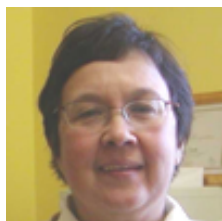


FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

NEWSLETTER February 2006

Faculty People in the news



Professor Marian Jacobs, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Professor Jacobs assumes office on 1st February 2006. The responsibilities of the Dean are widespread and complex. The Dean has to relate to various different bodies: the University, the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, our sister Universities in the Western Cape and to the fellow Deans in the country.

The Dean is the direct line manager of all Heads of Department. The Dean is responsible for the vision and direction of the faculty. A daunting responsibility is that of the solvency of the Faculty. Professor Jacobs certainly has all the skills required for these, and will execute her duties effectively.



A/Professor Gonda Perez Acting Dean 2005.

Professor Perez completes a highly successful 13 months as Acting Dean, when she saw to the stabilisation and growth of the Faculty. It was a memorable year, with numerous highlights such as the opening of the IIDMM and the Vanguard Drive University Centre. Professor Perez remains as Deputy Dean.



Professor Bongani Mayosi

Professor Bongani Mawethu Mayosi assumed the Chair and Headship of Medicine on 1st January. He succeeded Professor Ralph Kirsch who retired at the end of 2005. His distinguished predecessors in this internationally known Chair were AW "Oubaas" Falconer [1920-1937], John F Brock [1938 - 1970], Stuart J Saunders [1970- 1980], Solomon "Solly" R Benatar [1980 - 1999], and Ralph E Kirsch [1999-2005]. Professor Mayosi

brings much to this Chair: He is an established researcher with an NRF 'P' rating, and has an Oxford doctorate; he is registrar of the Colleges of Medicine, and holds office in the HPCSA.



A/Professor Denise White

A/Professor Denise White is the Vice-Chairperson of the South African Medical Association (SAMA). Prof White is passionate about public sector issues and is often a valuable source of information for the media. She is also a member of the Society of Psychiatrists of South Africa. Much sage advice has been obtained from her, and she has been a tireless champion of the Faculty.



Mr Reece Brooks The Faculty has appointed a new Operations Manager, Mr Reece Brooks. He, together with Properties & Services, will be the custodian of the Faculty of Health Sciences. He will control three major areas of FHS activity: Teaching venues, student transport and hazardous waste. Teaching venues are an ongoing headache in the Faculty, with theft

and non working of IT apparatus, together with clashes and overruns.

Last year the Faculty formed a Venue Users Committee, lead by Gavin Weir, and many problems have been sorted out as a result.

Postgraduate Centre

Renovation has started on the first floor of the Barnard Fuller building. The area initially housed the Devil's Peak Restaurant, then subsequently was converted into faculty offices. These will now be converted into two classrooms seating 36 and 48 persons, a computer laboratory with 18 stations, and a seminar room. The postgraduates will then have a centre on E floor in the hospital, as well as a Faculty based centre. [Gloria Robinson, site manager, and Kit Vaughan, Postgraduate Deputy Dean inspect]



National Research

Foundation (NRF) Ratings

UCT has always regarded itself as a research driven University, and the Health Science Faculty is a major contributor to the total output of UCT research. One of the reasons the University has emerged as one of South Africa's leading research Universities is due to its high number of researchers seen as world leaders in their fields. These have been identified as 'A-rated' through a process carried out by the National Research Foundation (NRF).



Professor Frank Brombacher	Immunology
Professor Timothy Noakes	Human Biology
Professor Lionel Opie	Heart Research Unit
Prof CL Vaughan	Human Biology

Our **B** category researchers are: Gordon Brown, Ed Sturrock and Carolyn Williamson,

Our **C** Category researchers are: Lyn Denny, Zephne van der Spuy, Sebastian van As, Iqbal Parker, Edward Ojuka, Mike Lambert, Sue Kidson, Jennifer Jelsma, Mohamed Jeebhay

Our **P** Category researcher is Professor Bongani Mayosi.

Our **Y** [young] category: Dr BJ Fromme, C Lecour, JS Passmore

Graduation 2005

Dr Fareed Abdullah, head of the HIV/AIDS initiative in the Western Cape's health department, was awarded a DSc (Med) *honoris causa* for his pioneering work in the fight against HIV/AIDS and for his tireless leadership in the efforts to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmissions in the Western Cape. He has subsequently taken up a position at the International Aids Alliance in Britain for three years.



Medicine has become a firmly-rooted family tradition. Graduation week saw Associate Professor Roal van Zyl-Smit, head of medicine at New Somerset Hospital with an MD from UCT, capping not only his wife, Jean Firth [PhD], but his son Richard [MMed] also. The Van



Zyl-Smiths daughter, daughter, Cathy, is also a doctor (UCT, 1995) and is married to David Savage, also with an MD from UCT. Cathy practices in the United Kingdom and the couple have two children.

Dr Debra Chalmers graduated with both an MBChB (with honours) and a Master's in Public Health. Her academic journey began with a BSc (she graduated in 1999 with distinction in cell biology), but found she leaned more and more towards things medical. After some deliberation, she enrolled for first-year MBChB.



