



From sheep's lungs to HIV vaccines

Professor Anna-Lise Williamson shared some of the highlights of her career with colleagues, friends and family, at her inaugural lecture, which took place on Wednesday 17 September 2008.

From a B.Sc. (Hons) from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1979, and a sojourn at the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort, Prof Williamson literally followed her heart—via Basel, Switzerland—and came to UCT, where she has become a leading expert in Vaccinology. Her husband, Prof Ed Rybicki, is her closest collaborator, and among their greatest achievements are their children, Steven and Amanda,

Paediatric nursing gets a shot in the arm—thanks to the Harry Crossley Foundation



Mr Ronald Paterson, Chairman of the Harry Crossley Foundation with Assoc Prof Minette Coetzee, Emeritus Professor David Beatty and Prof Marian Jacobs at the launch of the Harry Crossley Foundation Post Graduate Paediatric Nurses Training Initiative.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Harry Crossley Foundation, the School of Child and Adolescent Health in the Faculty, in association with the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital's fundraising arm, The Children's Hospital Trust, has been able to establish the "Harry Crossley Foundation Post Graduate Paediatric Nurses Training Initiative".

The initiative was launched at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital on Monday, 22 September 2008. This generous grant was obtained under the auspices of the Children's Hospital Trust, who have also secured additional funding for the programme, from a well-known American philanthropic foundation.

20 registered nurses, from as far afield as Mtatha in the Eastern Cape, and countries such as Kenya and Ghana, have joined the programme.

"Without significant funding the UCT programme has been severely constrained, with part-time staff sup-

port and limited release of nurses in full-time employment, which has resulted in poor student admission and programme completion. However, the programme is now on track to empower, train and improve nursing practice for paediatric nurses in general, not only at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, but other hospitals in the region, the country and other African countries," said Assoc Prof Minette Coetzee, who heads up the programme.

Prof Marian Jacobs, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences added her voice to those applauding the programme's successful implementation: "Caring for the health of children and having a special programme to treat children is a privilege." She went on to thank the donors, emphasising that she sees them as "development partners", who share in the triumphs and achievements of the students, and also to thank the Trust, Prof Beatty, Assoc Prof Coetzee and the team at the School and the Hospital, who made the programme possible.

DEAN'S CORNER

It is a pleasure for me to announce that the *ad hominem* promotions process for this year has been a success: our new senior lecturers are Romy Parker (physiotherapy) and Lauraine Vivian (primary health care); our new associate professors are Andrew Bosch (human biology), Di Cooper (public health), Sine Duma (nursing), Jeannine Heckmann (neurology), Landon Myer (public health), Alp Numanoğlu (paediatric surgery) and Ed Ojuka (human biology); and our new professors are Andrew Argent (paediatrics and child health), Karen Barnes (clinical pharmacology), Jacque Greenberg (human genetics), Graham Louw (human biology) and Jennifer Jelsma (physiotherapy). To all of you, our

heartiest congratulations!

Academic promotions are based on four fields of academic endeavour: teaching; research; management; and service / social responsiveness and a successful outcome is based on a nominee's track record in at least three of the four areas. While the process provides the committee of review with a means of assessing academic achievement, it also affords us the special privilege of insight into the wealth of talent in the Faculty. This talent is show-cased through our inaugural lectures, through publications in both the scientific and – less frequently – the popular media; and through teaching and research days.

While the wider public and the Faculty's

academic community constitute important audiences for such a display of our talented academics, a third important group is our student community, who place high value on exposure to good academic role models as teachers. Later this month, on 10 October, we will have an opportunity to attend their Undergraduate Research Day, at which some of their work will be presented.

The spirit of scholarship which is pervasive across the Faculty, and which is celebrated by measures such as our successful promotions, makes this an exciting place to be, and we wish our newly promoted colleagues well for many more stimulating academic years to come.

Publication of the Month

"Developments in modern psychopharmacology raise a range of important philosophical questions, and may ultimately change the way we think about ourselves". This is the opening statement on the cover of the book:

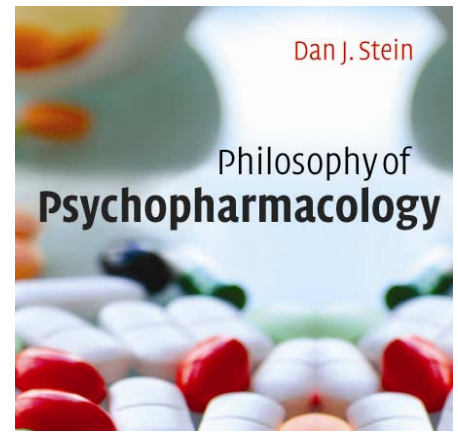
Stein DJ, *Philosophy of Psychopharmacology*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 9780 0 521 856522, 2008.

