



FACULTY NEWSLETTER

August 2005

NHLS



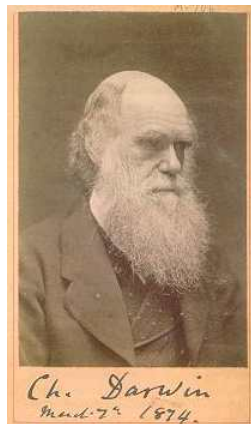
Since its acceptance by the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) Board in September 2004, the proposed Umbrella Agreement has been under review by the nine universities with Faculty of Health Sciences. This agreement is designed to establish a national framework for interaction between the NHLS and the universities. At present, the joint agreements existing between the universities and their respective provinces remain in force with the NHLS. These agreements are disparate and difficult to enforce, leaving a legal vacuum in which the academic pathology services operate.

This may change soon. A meeting of university representatives took place at Johannesburg International Airport on the 13th of July. The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed Umbrella Agreement and to resolve the problems that the universities have identified. The universities have undertaken to redraft sections of the agreement and to complete the process by the 8th August. A group of university representatives will then present the redrafted agreement to the NHLS.

Darwin Seminar Series

The evolution of species from submicroscopic life forms, to bacteria and other microorganisms, then to vertebrates and ultimately to human beings, has considerable appeal to the public.

The Darwin Seminar Series has been started as a joint venture between the Division of Human Genetics and The Africa Genome Education Institute. Professor Himla Soodyall of the Department of Human Genetics, National Health Laboratory Services/Wits University, presented the first of the Seminars. 'Swimming in the Gene Pool', The emphasis of the presentation was human origins and the migration of *Homo sapiens* across the planet, using evidence from particularly the sex specific 'genomic material' in



the 'male Y chromosome' and 'female mitochondrial DNA'. She highlighted the richness of diversity in the DNA of the indigenous African populations, yet clearly showed the remarkable value of the mixed ancestry populations derived from all over the world and currently resident in various parts of South Africa.

Inaugural Lectures

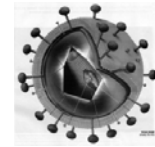
*When plagues collide:
HIV & Tuberculosis*

Inaugural Lecture by

Professor Gary Maartens

New-learning Centre,
Faculty of Health Sciences

Wednesday 10th August 17h30.



Vanguard Drive

Community Based Learning Goes Live! The first of 5 planned Community-Based learning sites for the Faculty, at Vanguard Drive Community Health Centre, has been completed. The official opening is to be held on Friday 2nd September, with the main donor, The Rangoonwala Foundation, visiting us from London. Liberty Life will also attend the ceremony. This is such an exciting faculty development that you are urged to visit it yourself. Contact Sharmila Naidoo, the CBL facilities co-ordinator in the PHC Directorate on ext 6369 to get directions and a suggested visiting time. Professors Volmink and Hellenberg are congratulated for this wonderful achievement.



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Faculty Drivers



From right to left: Tony Pedro, Leon Ziergevoel, Victor Isaacs and Michael Harrison

Community Based Education is an important component of the UCT FHS curriculum, and transporting students to these sites, spread out across the Western Cape from Victoria hospital to Khayelitsha, is rewarding, challenging and often demanding for the four drivers who are each equipped with 22-seater Mercedes Sprinters. They cover an average of 864km/per day to an estimated 40 sites across the peninsula and often have to negotiate weather, road rage and the infamous Cape Town taxis, while remaining focused and getting students on site safely and on time.



Admissions Policy

The Senate recently approved proposed changes to the Faculty's undergraduate admissions criteria, following approval by the Faculty Board. The Faculty selection committee will continue to scrutinise matriculation and other examination results. But applicants' results in four Health Sciences Placement Tests (run by UCT's Alternative Admissions Research



Project for all South African medical schools) and applicants' Personal Reports, are weighted for the first time. Given the uncertainty about the impact of the introduction of the Further Education & Training Certificate (to replace the current senior certificate examinations from 2007), the use of the HSPT results as an additional tool for selection is becoming increasingly important.

Congratulations & Acknowledgement:

Prof Roal van Zyl Smith has published "Systemic Disease in the Kidney: A Handbook for Clinicians". which is available from the SAMJ office in Pinelands for R250.00 and will to be of great value to clinicians and students.

Professor Roc Kaschula former HOD of Paediatric Pathology at Red Cross Children's Hospital has been the first and so far the only pathologist from Africa to be awarded the gold medal of the International Academy of Pathology for international service to pathology, education and research. This award was made in San Antonio, Texas 1st March at the annual congress of the US-Canadian Academy of Pathology.

Gail Sinden in the admissions office and one of our medical students, Phazha Pitso have been selected to play WP badminton. They are set to play nationals from the 23rd September to the 1st October.



Clare Jeffrey has recently been appointed the National Director of Childhood Cancer

Foundation (CHOC). She has been instrumental in raising considerable donations for the Faculty, in particular the Institute for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine. Her departure would be an great loss to the Faculty. We wish her well on her new journey.

Standard Bank, Rondebosch, donated R20,000.00 to the Health Sciences Student Council, for sponsorship for this year's Health Sciences final year dinner.



J Dumo Baqua Inaugural Memorial Lecture

On 3rd August Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndugane delivered the first J Dumo Baqua Inaugural Memorial Lecture in the Jameson Hall. He talked about dreaming, faith, values, and respect. He referred to the fact that he and Baqua were friends at Fort Hare, and



that Baqua had been banned and exiled. He said that Baqua was a primary Health Care Pioneer, concluding that" Our leaders and role models must be beyond reproach: trustworthy, faithful, moral in every sense of the word."

Competition

July question: Where is the statement "What happened in room 69?"
Answer: On the artwork at the entrance, left, to Barnard Fuller Building. "Nkosinathi Biko – False Medical Certificate – Dr Benjamin Tucker" by Sue Cartwright. Winner: Janine du Preez, Pharmacology
August Question: What distinguishes L Mirvish and JB Solomon from other Faculty graduates?
Answers for R100 book voucher to: dmdent@uctqsh1.uct.ac.za

Department of Correction: Professor Kirsch was awarded the South Africa Gold Medal by the Southern African Association for the advancement of Science.

Women's day celebrations

The Faculty is celebrating Women's Day on the 8th of August from 12h45 to 14h00 in Conference room 4, Barnard Fuller building. The guest speaker, Kopano Matlwa, will be speaking on, "The role of Women in the 21st century" and a Fire Dance item will be performed by Lynn Dixon.

Gonda Perez on behalf of EXCO.