



CHRONICLE

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WELCOME!

WE'RE HAPPY TO SEE YOU!

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Division of Anatomical Pathology at the University of Cape Town/National Health Laboratory Service.

This biannual publication seeks to share news from the Division and highlight the important work of Anatomical Pathology.

ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY
NEWSLETTER

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A CUP OF TEA WITH PROF PILLAY

BY LYNELLE GOVENDER

I sat down for a cup of tea with Professor Komala Pillay. Here's the inside scoop on our brilliant Head of Division.

LG: So, 2020! And it was your first year as our Head of Division. What's been your biggest challenge in 2020?

KP: 2020 was a year of a new way of (mainly online) working because of COVID-19, with numerous protocols implemented. It also forced many of us to work in isolation, and that was associated with its own challenges. However, I am so proud of the many dissertations and exams passed as well as promotions, awards and positions attained.

LG: What are your plans for the Division of Anat Path for 2021?

KP: This year we are practically full in terms of staff. My vision for 2021 is to have staff development, registrar support to maintain the pass rate, and improved relations between colleagues. This year I think we could all benefit from more communication, perhaps more face-to-face interactions even in small groups.

LG: I'm sure this job keeps you really busy, but what do you get up to in your down-time?

KP: Down-time is family-time.

LG: Any thoughts to share for budding young pathologists out there?

KP: Pathology is a fantastic discipline. At an undergrad level, you don't get adequate exposure to the practice of the discipline itself (diagnostic pathology) which is where the magic lies. Undergrad students may get overwhelmed by the theory aspect. But if anyone is interested, they should contact us and visit the division, so they can see what we actually do. Even just one day, to shadow one registrar, you would get to see what we do.



GET IN TOUCH

Professor Komala Pillay

Wernher and Beit Chair
Head of Division Anatomical Pathology
University of Cape Town/National Health
Laboratory Service
komala.pillay@uct.ac.za
+27 21 406 6162



**NATIONAL HEALTH
LABORATORY SERVICE**



Congrats!

BRAG BOARD

We have had some incredible achievements in the Division of Anatomical Pathology.
Well done to the staff and supervisors!
Period: September 2020 - March 2021

PhD: Andrew Ndlovu

MSc with distinction: Raymond Kriel

MSc: Lerato Hlatswayo

Part 1 CMSA exams: Nelson da Costa
Janet de Stadler
Corneli Dittrich
Mariette du Toit
Nandi Gericke
Samuel Likumbo
Debbie Tsai
Raisa Wessels

Part 2 CMSA exams: Chris Jackson

MMed dissertation: Sipehelele Madlala

MMed dissertation with distinction:
Sindy Tu
Alessandro Aldera

BSc (Hons) Information Systems with distinction:
Jurgen Geitner

PROMOTIONS:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: MICHAEL LOCKETZ

SENIOR LECTURER & PRINCIPAL PATHOLOGIST: RIYAADH ROBERTS

HONORARY LECTURERS: ALESSANDRO ALDERA & MAUREEN DUFFIELD

PERMANENT LECTURER: LYNELLE GOVENDER

EXCEEDS AWARD : THELMA GALSWORTHY & MELVIN LAWRENCE

OUR GROWING DIVISION

We are very excited to welcome not one...not two....but three new consultants to the Division of Anatomical Pathology.

It's the best kind of hat-trick we could have hoped for.

Below, each of these consultants has shared a little bit about themselves, to help us to get to know them better.

You will find these talented Anatomical Pathologists based at the Anatomical Pathology laboratory (D7, Grootte Schuur Hospital).



DR JACKIE CHOKOE MALULEKE

My name Jackie. I am a pathologist, wife and mother, sister and daughter to my two parents who stay in Polokwane, Limpopo province. I studied for a BSc (University of Durban Westville) then MBChB (Medunsa) then Masters In Medicine (Anatomical Pathology) at Stellenbosch University. We are back in Cape Town yippee.

I LOVE ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY AS A WHOLE. CYTOPATHOLOGY, GYNAECOLOGICAL, PLACENTAL PATHOLOGY AND PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY. I ALSO LIKE MEDICAL EDUCATION BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE

I love going to gym, architecture, interior décor, tennis, walking and I want to convince my family that we must take up hiking.

