



Faculty News July 2007

Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town



Festschrift for Lafras Steyn



The speakers at the *Festschrift* for Lafras Steyn (L to R): Eric Harley, Gay Elisha, Valerie Mizrahi, Arderne Forder, Lafras Steyn and Wilna Vosloo.

Over 200 of Lafras Steyn's family, friends, colleagues, and students gathered at the Student Learning Centre on Thursday 28 June to celebrate a lifetime of academic achievements during an illustrious career. The definition of a *Festschrift* is, "a complimentary publication in the form of a collection of essays, addresses, or biographical, scientific or other contributions, often embodying the results of research, issued in honour of a person or institution, and usually on the occasion of a celebration."

The idea for the *Festschrift* came from Marian Jacobs who said, "We also pay tribute to your stature as a colleague of integrity; a leader in wider Faculty affairs; a person who has never shirked the challenges of helping to sort out Faculty issues behind the scenes; a real team player; and especially as a human being of tremendous compassion and strength of character." One of the highlights of the day was a presentation on tuberculosis by Valerie Mizrahi who came down from Johannesburg for the occasion.

At the end, Lafras was presented with a bound copy of all his presentations by his first PhD student, Gay Elisha.

Dean's Corner

The next few months will be busy as we strive to align our Faculty plans and budgets for 2008 with those of the University; the provincial Department of Health; and the national Department of Education. While these processes may seem far removed from the day-to-day lives of Faculty staff, understanding the bigger picture may help to contextualise requests, on the one hand, and our responses, on the other.

The *University* process is well under way, and departments will submit their budgets to the Dean's office in the next week. Following consideration by the executive (which includes heads of departments), budgetary adjustments will be made and our subsequent engagement with the University administration will culminate in the award of our budget towards the end of the year.

The provincial Department of Health will convene a budget meeting on 16 – 17 July and following this, I will report on both their process and our position. There has been no change in the 2007 budget, and discussions on its impact on tertiary services and related academic activities continue. For years 2008 and 2009, the Department of Education has promised an additional R500m to subsidise the training of medical and dental practitioners, since – unlike other health professionals' tertiary training – the existing education subsidy does not cover the full course for these two groups. In the next few months, a Faculty / University team will be hard at work preparing the ground for our own requirements.

Communication will be central to holding the Faculty together during this busy time, and I am delighted to announce that help is on the way. Mr Neeran Naidoo has been appointed as Faculty Manager for Communication, Marketing and Development, and he starts this month. Read more about him and his plans in the August newsletter.

With just 26 weeks to 2008, try to take time to charge those batteries – it may just help!

[MJ]

Discovery Foundation Awards to Registrars



Winners of the Discovery Foundation Fellowships (L to R): Vuyokosi November, Richard van Zyl Smit, Brian Vezi, Nonhlanhla Khumalo, Bhavanesh Mankanjee and Mushi Matjila. Our UCT registrars won 6 of the first 18 awards in this inaugural year!

Fellowships in the Colleges of Medicine

We had a bumper crop of registrars who passed their fellowship exams in the past few months. These include:

College of Anaesthetists

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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Michelle Jeanne Arcache | Gareth Leon Davies |
| Louis Eitner | Owen Hodges |
| Simone Nova Piovesan | Atiyah Mayet |
| Stephen Cedric Savage | Dominique van Dyk |

College of Emergency Medicine

Annemarie Jeanine Kropman

College of Neurosurgeons

Marthinus Jacobus Dewalt Jacobsohn
Sally James Röthemeyer

College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

Tracey Anne Horak Henriette van Zyl

College of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Michelle Nerine Maree

College of Otorhinolaryngologists

Wakis Katepela Mulwafu

College of Paediatricians

Helder Alfredo de Quintal Paul Boisie Soko
Ann Louise van Eyssen

College of Pathologists (Microbiology)

Sumayya Haffejee

College of Physicians

Christopher Richard Kenyon
Moloko Victor Leboho

College Plastic Surgeons

Kevin George Adams

College of Psychiatry

Jeanné Moolman

College of Surgeons

Ahmed Bhyat Morné Nel
Sheriff Babatunde Ibirogba Ian Alexander Marr

We salute their accomplishments, especially the efforts of their mentors in preparing the candidates for these exams.

Professor Pauline De La Motte Hall

It is with regret and sadness that we report the death of our colleague, Pauline Hall. Pauline joined Anatomical Pathology in 1997 and was Director of Hepatobiliary Pathology until 2005. Best known for her work in non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases, alcoholic liver disease, hepatocellular carcinoma and pancreatic tumours, Pauline left a lasting impression with her contributions to the education of registrars and postgraduate students in the Faculty. She will be sorely missed.



Publication of the Month

This month I have selected a publication by Eric Bateman from the Department of Medicine and UCT Lung Institute that was published three years ago:

Bateman ED, Boushey H, Bousquet J, Busse WW, Clark TJH, Pauwels R, Pedersen S. "Can guideline-defined asthma control be achieved? The Gaining Optimal Asthma Control Study." *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 170: 1-9, 2004.

This is the most prestigious journal in the field and Eric, who has been on sabbatical for a year, was recently informed by the editor that theirs has been the most cited paper in the journal for each of the past three years, with 3 times more citations than its nearest rival. The paper deals with the concept of aiming for complete control of asthma, and forms the basis for a fundamental switch in approach towards asthma management. It goes to show: important publications can change policy.

I would also like to acknowledge Willem Hanekom of the IIDMM who recently received a letter from the editors of the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*. They said, "We would like to take a moment to thank you for your exceptional work as a reviewer for our journal over the past year. We recently examined peer review records from January 2006 to March 2007 and are pleased to note you are among the top 5% of reviewers in terms of number of reviews completed, quality of the reviews, and promptness with which the reviews were completed." The reviewing of journal manuscripts is a vitally important, though sometimes overlooked part of the scholarly enterprise, and it's great to see such a contribution. Well done Willem!



Awards to Members of the Faculty

Clare Stannard of Radiation Oncology was recently informed that she would be the recipient of the Citizen's Award of the Ophthalmological Society of South Africa for her "dedicated service to eye patients over a period of several years." The award will be presented at the society's annual meeting in Bloemfontein next year.

Nicki Fouche of Nursing and Midwifery won the Medi-Clinic Prize for the best nursing presentation at the meeting of the Critical Care Society for her presentation on the effect of noise levels in a coronary care unit. Mitch Besser received a Distinguished Service Award at the recent meeting of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists held in San Diego.

Finally, two of our young scholars, Shaheen Mowla and Zenda Woodman, have been awarded prestigious Sydney Brenner Post-doctoral Fellowships for 2007. Named in honour of the South African-born and -trained molecular biologist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2002, Brenner donated part of his Prize to help establish these research fellowships which are awarded by the Academy of Science of South Africa and the US Academies, with additional funding from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust.

Monthly Quiz

In the May newsletter we paid tribute to the late Bill Hoffenberg. Having been banned by the government in 1967, he was forced to leave South Africa in early 1968. What was the name of the last patient for whom he was responsible and what was remarkable about this person? Send your answers to: kit.vaughan@uct.ac.za

Answer to last month's quiz: There have been four Vice-Chancellors of UCT who have trained as medical doctors. In order, with the university where each trained in parentheses, they are: Archibald Falconer (Aberdeen); Thomas Davie (Liverpool); Stuart Sanders (Cape Town); and Mamphela Ramphele (Natal). Davie's first degree was from Stellenbosch. Unfortunately, there were no correct answers. Come on guys, you can do better!