

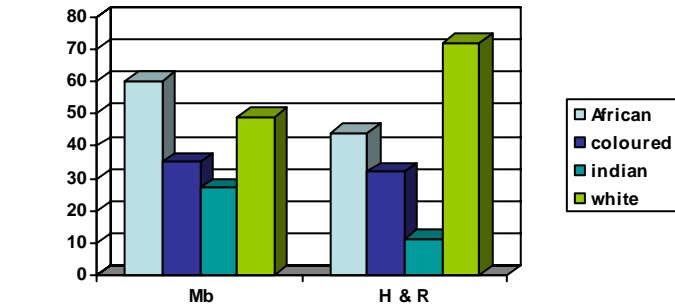
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

NEWSLETTER March 2006

The new students, 2006



At the beginning of February Professor Marian Jacobs, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, welcomed the new first year registrants to the Faculty. She emphasized that they were particularly special as they had been chosen from over 2500 applicants. She urged them to work hard, to derive as much as they could from their experience at University, but also to enjoy themselves.



First year admissions to MbChB [200], and Health and Rehabilitation Science [140], by race. Over half the students in each group are females.

Faculty People in the news



Una Kyriacos is acting as Head of Nursing, following the retirement of Professor Julia Mekwa. The Division of Nursing has great challenges ahead of it as it will provide the nursing programs for mental health [2006], and for midwifery [2008]. The training of nurses is an imperative for the country and the province, and the Faculty of Health Sciences joins the Universities of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch, as well as the Technikon in this important work.

Donation to cardiology

The Division of Cardiology has received a donation of R12.5m from the Murray Trust which will let them install a "state of the art" catheterisation laboratory and an electrophysiology mapping system, allowing them to utilise the exceptional staff they have. Modifications have started and the apparatus should be installed and running by end March. Much of the credit for this, said Professor Commerford, must go to Drs A Okreglicki and Mpiko Ntsekhe.



[See quiz]

Research Ethics Committee.



The function of the Research Ethics Committee's is to assess protocols for trials to be performed on people and on human tissues. The primary roles are to protect the welfare and privacy of patients, volunteers and tissue donors in clinical trials; and to support investigators by confirming that projects are ethically acceptable to peers and lay persons.

The Committee meets once a month (every last Friday). Minutes are taken and kept at these meetings. Each member of the Committee receives a synopsis of the protocols to be discussed prior to the meeting, thus ensuring informed discussion around the protocols. Two Committee members and an external expert, in addition, must have reviewed each protocol. The protocols must be received by the Ethics Secretariat at least 2 weeks before the meeting, in order for these protocols to be adequately assessed. Letters of approval or further comments are being sent to the various investigators in the week following the meeting. Dr Marc Blockman [Pharmacology] was recently unanimously elected as Chair of the Committee, to replace Professor Tuviah Zabow.



The University of Cape Town Centre for Bioethics received a generous four year grant from the John E. Fogarty

International Center of the US National Institutes of Health to support an "International Research Ethics Network for Southern Africa" (IRENSA) programme. This unique programme in Africa offers mid-career professionals the opportunity to obtain a post-graduate Diploma in International Research Ethics by attending 3 x two-week intensive modules over one academic year, with Practicum assignments completed at their home institutions.

Based at the University of Cape Town the course is taught by a multidisciplinary faculty with national and international reputations in bioethics. By the end of 2006 IRENSA will have met its goal of training 49 students to Diploma level drawn from South Africa and eight other low-income African countries and providing education to over 100 participants each year at an annual two day seminar.

Our Diploma students (17 men, 32 women, 20 white, 29 black - 18 of whom hold doctoral degrees in their specialty fields), include scientists, clinicians, academics, government and military regulators, and researchers from the public and private sectors. They are drawn from 31 institutions, and serve on 20 Research Ethics Committees in South Africa and 9 committees in 8 other African countries.



Dean's Corner

One month ago I took up my position as Dean of the Faculty. The induction period has been a rollercoaster ride, characterised by finding several opportunities to acquaint myself with staff and students; many meetings related to the management of the Faculty and its internal and external relationships; and a constant red box on Mozilla Thunderbird to inform me that my email messages have exceeded the allocated space.