DR WASHINGTON MUDINI

My name is Washington Mudini. I am from Harare, Zimbabwe. I obtained my medical degree from The University of Zimbabwe in 2008 and my post graduate training from University of Witwatersrand in 2019.

I am pleased to join the University of Cape Town not only to enhance my professional experience as an anatomical pathologist but also to interact with great researchers whose work I have always read and admired. I am passionate about Digital pathology and how we can use it to provide pathology services to poorly serviced/remote regions. Since coming to Cape Town, I have had my weekends full because there is always a new trail to hike, a small town to visit, a dragon boat to paddle, baby seals to snorkel alongside and a scenic route to cycle. I am clearly in love with the outdoors, and I didn't even know it.



I AM VERY KEEN TO SEE MORE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION THROUGH PRACTICAL TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH BETWEEN FELLOW CLINICIANS AND SCIENTISTS WITHIN AFRICA. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I FEEL WE CAN HELP IMPROVE THE HEALTH SITUATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PEOPLE.



DR AYANDA MFOKAZI

I was born and bred in the rural Eastern Cape where I completed my medical degree at the University of Walter Sisulu (the former University of Transkei) in 2005. My hunger for education drove me into the greener academic pastures of the Western Cape, where I obtained a Masters degree in Medicine, specialising in Anatomical pathology, at the Stellenbosch University in 2014.

There is never a dull moment for me, no single case ever looks like the other under that microscope!! If I must choose, I think cytopathology is a gold mine as a practical skillset and for academic research in our era of minimal invasive surgical procedures, advanced radiological techniques, biobanking, molecular studies and targeted therapies

I make every moment count, thoroughly enjoying the gift of life, the beauty of nature all around me especially in a city like CT, if not at the shores of its beaches then I will be found on top of its mountains. I blow all my extra cash on new grocery ingredients and kitchen gadgets to try out "chef" prepared breakfasts, lunches and dinners to keep all my handsome men (hubby and our 3 boys) at home well-nourished, yet entertained & hopefully hooked on me.

**OH MY GOODNESS!!
THE ENTIRE FIELD OF
ANAT PATH MAKES ME
FEEL LIKE A KID IN A
SWEET SHOP**

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Research, publication and sharing work with the academic community at conferences is an important part of scholarly work.

Congratulations to the staff who contributed to these academic publications (September 2020 - March 2021).

Aldera AP, Govender D, Locketz ML, Mukhopadhyay S, McHugh K, Allende D. Combined Use of INSM1 and Synaptophysin Is the Most Sensitive and Specific Panel to Detect Neuroendocrine Neoplasms in the Digestive Tract. *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, Volume 154, Issue 6, December 2020, Pages 870-871.

Govender L, de Villiers MR. When disruption strikes the curriculum: Towards a crisis-curriculum analysis framework. *Medical Teacher*. 2021 Feb 9:1-0. doi: 10.1080/0142159X.2021.1887839

Ikumi NM, Malaba TR, Pillay K, Cohen MC, Madlala HP, Matjila M, Anumba D, Myer L, Newell ML, Gray CM, for the PIMS Study Group. Differential impact of antiretroviral therapy initiated before or during pregnancy on placenta pathology in HIV-positive women. *medRxiv* 2020
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.15.20131615>

Knight L, Gericke N, Pillay K, Hlela C. Progressively enlarging nodules over the distal interphalangeal joints of a 6-month-old boy. *International Journal of Dermatology* 2020

