2nd–6th Year)</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>1 JMT</p> <p>2–5 SAAHE Conference</p> <p>6 HOD Meeting</p> <p>13 Budget Submissions Due</p> <p>16 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>20–31 Budget Reviews</p> <p>20 HOD Meeting Start of Term 3 (MBChB 2nd–6th Year)</p> <p>27 Start of Term 3 (General)</p> <p>28 MBChB Supp Exam Board <i>Faculty Board meeting</i></p> <p>31 Quarterly Review (SLG)</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>3 HOD Meeting</p> <p>2 Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>5 JMT (GSH)</p> <p>7 SLG and Budget Show and Tell</p> <p>12 TB Davie Memorial Lecture</p> <p>17 HOD Meeting Academic Staff Forum</p> <p>18 Inaugural lecture: Prof Karen Barnes</p> <p>19 Senate Meeting</p> <p>20 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>22 Ramadan Begins</p> <p>25 University Development Comm. Meeting (UDC)</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>2 JMT (GSH) Council Meeting</p> <p>2–4 Faculty Merit Committee</p> <p>4 End of Term 3 (General)</p> <p>7–11 Faculty Merit Committee</p> <p>7 HOD Meeting Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>9 Biko Day Event</p> <p>14 Start of Term 4 (General)</p> <p>15 <i>Faculty Board Meeting</i></p> <p>17 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>19 & 20 Rosh HaShanah (begins sunset on 18th)</p> <p>20 Eid-ul-Fitr (could vary)</p> <p>21 HOD Meeting</p> <p>28 Yom Kippur (begins sunset on 27th)</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>5 HOD Meeting Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>7 JMT (GSH) Council Meeting</p> <p>23 Senior Leadership Group</p> <p>12–16 <i>College Week</i></p> <p>15 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>17 Deepavali</p> <p>19 HOD Meeting</p> <p>22 HOD Workshop</p> <p>30 Quarterly Review (SLG)</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>2 HOD Meeting</p> <p>3 Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>4 JMT (GSH)</p> <p>16 HOD Meeting Academic Staff Forum</p> <p>18 Senate Meeting</p> <p>19 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>23 Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Years 1–3 Exam Board</p> <p>27 5th Year MbChB Exam Board Faculty Research Committee Eid-ul-Adha</p> <p>30 6th Year MBChB Exam Board Results Bash</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>2 JMT (GSH) Council Meeting</p> <p>7 HOD Meeting</p> <p>9 Senate Exec. Comm. Meeting (SEC)</p> <p>14–18 Graduation Week</p> <p>17 Physical Space Planning Meeting (PPC)</p> <p>18 Academic Year End</p> <p>22 Chanukah (begins sunset on 21st)</p> <p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>26 Day of Goodwill</p>

Note: Dates for the 2009 inaugural lectures will appear in the March 2009 edition of FACULTYNews.