

# FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

## NEWSLETTER February 2007

### Mauerberger Chair of Ophthalmology



Professor Colin Cook will succeed Professor Tony Murray in this prestigious Chair. He is a UCT graduate, and also received his ophthalmology training here. He has worked in Zimbabwe, at Edendale hospital in Kwa Zulu Natal, and at Grootte Schuur Hospital. He brings with him a rich experience of ophthalmological outreach, having been involved in, and implementing blindness prevention programs in KZN, and nationally.

This will fit well with the proposed 2010 programs planned by the PGWC. He is an enthusiastic and admired teacher.

### ENT outreach



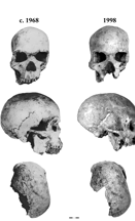
The 2010 program has health care delivered at the appropriate level for the community, and relieving the tertiary institutions of some of their patient burden. Our ENT Department, together with that at Tygerberg, illustrates 2010 in action. Graeme Copley, senior specialist at Somerset Hospital, has supervised the outreach to many rural areas. In addition, patients are seen on "Field trips" by students as part of Chris Prescott's outreach teaching program. Both level 1 and

2 cases are seen at GSH and at RCCH, as centralising surgical services makes sense with small children, and where surgical lists at outlying hospitals are not available. The ENT outreach has been to Wesfleur, False Bay, Paarl, Caledon, Vredenburg and Worcester. Student field trips have been to Kleinmond, Hawston, Hermanus, Barrydale, Suurbraak, Swellendam, Prince Alfred Hamlet, Ceres, Wolsely, Tulbach, Napier, Elim, Bredasdorp, Boy Rivier, Greyton, Riviersonderend, Genadendal, and Grabouw.

### Needlestick injuries

Needlestick injury remains a major problem in our clinical areas. Estimates of patient HIV positivity range between 20-30%. Most blood taking and iv fluid line placement is done by 6th year student interns, and this is reflected in the available needlestick data. These data over 18 months at the GSH drainage area show monthly needlestick rates of: students (5), nurses (3), registrars (3), interns (2). Annual lectures, demonstrations and student information sheets about universal precautions are available, but are clearly inadequate. It is essential that at the start of each clinical block, a live demonstration of blood taking, drip placement, and all attendant precautions takes place. The University undertakes the counselling, testing, prophylaxis and insurance of those who undergo needlestick injuries..

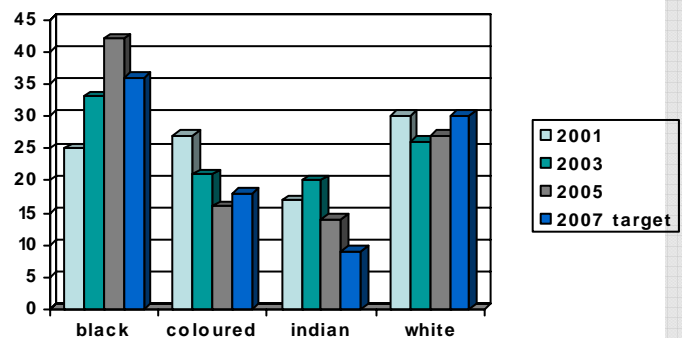
### Missing link?



Allan Morris from Anatomy, with a host of international researchers from USA, UK, Germany, Canada, have identified a late pleistocene human skull from Hofmeyr in the Western Cape. The abstract from Science January 2006: "The lack of Late Pleistocene human fossils from sub-Saharan Africa has limited paleontological testing of competing models of recent human evolution. We have dated a skull from Hofmeyr, South Africa, to  $36.2 \pm 3.3$  thousand years ago through a combination of optically stimulated luminescence and uranium-series dating methods. The skull is morphologically modern overall but displays some archaic features. Its strongest morphometric affinities are with Upper Paleolithic (UP) Eurasians rather than recent, geographically proximate people. The Hofmeyr cranium is consistent with the hypothesis that UP Eurasians descended from a population that emigrated from sub-Saharan Africa in the Late Pleistocene."

(print was converted to electronic access); JOURNAL OF INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY (print subscription converted to electronic access). Access to these titles is on the Nature Publishing Group site and the links on the UCT Libraries' electronic journals list. Access is active via SFX and links will become available through ALEPH (the library catalogue) in due course.