**READ
ALL
ABOUT IT**



GET TO KNOW

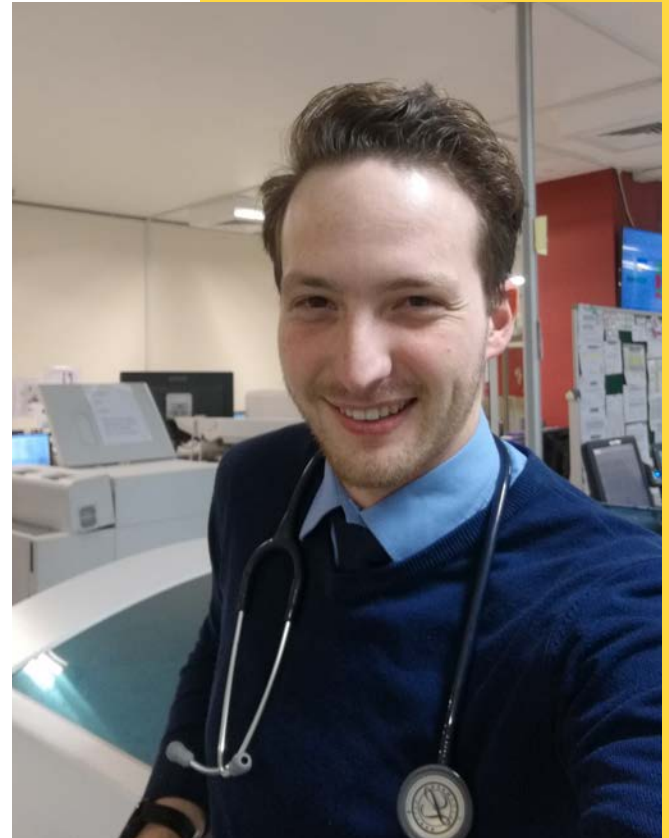
Dr Jarryd Lunn is a registrar completing postgraduate training in Anatomical Pathology. He joined the division in January 2020. He is the current registrar representative. Let's get to know him a little...

LG: Why did you choose to specialize in Anat Path?

JL: Pathology and molecular medicine always stood out for me at medical school, particularly anatomical pathology. It seemed like a discipline where one could engage with both the physical nature and appearance of a disease process, and the less tangible, occasionally more esoteric, pathophysiology. It helped me understand human disease by giving a visual identity to pathologies. My enthusiasm and interest in pathology and molecular medicine stood in rather stark contrast to my experiences in clinical medicine – especially after taking a year off to do a full time laboratory work during my intercalated honours year. I never found the same enjoyment in any clinical disciplines. I was lucky enough to spend my community service in Chemical Pathology which was thoroughly enjoyable, but still lacked that ‘completeness’ that Anat Path always offered. I was overjoyed when I heard I had been given a post in Anat Path. I haven't had a day yet when I haven't wanted to come to work!

LG: What does your role as the registrar representative involve?

JL: As registrar rep, my role is as a liaison between the registrar group and the various other teams we engage with: the consultancy, the technologists, the secretariat, and the academic staff. This ensures that we as registrars are aware of matters that will affect us in our work. It's an important role that I hope I am (and will continue) to do justice to!



I was overjoyed when I heard I had been given a post in Anat Path

LG: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

JL: (what is spare time? 😊) I love being outdoors; I ran and hiked a lot before a recent injury. I often go to ‘study’ at Kirstenbosch on weekend afternoons, strategically leaving all my notes at home, taking only my Kindle (we'll see how well Murakami and Milton, my current fixations, prepare me for primaries!). Prior to COVID, I used to attend a lot of symphony concerts; I have terribly strong opinions on classical music. My partner and I also go to the aquarium every Sunday afternoon. I grow several orchid species, with varying degrees of success.

RECENT EVENTS

YEAR-END PICNIC

While 2020 came with many challenges, it ended on a high note. The year end picnic, held at Deer Park gave staff a chance to rest and relax together.

Delicious food, lots of laughs and the chance to get to meet our colleagues families, partners, children and pets!

These photos are just a few of the highlights. We look forward to our next event together.

Photo credit: Melvin Lawrence







We hope you've enjoyed this glimpse into the work of Anatomical Pathology, and the people who make it possible. Keen to learn more? Here's where you can find us:

University of Cape Town

Division of Anatomical Pathology
Falmouth Building
Faculty of Health Sciences
Anzio Road
Observatory
Cape Town

National Health Laboratory Service

Groote Schuur Hospital
Observatory, Cape Town

Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital
Mowbray, Cape Town

CONTACT US

This newsletter welcomes comments, feedback and submissions. Please send all correspondence to the editor.

Dr Lynelle Govender

Lecturer

Division of Anatomical Pathology
University of Cape Town
lynelle.govendereuct.ac.za

