



NEWSLETTER June 2005

Congratulations to:

Dr Lester Davids and PhD student Purit Macheru from Human Biology, who scooped awards at the recent Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa. Dr Davids received the Bob Symington Award for his presentation "Skin deep: the effect of a skin lightener on melanogenesis" and Purit Macheru, received the Antoinette Kotze Award for the best first time presenter for her paper, "The morphogenesis of the iris in the chick: A histological and cell proliferation study".

Professor Frank Brombacher, A-rated scientist, and Director of the MRC Unit for Immunology of Infectious Diseases in the IIDMM, was awarded the prestigious Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship Award.

June Herman, SuperCare Lady in the Dean's suite, has a passion for poetry, drama and singing, winning a prize for one of her poems.

Ms Janine Phillips, from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, has recently been appointed as Deputy Portfolio Manager for Undergraduate Education, specifically for Health and Rehabilitation.

MSD donate postgraduate computer room



Situated on the E floor of Groote Schuur Hospital is a new complex of recreational, meeting and computer rooms. These will be open 24 hours a day, with swipe card access. Professor Gonda Perez received a R1,4mil cheque from Mr Chirfi Guindo, CEO of MSD [her right], and on her left is Mr Prags Naicker, Executive Director, ICTS, University of Cape Town.

HEQC Visit

The Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC), was established in terms of new legislation to monitor quality in South African tertiary institutions, in research, teaching and learning, academic support services and administrative support. The HEQC panel visited the Faculty of Health Sciences in May and interviewed the Executive Committee, support staff, members of the IIDMM and students. The report of the panel is being awaited and will be made available once it has been received.

Collaborations

The recent visit by the NIAID (National Institute Allergy Infectious Diseases) delegation supported by a mini-symposium in the IIDMM provided an excellent opportunity for the Faculty of Health Sciences to interact with top US scientists working in the area of Immunology of Infectious Diseases. It is hoped that in time there will be an increase in collaborations and exchanges of visits and the funding of collaborative

projects. The symposium also provided an excellent opportunity for the faculty to introduce its new Institute.

State of the Art Equipment

The department of Radiation Oncology recently took



delivery of a state of the art digital oncology simulator costing R9 million. Professor Raymond Abratt is pictured with Chief

radiographer, Liz Greef.

Tim Noakes' 10 research tips

- 1 Science is the easy part, funding is the difficult part;
- 2 Simplify your research concept. It should be accessible to the public;
- 3 Honour every request for an interview in the media. It assists in the branding of UCT or the institution you are working for;
- 4 Study the paradoxes, even though it might be time consuming;
- 5 Study what's unique in your environment, you must believe that you are going to make a world changing finding before you start;
- 6 Read your heroes in your field, they are no different from you. You also have creativity, endurance and self-belief;
- 7 Don't believe you can't be wrong (many scientists have ultimately failed because they fell in love with their theories);
- 8 Establish research collaborations. You will always stand to benefit from another's skill;
- 9 To sustain success you need a flat organisational structure, not a hierarchical bureaucracy;
- 10 When you think you know everything, it is time to move on before your ignorance is exposed.



Health Sciences Conference

A two day national conference was arranged by the Deans of the Medical Faculties, and held in Cape Town



on 16th and 17th May. Participants included the Minister of Education Naledi Pandor, [pictured with the Dean] the Minister of Science and

Technology Mosibudi Mangena, the Deputy Minister of Health Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge .



Delegates called for the development of a funding framework to guide all joint agreements between the provinces and universities, recommending that a national working group be established to formulate this.

Vanguard Drive Community-based Learning (CBL)

The Faculty's first student learning site at the Vanguard Drive Community Health Centre is on schedule and within budget. We will take occupation of the facility in mid-July, and student programmes are expected to commence immediately, with 6th year students from Family Medicine. Sponsored by the Rangoonwala Foundation in the UK and the Liberty Life Group here in South Africa, the facility will have consultation rooms, e-mail and internet access, a seminar room, general courtyard and office facilities. This will be the first of 5 Community-based Learning Sites.