### MbChB admissions [actual numbers]



### The Health Sciences Placement Test

Matriculants are considered for admission on the basis of their National Grade 12 results, their Health Science Placement Test and in some cases, their personal report. The Health Sciences Placement Tests help the Selection Committee decide which of their applicants will best cope with the academic rigour of university studies. Each applicant writes FOUR tests: The Placement Test in *English for Educational Purposes*; *The Scientific Reasoning Test*; the *Mathematics Comprehension Test*; and the *Mathematics achievement Test*. For example, the *English for Educational purposes* test:

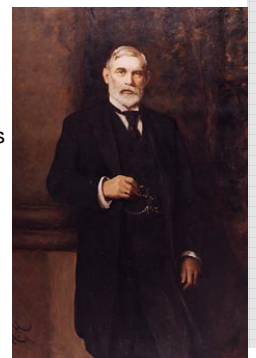
- Understanding basic numerical concepts expressed in text.
- Drawing conclusions derived from texts, seeing trends.
- Understanding ideas/information in a text; implied but not explicitly stated.
- Separating the main idea from supporting detail, statement from example, fact from opinion, etc.
- Detailed reading for meaning, at sentence level and at discourse level.
- Understanding the communicative function of sentences with or without explicit indicators, such as definition, exemplification, exhortation, argument/persuasion.
- Interpreting graphs, tables, diagrams, maps, flow-charts.
- Understanding metaphorical expression.

### Wernher & Beit

The Wernher Beit-Complex underwent extensive renovations 2004—6, the Architects Gabriel Fagan and Associates winning an architectural award for their work. The names Wernher and Beit hold interesting history. Their impressive portraits in oil hang in the IIDMM link building.

The South African diamond rush exploded in 1869, and attracted some 50,000 speculators, creating the town of Kimberley, where major fortunes were made and lost. Some speculators, however, became among the richest in the British Empire.

**Sir Julius Charles Wernher, 1st Baronet** (1850—1912) was a German-born Randlord and art collector who became part of the English establishment. Wernher moved to London at the age of 21. His talent for business was spotted by a diamond dealer named Julius Porges who sent him as his agent to the diamond mines of Kimberley. Wernher quickly built a fortune. He returned to London where he continued to develop his business interests and developed a passion for collecting art. At the time of his death he was one of the richest men in the United Kingdom with a fortune of



### UCT LIBRARIES

The Medical Library thanks you for your feedback on the trial of the online journals of the Nature Publishing Group during 2006. As a result of this feedback subscriptions have been taken to the online versions of: NATURE; EMBO JOURNAL; EMBO REPORTS; NATURE MEDICINE (print was converted to electronic access); KIDNEY INTERNATIONAL

£11 million (then \$55 million).

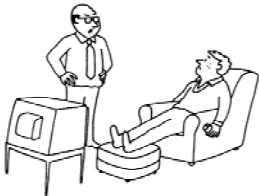


**Alfred Beit** (1853—1906) was born in Hamburg and emigrated to the Cape Colony in 1875 during the "diamond rush" at Kimberley. He became one of a group of financiers who gained control of the diamond-mining claims in the Central, Du Toitspan, and de Beers mines. He became life-governor of De Beers and also a director of numerous other companies such as the British South Africa Company, Rand Mines, Rhodesia Railways and the Beira Railway Company. With Cecil Rhodes, he financed the unsuccessful Jameson Raid of late 1895. On his death in 1906, the Beit trust came into existence. He bequeathed large sums of money for university education and research in South Africa, Rhodesia, Britain and Germany.

One of the bequests was for the establishment of an educational institution in Johannesburg, provided the money was used within 10 years. Fortunately for UCT, dragging of feet to the north led to the non-utilisation of the bequest. General Smuts, then Minister of Education, went to London and visited deceased Alfred's brother Otto, together with the invited Julius Werner, and persuaded them to establish a Medical School not in Johannesburg, but on the Rhodes Estate in Cape Town. In 1925 the Governor General, the Earl of Athlone, laid the foundation stone of the Werner and Beit buildings, which were occupied in 1928. They constituted the entire medical school. The adjacent University-owned land, which was later to be the site for the Groote Schuur Hospital, lay vacant for several more years.

### What is Faculty Board?

The Health Science Faculty Board is a Committee of Senate, composed *inter alia* of: The VC, DVC's, Deans [ex officio]; the professors in the Faculty, the heads of Departments, and Divisions, representative members elected by the full-time and part-time staff, senior lecturers, lecturers and assistant lecturers in the Faculty, and under- and postgraduate student representatives. The Dean is the chairperson of her Faculty Board and presides at all



When I was your age, I was already forming ad hoc committees!

meetings.