Among the questions raised in the book are: What is a psychiatric disorder? What is an emotion? How can we explain the placebo effect? What is the relevance of evolutionary explana-

tions of behaviour?

Dan Stein's book provides a framework for addressing these important philosophical issues, drawing on theory and data from modern cognitive-affective neuroscience.

Ronald Pies, professor of clinical psychiatry at Tufts University, says: "Dan Stein has written a very helpful, reasonable and sophisticated book, based on the conviction that psychiatry and psychopharmacology must address the complexities of the human condition and improve the lives of our patients. I highly recommend it".



Congratulations ...

... To UCT alum Jonny Kruskal, MD, PhD, who has been named Chair of the BIDMC

Department of Radiology and Radiologist-in-Chief at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical



Centre at Harvard University.

... To Dr Derek Hellenberg, who has been re-elected onto the Council of the College of Family Physicians. He will hold this position until 2011.

... The Department of Medicine, which has been nominated as a Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars (FIRCS) Training Site. This programme provides for the research training of US and non-US clinicians in research on a 1:1 basis.

Monthly Quiz

What is the name of the new Minister of Health, and who is her deputy? Send your answers to: kit.vaughan@uct.ac.za.

Answer to last month's quiz: 17 women have been promoted or appointed to Professor since 1994. They are (alphabetically): Colleen Adnams, Vanessa Burch, Lyn Denny, Pauline Hall, Marian Jacobs, Sue Kidson, Vicki Lambert, Dinky Levitt, Lorna Martin, Di McIntyre, Julia Mekwa, Viv Russell, Janet Seggie, Ros Thompson, Zephne van der Spuy, Anna-Lise Williamson, and Heather Zar. Unfortunately no one got the correct answer!

Of chairs ... and professors

Dr Johnson found simple words difficult to define. This was especially so where meaning is determined by context. Chair is such a word; in universities chair (as in Afrikaans leerstoel, not stoel), is associated with professors and means a professorship. In this sense, every full professor holds a chair; and the holder of a chair is by definition a full professor.

Chairs are held by people, but people are chair-holders, not chairs. A chair at UCT may be:

- a personal chair;
- an endowed, or partly-endowed, chair; or an established chair.

We sometimes name a chair, either acknowledging a donor or indicating a speciality or both.

A personal chair is the chair held by a person who has been promoted ad hominem to the rank of full professor; by definition a personal chair falls away when its holder vacates it. An endowed chair is a professorial post where the cost (or part of it in the case of a part-endowment) is met by the distributed income on a permanent (invested) endowment.

An *established chair* is a UCT professorial post and is *established* in the sense that, in many or even most cases, an established chair will be filled when its current occupant vacates it. This is so even though we do not have a fixed establishment of posts, (other than for joint UCT/PGWC posts and UCT/NHLS joint posts)

North-American-English uses chair in this sense; but North American academics generally also use chair for the chair (chairman, chairwoman, chairperson) of an academic department; we do not, having opted for a system of heads or headship. What does this mean? It means, for example, that:

- Tim Noakes holds a chair and is a full professor; and in that he holds a chair he is a full professor.
- His chair is part-endowed, and is named both for the donor and his area of speciality: it is the Discovery Health Chair of Exercise and Sports Science, and he is the Discovery Health Professor of Exercise and Sports Science; while he holds this chair, he is not himself a chair. His chair is in the Department of Human Biology. As he is not the head of that department, he would not be the chair (person) of his department.

— Hugh Amoore

Giving learners a chance through writing and rap music



A group of Grade 8 and 9 learners from Sithembele Matiso High School in Nyanga entertained Faculty staff and gave them food for thought as they showcased their original rap songs, highlighting the issues they felt were important in their lives. The project forms part of UCT Occupational Therapy students' commitment to an organization called Facing Up. They are photographed with Jade Pincus, a fourth-year student.

A winning formula ...

... UCT med student Saadiq Moolla recently won the bronze medal at the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), held in the Mubarak City for Education, near Cairo, Egypt. He was one of two UCT students on the South African team at the IOI, which attracted 283 entrants from 73 countries.

... Dr Fierdoz Omar, a Chemical Pathology registrar in the faculty, received a Best Poster Award at the School of Biomedical Sciences Research Day for her work entitled: "Protease inhibitors decreased HMW: Total adiponectin ratio in Xhosa female patients with HIV". The co-authors were JA Dave, J. King, NS Levitt and TS Pillay.

... Alessandro Aldera, a second-year med student, recently won gold at the inaugural "Anatomy Olympics 2008", an online anatomical illustration labelling competition hosted by www.winkingskull.com. Entrants had three days to label as many anatomy illustrations in the Thieme atlas as possible.

Date Change: Inaugural Lecture

Professor Alan Morris, of the Department of Human Biology, was to have given his inaugural lecture, entitled: "The Politics of Old Bones" on Wednesday, 8 October 2008. It has been postponed and will now take place on Tuesday 14 October at 17h30 in the Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building.