

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN NEWSLETTER October 2005

Ad hominem promotions

To Professor:

Rodney Ehrlich, MBChB, DOH, MFOM, FFCH, PhD, from the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, for outstanding research, teaching and contributions to the Faculty. His particular interest is chronic disease. Within this rests his major interest in asthma. He is renown for his clarity of thought, and his outstanding teaching skills. He has been referred to as "our quiet intellectual".



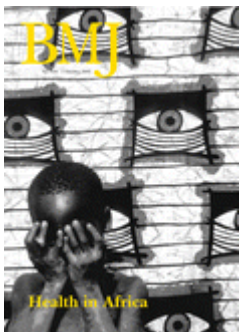
Lyn Denny, MBChB, MMed, PhD, FCOG SA, from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Her major achievements have been in the areas of gynaecological oncology, particularly cervical cancer, and screening, particularly in a primary care context. She has established major research programs that have attracted considerable research funding. She has made major contribution to the Gender, Health and Justice Unit. She is known for her irrepressible enthusiasm, humour and energy.



To Associate Professor:

From the School of Child and Adolescent Health:
Mignon McCulloch, MBChB, DCH, MRCP, DTM&H, MRCP, FCP
Michael Hendriks, MBChB, MMed, MTrop[Paed], DCH
Astrid Berg, MBChB, FC [Psych] SA
Brian Eley, MBChB, BSc, FCP[SA]
From Obstetrics & Gynaecology:
Sue Fawcus, MA[hons], MBBS, MRCOG

Jimmy Volmink & the BMJ



The October 1st issue of the BMJ had as Guest Editors our Jimmy Volmink, Professor of Primary Health Care, and Christine Dare, from Nigeria. It is a special theme issue with high quality papers by African researchers on a range of topics of great relevance to health and health care in Africa. Most of the papers submitted were from researchers in South Africa and Nigeria, and individuals working in Africa with primary affiliations in UK and US public health schools. While they proudly

published articles from such diverse places as Ghana, Guinea-

Bissau, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, no articles were received from most African countries. This was deplored by the Editors, who pointed out that research related directly to health care.

RISK behaviour in the second decade

An INAUGURAL LECTURE by Professor Alan Flischer, of the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, will be delivered at 17h30 on Wednesday 9th November, in the New Learning Centre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences. There will be refreshments after the lecture.



Undergraduate research day

The School of Biomedical Sciences held its first undergraduate research day on Saturday 1st October with 20 presentations on topics ranging from the basic biomedical sciences, to public health and biomedical engineering. The standard of the presentations was high and was praised by the Dean, A/Prof. Gonda Perez, who awarded the prizes.'



Michelle Pentecost received the prize for the most meritorious presentation. for identifying histological features that distinguish Crohn's Disease from intestinal tuberculosis

Heritage Day

Heritage and Diversity were simultaneously celebrated at this gathering. The theme was "Unity in Diversity", and opening the event, Jimmy Volmink traced the theme from the Khoi language to the Coat of Arms of South Africa. The audience learnt about South Africa's symbols, the importance of heritage, and the National anthem (words and protocol). Adding to diversity was the "Spirit of Bollywood" provided by the Vabhini Indian Arts academy. As Gumboot dancers, five of our male students provided entertainment that incorporated storytelling. Buli Nhlapho's poetry had the audience entranced. There was a photographic exhibition, by Mark Roussow, student and keen photographer, as well as cultural artefacts brought by students and staff to create a thematic ambience.