The Faculty Board is responsible to the Senate for organising and controlling the teaching, curricula, syllabuses, examinations and research of the Faculty; it must make proposals to the Senate for rules prescribing the requirements for each degree, diploma and certificate offered in the Faculty, including the requirements for admission and readmission; it must advise the Dean of the Faculty on policy for resource allocation in the Faculty; it must carry out such functions as the Senate delegates or assigns to it; it is accountable to the Senate for its work; and may by resolution establish committees of the Faculty, and may appoint as members of such committees any people whether they are members of the Faculty Board or not.

The quorum of a Faculty Board is not be less than one third of the total membership of the Faculty Board.

**Next Faculty Board: 16h30, 13th March, New Learning Centre.**

### Dean's Corner

This is the last issue of our newsletter under the editorship of David Dent, and marks the end of a period of three years during which he played a vital role in the Faculty. As initiator and editor of a newsletter which provides a forum for sharing information, celebrating success, titivating with historical cameos, challenging with the monthly quiz, our literary boffin will be sorely missed. But it is for his larger contribution to the Faculty leadership as Deputy Dean that we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. For just as he was preparing to retire at the end of 2004, he generously accepted the position of clinical advisor to Prof Padayachee expanded that role to become Deputy Dean to Gonda Perez during her tenure as Acting Dean, and later, also to me. Over the three years he has acted as mentor, problem-solver and friend not only to the dean team, but also to the wider Faculty, addressing issues both large and small armed with a font of historical and procedural knowledge, surgical precision, the gift of insight, and a large dose of humour. The Faculty is immensely appreciative of his leadership, commitment, and especially wisdom. We wish him well for the next phase of his career.

**Marian Jacobs, Dean**

### Class reunions

"They were all so old that no one recognised me." Class reunions have



50 years since graduation, and still going strong - class of '56.

become a major feature on our campus. Joan Tuff in the Medical Alumni Office organises them. They are typically held at the end of the year, lasting from Friday to Sunday. Registration on Friday morning in the Faculty, is followed by Faculty and Hospital tours, and then lunch in the hospital; the Dean's cocktail party is held that evening. Saturday morning sees the formal [the word used broadly] lectures, and a gala dinner that night. Sunday has a lunch at Kirstenbosch. Graduates from the global medical diaspora, make happy re-acquaintance, sometimes the last contact having been at graduation on the Jamieson Hall steps. Reunions in 2006 were '56, '66, '76, '81; those planned for this year are: '57 [50 years], '67 [40], '82 [25] and '92 [15]. Visit the Medical Alumni Website at

<http://www.health.uct.ac.za/alumni/>

### Distinguished teachers over 25 years

- 2005 Dr M Blockman (Pharmacology)
- 2004 V Burch (Medicine)
- 2003 P Berman (Chemical Pathology), G Louw (Human Biology)
- 2002 J Krige (Surgery)
- 2001 C Slater (Human Biology)
- 2000 A Mall (Surgery)
- 1998 M F M James (Anaesthesia)
- 1993 JC de Villiers [Neurosurgery]
- 1989 EJ Immelman [Surgery]
- 1988 GR Keeton [Medicine]
- 1987 C M R Warton (Anatomy & Cell Biology)
- 1985 A Forder [Medical Microbiology]
- 1984 A H Robins (Pharmacology)
- 1982 W Gevers [Medical Biochemistry]
- 1981 R E Kirsch (Medicine)



### Brain behaviour award

The Brain-Behaviour Initiative is focused on understanding trauma and resilience. With the shortage of clinicians in outlying areas, members of the Cross-University Brain- Behaviour Initiative have used the internet to make information available. Beauty Mlanjeni of UCT and Winnie de Roover of the University of Stellenbosch have been doing preliminary work, which this week received the E-ward (an award for innovations in internet-delivered mental health treatment) from the Trimbos Institute (Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction) and GGZ Nederland (the Dutch Mental Health Association) [DS]



He may be a genius but he sure can't identify where the growth opportunities lie.

### Miscellaneous quotes for February

- \* I feel as young as I ever did apart from the occasional heart attack. - *Robert Benchley*
- \* Hungry Joe collected lists of fatal diseases and arranged them in alphabetical order, so that he could put his finger without delay on any one he wanted to worry about. - *Joseph Heller. Catch 22.*
- \* I can't stand whispering. Every time a doctor whispers in the hospital, next day there is a funeral. - *Neil Simon.*
- \* Writing the last page of the first draft is the most enjoyable moment in writing. It's one of the most enjoyable moments in life, period. *Nicholas Sparks, author (1965—)*
- \* Retirement: the transition from Who's Who to Who's He. *Eddie George, Governor Bank of England*