Hamilton Naki dies, 28th May 2005

Hamilton Naki was born in June, 1926 in the district of Centani in the Transkei. After his schooling he came to Cape Town and obtained employment as a gardener in this University. The [then] Professor of Surgical Research, Robert Goetz, attracted him to the research laboratory, where Mr Naki anaesthetised animals, and helped with the experimental



surgery. In the mid 1950's a young South African cardiac surgeon, called Chris Barnard, returned from the United States, where he had learned the technique of cardio-pulmonary bypass and open-heart surgery. Mr Naki assisted with this research, and Barnard was soon to take it to the clinical setting. Mr Naki also assisted with the experimental work that

preceded and followed the historic first heart transplant. The 1960's and 70's were exciting years of the exploding world of transplantation. Anything seemed possible then. Hamilton Naki assisted with heart, liver, kidney and other transplant research. Generations of surgeons spent time in the laboratory to perform research, and obtain higher research degrees. These surgeons were to become academics in this country and abroad. He taught surgery to over a dozen individuals who were to become Professors of Surgery and Heads of Department in places as far afield as Tokyo, and Nashville.

Mr Hamilton Naki was to teach them the craft of surgery in the research laboratory. When asked how he had learned all the surgical skills he had, without formal training, he smiled and said quietly "I stole with my eyes."

This University honoured a man who taught the *craft* of surgery to so many with an MMed [hon causa].

Isisombululu ("Solution"),

The largest donor to the IIDMM campaign, The Hasso Plattner Foundation in Germany, allocated part of the award for the organisation and implementation of a comprehensive community-based HIV/AIDS and TB related programme in the Eden district, Southern Cape region. The programme, known as Isisombululu has offices and staff within the IIDMM, and is supported by the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape's programme on HIV/AIDS, and is enriched by the

contributions of scientists, clinicians and other health professionals from UCT and the UKZN.

The project, the duration of which is expected to be 5 years, has a total budget of R26 million and thus far an amount of R10 million has already been allocated, with the intention of completing the full allocation by end of 2005. These projects cover a range of issues which include the construction of an ARV clinic in George, a mentorship programme with professional and lay health workers, ARV rollouts, an HIV/AIDS workplace project as well as supporting community initiatives through the provision of funding to Non-Governmental Organisations working within the HIV/AIDS and TB spheres. Further information can be obtained from Nontombi Jubeju on ext 6066.

Mac club (Medical Alumnus Club)

The Mac Club, situated in the Barnard Fuller Building (above the squash courts), is a postgraduate lounge for staff, postgraduate students, and senior medical students. The facility can be used to host seminars, journal clubs, and can be hired for functions at R200 for members and R500 for non-members. It has a fully stocked bar and is also equipped with DSTV, plasma screen with surroundsound as well as a DVD player. The Mac Club is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays between 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm. and Fridays 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Lunch, including a main course and desert, is available every Friday (12.30 pm to 2.00 pm) at the club (price R20) and drinks are on sale at the bar. Membership fees are R30 per year for students and R96 per year for staff. The Mac club contact person is Roxanne on telephone number, 406 6762.

Book Voucher competition

Aila Meyer from the School of Health and Rehabilitation won the R100 book voucher. Question: *Which Professor died only months after assuming his Chair? Aila's answer: The first professor of Pathology W.B. Martin, appointed from Glasgow when he was 35 years old, died 6 months after arriving in Cape Town from the Spanish Influenza epidemic during "Black October" in 1918.*

June Quiz: *This was the first time it happened to this Department; when was the second?* [Answers: dmdent@uctqsh1.uct.ac.za]



Department of correction

In the April edition of the Faculty Newsletter the securing of a DFID grant was attributed to the faculty ["we"]. The grant was in fact obtained by a group of individuals in a Department.

Gonda Perez, on behalf of EXCO