Distinguished staff: Francis Ames

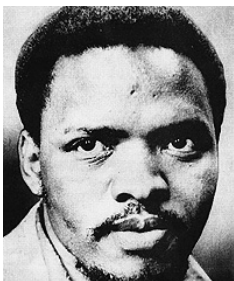
Francis Ames was an ardent human rights activist and one of the Health Sciences Faculty's most distinguished professors. She is well remembered as the person who "blew the whistle" on the district surgeon and doctor who had treated Black Consciousness leader Stephen Biko in detention in 1977. Through Supreme Court action, she and five of her colleagues forced the South African Medical and Dental Council to discipline the doctors who treated Biko. Ames was elected head woman



student in 1940, and completed the first of her four degrees in 1942 (MBCbB). In 1954 she became the first woman to receive the MD degree the equivalent of a PhD in medicine degree, from UCT. In 1967 she was one of a handful of South Africans to be registered as both a psychiatrist and neurologist. She became Head of the

Department of Neurology at UCT from 1976 until her retirement at the end of 1986. Her article in the Yearbook of Neurology and Neurosurgery on photosensitive epilepsy provided detailed accounts of the clinical and metabolic effects of cannabis before the active psychoactive principal was synthesized. Ames outspokenly propagated the therapeutic value of cannabis and fought for its decriminalisation for many years. In 1997, UCT made her an emeritus associate professor and in June 2001 she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in Medicine (honoris causa). President Nelson Mandela conferred one of the country's highest honours on Ames, The Star of South Africa (Non-military). She died in 2002 at the age of 82

Steve Biko: Commemorative lecture



On Monday 12th September the Faculty remembered Steve Biko at a midday gathering. The address "Lessons of the Biko case" was given by Dr Stuart Saunders, former Vice Chancellor. Biko had died in detention on this day in 1977, as result of injuries sustained during police interrogation. A number of medical doctors were involved with his medical care prior to his death and failed to act on evidence of his torture, thereby becoming complicit to his murder. Two doctors were eventually disciplined by the SA Medical & Dental Council in 1985, not before long and protracted attempts at denial and a cover-up.

The Joint Agreement



After 15 versions we now have Draft One of the agreement [between the Province and the Universities]. In a hierarchy of committees, starting with Faculty ones, proceeding inter-university working ones, with Technical Working Groups, a veritable rain forest of trees has been consumed in paper. We await amendments and suggestions to Draft one, which will

proceed to Draft Two. Watch this space.

Ukeys thrash Maties at rugby.

When this happens, we **definitely** put it in the Health Science Faculty Newsletter. UCT's 36-10 win over Maties on September 24 must count as a thorough thrashing. It's also, by the way, UCT's biggest win over Stellenbosch, crowned national club champions, in donkey's years. And we're talking a really old



donkey. They first toiled to a 13-10 halftime lead with some stop-them-dead-in-their-tracks tackling, then completely overran Maties in the second half, eventually cantered to a comfortable (yes, it was) 36-10 win.

Winning style: Loose forward Ashley Downs prepares to fend off a Stellenbosch tackler in UCT's memorable 36-10 win.

UCT Private Academic Hospital

This Hospital has been operational since August 2002, and is jointly owned by UCT and a consortium of South African hospital owners which include Westcare Hospital, Netcare and leading black-empowered hospital group, Community Hospital Group (CHG). It plays an important role in retaining valuable medical expertise within South Africa by providing a hospital facility for doctors and academics employed by UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital. There are currently negotiations between the University, the Province and the Hospital for the hospital to take over the running of the hospital ward G4 [a private state ward], and for GSH to assume ownership of the private hospital premises, while the private hospital continues management.



Competition

October Question: Who was asked to calculate radiation dosages for cancer therapy at Groote Schuur Hospital, and was able, in model experiments, to reconstruct an accurate cross-section of an irregularly shaped object, reporting this in two articles, in 1963 and 1964. Answers: dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za for an Exclusive Books voucher.

September question was: What was the Physiology lecture theatre called in happier times? Answer: "The Jolly Lecture Theatre" after William Tasker Adam JOLLY the first Professor of Physiology [1911-38], major researcher, contributor to the development of the ECG, founder of the Medical library, founder of the Medical Students Council, former Dean. Winner: Dale Taylor, PhD Candidate, Division of Pharmacology. [Pharmacology have won the last 3 competitions in a row!]

Gonda Perez, Dean, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences.