



# Faculty News May 2007

## Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town



### **Inaugural Lecture by Professor Lyn Denny**

It's that time of the year again when we celebrate the appointment of Professors in our Faculty. The first inaugural lecture for 2007 will be given by Lyn Denny.



Date: 30 May 2007  
Time: 17h15  
Venue: Student Learning Centre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences

Title: Angels with Wet Wings Won't Fly

Lynette Denny was awarded her MBChB degree in 1983, followed by a Masters in 1993 and her PhD in 2000, all from UCT. In her PhD she evaluated cervical cancer prevention strategies in low resource settings and this has led to the establishment of ongoing research sites situated as two primary health care clinics in Khayelitsha. Her other research interests include cervical disease in women infected with HIV and the natural history and disease manifestations of human papillomavirus. Professor Denny was also instrumental in developing the Western Cape protocol for the management of survivors of sexual assault. She is a Senior Specialist in Gynaecological Oncology in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Groote Schuur Hospital.

### **Vanguard Centre Gets Ultrasound Machine**



(left to right): Among those at the handover of an ultrasound machine to the Vanguard Student Learning Centre were Sharm Naidoo (Student Learning Centre facility manager), Janet Smit (Siemens), Sophia Nel (Siemens), Dr Sedi Namane (senior family physician), Assoc Professor Derek Hellenberg (HOD: family medicine), Assoc Prof Gonda Perez (deputy dean), and Dr Liesl Diedericks (obstetrics consultant).

The Vanguard Student Learning Centre in Bonteheuwel, linked to our Faculty, received an invaluable contribution from Siemens Medical on 20 April: an ultrasound machine valued at over R150 000. These machines are

indispensable tools in the treatment of obstetric and gynaecological patients, as this is an effective and painless way to scan for abnormalities.

At the official launch, deputy dean, Associate Professor Gonda Perez, thanked Sophia Nel and Janet Smit from Siemens. "In donating this ultrasound machine, you are contributing to the development of a skills base for this purpose, as students and registrars, as well as staff at this centre, will all benefit from learning how to apply this tool to their delivery of quality health care," she said.

[CMcE]

### **NSTF Awards for 2006/7**

Each year the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) celebrates the outstanding contributions to science, engineering and technology. This year the Faculty has three people who have been short listed: Dan Stein, in the category for an individual through research over the past 5 years; and Virna Leaner and Heidi Segal in the category of young black researcher over the last 2 to 5 years. The gala dinner is to be held on 23 May in Kempton Park and we wish them every success!



### **Publications of the Month**

In last month's *Faculty News* we featured four book publications from our students, staff and alumni. This month we have two journal papers by two outstanding scientists in the Faculty. The first is by Heather Zar and her colleagues from the School of Child and Adolescent Health:

Zar HJ, Cotton MF, Strauss S, Karpakis J, Hussey G, Schaaf HS, Rabie H, Lombard CJ. "The effect of isoniazid prophylaxis on mortality and TB incidence in HIV infected children from a high tuberculosis prevalence area: a randomised controlled trial," *British Medical Journal*, 334(7585): 136-139, 2007.

As pointed out by Robert Colebunders and his colleagues in an accompanying editorial in the journal, these results have important implications for public health intervention in settings with a high prevalence of TB among children. Our second featured paper is an invited review article by Vivienne Russell from the Department of Human Biology:

Russell VA, "Neurobiology of animal models of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder," *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*, 161(2): 185-198, 2007.

Adorning the front cover of the journal is a piece of artwork created by Viv in which she illustrates how animal models of ADHD suggest impaired transmission of chemical synapses in the brain. Superimposed on an image

of the brain are the presynaptic and postsynaptic neurons, as well as an astrocyte, showing some of the mechanisms postulated to be deficient in ADHD.