In January she begins her internship at Grootte Schuur Hospital. Long term, Chalmers would like to be a change agent, working for an international development agency where policy around health services and delivery is created. [from Monday Paper]

Rhodes Scholar

Ms Serini Murugasen final year MBChB student and past HSSC chairperson in 2004, has won a Rhodes Scholarship.



Sabbatical leave

The origin of this practice is in America, at Harvard [Ann. Rep. Pres. & Treas. of Harvard Coll. 1879-1880] when they "adopted, on the 31st of May, 1880, new rules with regard to leave of absence for professors and assistant professors... The Corporation have decided that they will grant occasional leave of absence for one year on half-pay, provided that no professor have such leave oftener than once in seven years." The seven year interval [as in the Sabbath, the seventh day] was prescribed by the Mosaic law to be observed as a 'Sabbath' in which the land was to remain untilled and all debtors and Israelitish slaves were to be released.

Sabbatical leave is the arrangement by which academic staff are released from teaching and administrative duties for a period of time in order to pursue research in their specialist discipline area. The purpose of sabbatical leave is twofold; it contributes to Research by facilitating concentrated periods of research activity. It also forms a key strand of non-financial reward for academic staff by relieving them of more routine work in order to develop and enhance their research profile and professional status. It also informs teaching innovation through facilitating a degree of specialism that cannot be easily combined with day-to-day teaching and administration responsibilities.

This year the following staff take this privilege: Professors Kit Vaughan, Lafras Steyn, Drs Minnie Garb, Dr F Olorogun

Quotes for this month

"A fashionable surgeon, like a pelican, can be recognized by the size of his bill." Da Costa JC. The trials and triumphs of the surgeon. NY Med J. 1915; 51:709-18. [717]

"The call for the "old-time physician" is not a call for a wise old man with a little black bag and a few harmless (and useless) nostrums, but a yearning for communication in a common language." Lowenstein, Jerome. *The Midnight Meal, and Other Essays About Doctors, Patients, and Medicine*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press; 1997, p. 22.

"The proper training for obstetricians consists of nine months of internal medicine, about twenty minutes of obstetrics for multiparous births or two hours for primiparous, a dash of surgery for the occasional caesarian, and forty minutes of paediatrics." Dock, William. *Medical Grand Rounds*. Bronx, NY: Morrisania City Hospital; 1968 [Unpublished].

What Nissl and Alzheimer could find under their microscopes they declared "neurology." What they couldn't find was psychiatry. Shorter,

Edward. *A History of Psychiatry: From the Era of the Asylum to the Age of Prozac*. New York: Wiley; 1997, p. 109.

The cloning of human beings is on most of the lists of things to worry about from science, along with behavior-control, genetic engineering, transplanted heads, computer poetry, and the unrestrained growth of plastic flowers. Thomas, Lewis. *Notes of a biology watcher: on cloning a human being*. N Engl J Med. 1974; 291:1296-97.

Anzio Road

Anzio Road has become increasingly busy and dangerous since the development of the St Peter's Square business node. The traffic density will increase when the Technicon residences are occupied. There are plans to alleviate matters. Traffic taming will be introduced by placing a large circle at the hospital side of the de Waal Drive bridge. Islands will be placed down the centre of the road. A traffic light will be placed at the Anzio / Falmouth intersection. Access will be improved: the Jamie Shuttle bus shelter is nearing completion. The entire street side of the library will become a "Stop and Drop" zone. The entrance to the Faculty is being rethought.



South African Child Gauge 2005

Communication manager Charmaine Smith, director Professor Marian Jacobs and deputy director Dr Maylene Shung-King at the launch of the Children's Institute's Child Gauge 2005, which they co-edited.



A new publication *South African Child Gauge 2005* was launched on 1st

December, World AIDS Day. It is aimed at providing an annual reminder of the challenges that South Africa still faces in promoting and protecting child rights. This year's issue focused on HIV/AIDS. Medical Research Council (MRC) research indicating that 40% of deaths of children under the age of five years are directly attributable to HIV/AIDS. The South African Child Gauge can be downloaded at: <http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/ci/>

Long service awards

Mr RD Smart: Clinical Laboratory Sciences (35)
 Mr SM Markus: Departmental Assistant in the Department of Human Biology (35)
 Mr CJ Keating: Animal Unit (25)
 Mr TE Finch: Research Assistant Animal Unit (25)
 Ms BL Neumann: Senior Secretary Radiation Medicine (25)
 Mr A Duncan: Filing Clerk: Division of Anath Path (25)
 Ms SJ Lottering: Lab Assistant Immunology (25)
 Ms S Samuels: Deptl Assistant Medical Biochemistry (25)
 Ms LV Hesqua: Lab Assistant Cardiovascular Research (15)
 Ms RV Fynn: Secretary O & G (15)
 Ms CJ Gibbon: Editor- SAMF Pharmacology (15)
 Ms DJ Marais: Senior Scientific Officer Medical Virology (15)



"Well Bill, I've asked you in here to discuss any plans you may have for your retirement."

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