I have tried to do as much as I can, trying to balance walkabouts with meetings; Faculty with Schools and departments, Bremner and Wale Street; clinical issues with those related to public health and basic sciences; research with service and teaching; and human resources with finance and general administration. But I have just touched the surface, and there is long way for me to go to fully understand the Faculty and its dynamics.

In the short period, I have been witness to a wonderful orientation programme for the new students, and have been grateful for both the efficiency of the admissions process and the care shown by staff in that area in managing a challenging task. I have also confirmed that we have excellent staff in service, teaching, research, management and administration. In this regard, in the period of disruption caused by the power outages, staff showed initiative, and an ability to continue working, even by candlelight in some cases, for which you are commended.

But most of all, I realize that I am privileged to have taken over the leadership from Gonda Perez, who, as interim dean for the past year, handed me a well-managed faculty, and a solid foundation on which I can build. To Gonda, to David Dent as her acting deputy dean during this time, to the Faculty leadership and all the staff who have contributed to this situation, my deep appreciation.

Marian Jacobs, Dean

Technicon Buildings



The massive buildings on the corner of Anzio and Falmouth roads have caused question and comment. The story is this: St Peter's square was developed and sold bit by bit by financial entrepreneurs. They built two large

residences and offered them to UCT; the University declined, saying the bedrooms were too small, and far below UCT minimum standards. UCT was also concerned about the number and density of people that would be occupying the buildings, and the lack of recreation areas. CPUT has leased the buildings for 5 years. An unfortunate result will be increasing traffic in Anzio Road.

From our photo album



1960's: Poster outside Jamieson Hall recalls UCT students detained for prolonged periods without trial or representation. We will publish photographs from this era in future issues of the Newsletter. They are taken from a photographic exhibition outside the Senate Room in the Bremner Building.

New animal research facility

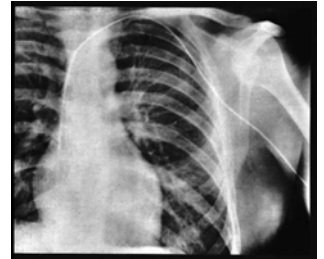
Pilot animals have been placed in the new IIDMM animal research facility. If there are no problems with them, most animal housing and research will take place there. The facility is state of the art, and incorporates ideas and safety measures similar to top units overseas.



Quiz for Exclusive Books token

This year the cardiac clinic will have a state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization unit. Here is a radiograph of the first [1929] cardiac catheterization in the world. Who was the patient?

Answer to: dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za



Transformation

Recent data for 2005 from Research and Innovation on NRF grantholders indicates that 41% of NRF grantholders in the Health Sciences Faculty are black and 45% female. This is much higher than the rest of the University, where the equivalent figures are 15% and 28%. The Portfolio plans to use this data as a baseline to work with the Research Directorate to support efforts to promote transformation and equity in the Faculty's research profile.

Clinical Trials Course

09h00 – 13h00 Saturday 18 March 2006, Wolfson Pavillion

This course will provide certification as required by the MCC, for those participating in clinical research. It will also be of interest to a broad group of investigators.

- Scientific basis of clinical trials. Raymond Abratt
- The research ethics committee. Tuviah Zabow
- New drug development. Marc Blockman
- Documentation issues. Lauren Hill
- Vulnerable populations. Nat Khaole
- Good clinical practice and audits. Raymond Abratt

Enquiries: Janet Simongpong, UCT Conference Centre.
jsimong@curie.uct.ac.za, 021-406 6733, fax: 021 448 6263

Quotes by John Chalmers Da Costa, 1863-1933, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

Each one of us, however old, is still an undergraduate in the school of experience. When a man thinks he has graduated, he becomes a public menace.

Sometimes when a doctor gets too lazy to work, he becomes a politician.

The first patient I ever had stole my only umbrella. In those days I regarded my sign as a coffin plate on a stillborn.

Education Research day

Thursday, 16 March 2006, conference Room 4.

- Assessment methods
- Course evaluation
- Curriculum methodologies
- Curriculum transformation

Organised by the Education Development Unit.

Enquiries: ljakoet@curie.uct.ac.za