### ***Faculty Veterinarian: Dr Gininda Msiza***

We are delighted to recognize the recent accomplishment of our Faculty vet, Dr Gininda Msiza. He has completed the thesis component of his MBA and will soon graduate from the University of South Africa. Gininda, who speaks 10 of our country's 11 official languages, has recently accepted the position of Director of Animal Services in the Provincial Department of Agriculture. He has therefore resigned his UCT position with effect from 1 November, but will continue to serve part-time as Director of our Animal Unit for the next six months. We wish Gininda every success in the future!



### ***Why We Can't Use Skype at UCT***

Skype is a peer-to-peer networking protocol that allows voice and video to be transmitted between PCs on the Internet. It is wonderfully efficient and, although not free, it offers, tantalisingly, the promise of easy and cheap communication from one side of the planet to the other! Why then has UCT decided to block the use of Skype at the firewall?

Part of what makes Skype function so well is the way that it uses other Skype PCs on the network to relay traffic through the complicated web of the Internet. In this peer-to-peer protocol, each PC that loads Skype can function as part of the chain in a conversation, even if that conversation was not initiated directly by the user on that PC. The distributed Skype system continually tests the network and where fast PCs and good bandwidth are found, gobbles up those resources for use in Skype conversations.

This means that Skype would consume precious UCT bandwidth for non-UCT purposes. Controlled usage failed as the background traffic on Skype simply consumed all allocated bandwidth. Sadly, ICTS have had to block the Skype voice and video channels from the system.

[RD]

### ***Other Successes in the Faculty***

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the young people in our Faculty who have been recognised in a variety of ways for their accomplishments. First, Gemma Carvill (seen at right), a PhD student in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, who also serves as chair of the Faculty's Post-Grad Students' Association, received a prize for the best presentation at the South African Society of Human Genetics. Liz



Legg, a registrar in Psychiatry and Mental Health, won the gold medal for her marks in part I of the College exams. The medal is named in honour of Lyn Gillis, a past Chair of the department. Finally, Graeme Meintjes has been awarded a Wellcome Trust Training Fellowship, worth R4 million, to study the clinical, proteomic and genomic characteristics in HIV-associated tuberculosis.

### ***Death of Sir Raymond "Bill" Hoffenberg***

Raymond Hoffenberg qualified at the University of Cape Town with an MBChB degree in 1948, military service in North Africa and Italy having interrupted his studies. He proceeded to specialise as an endocrinologist at Groote Schuur Hospital, was awarded travelling fellowships overseas, and returned to UCT as a senior lecturer in 1959, a post he held until 1968. He was recognised as one of the best clinicians and teachers in the Faculty and was elected a Fellow of UCT in 1965.



In 1967 the apartheid government served him a banning notice, severely restricting his movements and limiting his interactions to no more than one person at a time. Soon after, his teaching position at the medical school was terminated and in 1968 he left the country on a one-way exit. His farewell at the airport was memorable with staff and students packing the upper observation deck.

Our loss was Britain's gain. In 1972, Hoffenberg was made the William Withering Professor and head of the medicine department at the University of Birmingham. He had a distinguished career in the UK, serving as President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and received a knighthood in 1984. UCT conferred an honorary doctorate of science in medicine on him in 1993, and in 1997 he delivered the van den Ende Memorial Lecture in the Faculty. A memorial service for Bill Hoffenberg will be held in the Barnard Fuller Building, conference room 4, at 4:00 pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

[DD]

### ***Monthly Quiz***

This month's question is straightforward enough. What is the source of the title for Lyn Denny's inaugural lecture? Lyn is obviously not eligible for this quiz! Send your answers to: [kit.vaughan@uct.ac.za](mailto:kit.vaughan@uct.ac.za)

Answer to last month's quiz: Dr James Muir Grieve was the head of radiotherapy at Groote Schuur in 1956 and it was he who introduced the part-time nuclear physicist, Allan MacLeod Cormack, to the problem of estimating the attenuation (density) of tissues in the human body. This problem was the basis for computer tomography, for which Cormack was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1979. Peter Meissner was first with the correct answer and wins the book voucher. Well done Pete!