



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

FACULTY NEWSLETTER

April 2005

Dear Colleagues

This month has seen a hive of activity within the Faculty. While students and staff continue to receive awards, progress and positive news rolls in from other areas.

Congratulations: Professor Iqbal Parker has been awarded the Gold Medal for "Distinguished Contributions to Biochemistry in South Africa" by the South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Christopher Young, an undergraduate student, was named as one of the winners in the South Africa-at-large category of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships. Dr Di Cooper, Director of the Women's Health Research Unit, has been awarded a Soros Reproductive Health and Rights Fellowship for 2005, which requires her contribution to a book of essays on women's reproductive health. The Faculty is proud to be associated with staff and students of this calibre.

Fundraising

We have been awarded the DFID grant we were bidding for in January. This consists of 5 years of funding, totaling 2.2 million pounds! UCT's Dept of Psychiatry and Mental Health leads the consortium. It includes members from around the globe and has received support for the proposal and indication of willingness to participate from the relevant government departments in the study countries. Progress in other fundraising initiatives include the opening of the IDMM, the opening of the postgraduate suite on E-floor GSH, donations contributing to clinical skills and the commencement of building at Vanguard Drive Community Health Centre.



IDMM Opening: The IIDMM held its Donor Appreciation Function, official Opening Ceremony and 3-day opening conference on *Infectious Diseases in Africa* on March 23rd, 2005. Guests and conference delegates came

from the USA, India, Europe and the UK to receive the university's thanks, to network with scientific colleagues and to celebrate a new start for the R50-mil project. The restored landscaping is already proving popular with the students, and we thank UCT Property and Services for that contribution.



Wieland Gevers [Interim Director IIDMM], Sydney Brenner [Nobel Laureate], Stuart Saunders [Past Vice Chancellor] Cheryl de la Rey [Deputy Vice Chancellor]

Postgraduate Facilities Update: Following lengthy discussions with Merck USA/MSD South Africa, initiated by Prof Padayachee in August 2001, the postgraduate suite on E floor of new GSH has finally been opened. This suite houses a seminar room with audio-visual equipment, a lounge area, a kitchen and 7 security-controlled IT lab stations. Postgraduate students now have, together with the opening of the IIDMM access to superior facilities and a prominent position in the campus infrastructure.

Clinical Skills Lab: Thanks to a very generous donation from the CHK Trust in the UK, the Clinical Skills programme will be acquiring a SimMan, initially for postgraduate teaching use, as a major addition to teaching equipment. Future developments include new teaching equipment for the Mowbray Maternity Home teaching unit and closer collaboration between the Clinical Skills programme and the emerging community-based education sites.

Community-Based Education (CBE): new Student Learning Venue at Vanguard Drive Community Health Centre: Building at the Vanguard Drive Community Health Centre of the new UCT FHS teaching venue has commenced and is making excellent progress. It is estimated that the facility will be open for teaching purposes from August this year, thanks to the generosity of the Rangoonwala Foundation in the UK and the Liberty Foundation in SA.



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Admissions policy: The University recently won a court case (with all costs awarded to the University) instituted by the parents of an unsuccessful applicant to MBChB who made an appeal to be provisionally admitted to MBChB, pending the outcome of a more detailed investigation into the University's admissions policy and practices. The Faculty had not considered the applicant's results to be sufficiently competitive for her to have been offered a place for 2005. Now that they have lost the initial case, it is unlikely that they will pursue the matter legally. Meanwhile the Faculty is reviewing its current admission policy, and changes (if any) will be put to the Faculty Board for consideration in due course.

Announcement of Deputy Deans: At the Faculty Board meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2005 on behalf of the Faculty EXCO, proposed the appointment of four Deputy Deans for the duration of the interim period until the new Dean has been appointed. EXCO's recommendation was that; (a) Professor DM Dent be appointed full-time Deputy Dean; and; (b) Professors M Jacobs, L Steyn and K Vaughan be appointed part-time Deputy Deans. Their portfolios are still being finalised.

New structures in Education: In a series of workshops and meetings led by Professors Kidson and Seggie, the question of suitable education structures and governance were addressed and the following simplified organization proposed. A single Faculty Education Committee, chaired by the dean/deputy and including HODS, EDU, director PHC, and chairs from the MBChB, H&RS, postgraduate and student support committees will deal with matters of policy, strategy, quality and finance. Meetings will occur bi-monthly. The MBChB, H&RS and postgraduate committees, with appropriate sub-committees will deal with organization, educational and running matters. Close interfacing with departments at various levels will ensure that programmes are given appropriate and significant backing with respect to staffing, budgets, teaching resources and space. The above organization has been ratified by the Faculty Board.

Joint Agreement: the University Council has appointed an advisory group to assist the FHS JA task team in the drafting of the new joint agreement. They are Professors Terblanche, Folb and Mr. Jeremy Gauntlett. The months ahead will see the execution of the Task Team's work.

Space Audit: In an agreement between Province and the University of Cape Town, a joint GSH-UCT task team has been convened to compile a comprehensive Inventory of Accommodation on the GSH site due to clinical and academic activities recently being affected by various factors. The actual physical appraisal of space and the initial phases of this project have been successful thus far.

Diversity workshops: In March, a number of staff from the Dean's office attended diversity training. In April, Heads of Departments and Directorates will go through the same training. The Faculty recognises that diversity awareness is an integral part of the transformation process. Besides raising awareness on diversity, the workshops started a conversation on how valuing diversity can assist towards achieving the Faculty goals and vision.

FHS 80th Birthday events: A record is being kept of all significant events in 2005 as part of the Faculty's 80th Birthday celebrations. Please continue to forward these to cjeffrey@curie.uct.ac.za on an on-going basis. Planning has started on securing the relevant objects of the UCT *Curiosities CLXXV* exhibition on the Hiddingh campus, for display at this campus during the year at secure sites.



Enquiries or suggestions can be e-mailed to Prof David Dent on dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za

Health Sciences Funding Conference: The Western Cape Health Deans Forum is arranging a National Conference on the Financing of Health Sciences Education for the 16th and of May 2005. The aim of the conference is to bring together all stakeholders, such as the Department of Health, Education, Finance and Science & Technology, the Provincial Departments of Health and the Universities, as well as the private sector, in order to find a way forward that will address current issues and ensure the long-term sustainability of health sciences education.

Gonda Perez, on behalf of EXCO