Faculty of Health Sciences Research report 2012

Department of Medicine

Research report 2012

Head of Department: Professor B.M. Mayosi

Departmental Profile

The Department of Medicine is a large clinical department which plays a leading role in medical education and research, and provides clinical services to the communities of the Western Cape and, in the case of our highly specialised services, to patients throughout southern Africa. The Department consists of 21 clinical and service divisions, 11 major research units, and four affiliated departments of medicine at GF Jooste, New Somerset, II Military, and Victoria hospitals (www.medicine.uct.ac.za). Each day, members of the department treat an average of 2,000 patients in our clinics, admit about 100 patients to our hospital services and perform over 210 medical procedures. The department offers a number of highly specialised services that are unique nationally such as allergology, bone marrow, heart, kidney, and liver transplantation, cardiac electrophysiology, endobronchial ultrasound guided bronchoscopy, and double balloon enteroscopy for visualisation of the small bowel.

There approximately 80 registrars who are training in the department, 20 of whom are from other countries such as Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The department produces formularies and guidelines that are used in most health facilities in South Africa, such as the *South African Medical Formulary* and *Primary Care 101*.

Departmental Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Professors	16
Associate Professors	22
Senior Lecturers/lecturers Full-time	85
Administrative and clerical staff	37
Total	160

Honorary Staff

Honorary Professors	7
Emeritus Professors	4
Honorary Associate Professors	3
Honorary Senior Lecturers	40
Honorary Research Associates	5
Total	59

Students

Doctoral	39
Masters	122
Undergraduates	1134
Total	1295

Research Fields and Staff

See Divisions and Research Units within the Department

Contact Details

Postal Address: Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences University of Cape Town, Observatory 7925, Cape Town

Telephone: +27 21 406 6200

Fax: +27 21 448 6815

E-mail: faiza.pearce@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY

Head of Division: Associate Professor S.R. Ress

Divisional Profile

The Division of Clinical Immunology undertakes a multi-disciplinary activity that includes teaching of undergraduate and post-graduate students, evaluation of immune function in patients with suspected immune deficiency, and a translational research programme focussed on immunology of autoimmunity, HIV and TB.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Associate Professors	1
Technical Support Staff	1
Total	2

Research Fields and Staff

Associate Professor Stanley Ress Immunology of tuberculosis; Autoimmunity

Contact Details

Postal Address: Clinical Immunology Laboratory, H47 Old Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory 7925

Telephone: +27 21 406 6201 Fax: +27 21 448 6815 E-mail: stan.ress@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF DERMATOLOGY

HEAD OF DIVISION: Associate Professor Nonhlanhla P. Khumalo

DIVISION PROFILE

The Division's training programme includes undergraduate teaching of 2nd to 6th year MBChB students. Postgraduate students include 8 registrars, 1 MRC fellow and 2 PhD fellows. The main research contributions of the Division are in the epidemiology, treatment and prevention of hair disorders and druginduced skin injury.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS PERMANENT AND LONG TERM CONTRACT STAFF

Associate Professor	1
Emeritus Professor	1
Senior Lecturers (full-time)	2
Senior Lecturers (part-time, 5/8)	2
(part-time, sessional)	4
Lecturer (part-time, 5/8)	1
(sessional, DOE funds)	1
Research Staff	4
Administrative and Clerical Staff	4
Honorary Lecturers	3
TOTAL	23

STUDENTS

Doctoral	3
Masters	9
Undergraduate	784
TOTAL	796

RESEARCH FIELDS PERMANENT STAFF

Associate Professor Nonhlanhla Khumalo

Professor Khumalo is NRF rated and runs the only academic hair research clinic in the country (with Dr. Laduma Ngwanya). Her research interests include the epidemiology and treatment of hair and scalp disorders that uniquely affect individuals with afro-textured hair. Her international collaboration studies use various research tools - scanning (and transmission) electron microscopy and amino acid analysis of hair. Current studies are investigating the link between folliculitis keloidalis nuchea and HIV transmission. She is also developing a hair classification tool that will be useful for elucidating the relationship between the pathogenesis of alopecia and hair phynotype.

Dr Rannakoe Lehloenya

Dr Rannakoe Lehloenya leads a study of the clinical, molecular and genetic aspects of severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions (SCAR). Intrinsic to this will be the development of a predictive model for ascribing causality to ensure safe drug reintroduction especially for antituberculosis treatment reactions. Several other closely related clinical studies include a follow up of patients to assess long term sequelae, evaluation of placenta and newborn following SCAR in pregnancy and the use of clobetasol to prevent nail sequelae of SCAR. The division has become the only African member of the international group, RegiSCAR, contributing cases to the group database, essential as the cause of these reactions in Africa is very different from Europe and Asia.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE CHRONIC DISEASES INITIATIVE IN AFRICA (CDIA)

Director: Professor N.S. Levitt

Divisional Profile

The Chronic Diseases Initiative in Africa (CDIA), funded by the United Health Chronic Disease Initiative and the National Heart Lung Blood Institute (NHLBI), was launched in November 2009. It forms part of an 11 centre Global Health Initiative focussing on non communicable disease research in the developing world. CDIA comprises of a network of researchers drawn from the University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape, along with the South African Medical Research Council, Harvard University and Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Tanzania, in addition to representatives from local and national Departments of Health. CDIA's mission is to serve as a collaborating initiative for the development, evaluation and dissemination of methods and programmes to prevent chronic non-communicative diseases, and improve the quality of care for people with these diseases and their risk factors.

Research

Currently funded projects:

Develop, evaluate and implement integrated chronic disease management guidelines for primary care providers

Eden District Randomised, Controlled-Trial for Primary Care of Chronic, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is being conducted to test the effectiveness of a novel training approach based on a previously tested model of syndromic screening and management of patients with conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, or TB. A written guideline (101 pages) has been prepared for the management of chronic diseases by primary care nurses and doctors. The trial will test whether the approach, previously shown to be effective for respiratory diseases including tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, will remain effective when expanded to include the primary care management of other major categories of chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes, depression).

To calibrate and validate a non-laboratory based screening tool for cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk prediction in South Africa

The predictive performance and risk discrimination of the non-laboratory-based risk score to five commonly used laboratory-based scores (Framingham CHD and CVD, SCORE for low and high risk settings, CUORE) was evaluated in 11 South African cohorts, which represents all cross sectional studies conducted in the country over the past 25 years for which the necessary data were available.

Develop, evaluate and implement an economic model to assess the cost-effectiveness of interventions. This project aims to develop a CVD Prevention and Management Model that would allow us to predict CVD events accurately and be used in cost-effectiveness analyses comparing the use of different screening and intervention strategies.

Develop the capacity of community health workers, primary care facilities and managers in the area of chronic diseases

This project aims, in collaboration with the provincial DOH to define the role of a community health worker in caring for patients with NCDs and to develop suitable NCD training materials and tools for this group.

Develop, evaluate and implement lifestyle tools for the general public and patients.

"Putting Prevention into Practice" This project aims to produce and pilot a resource package for primary health care providers and community health workers to enable them to offer brief, best practice,

behavioural change counselling in a variety of settings, on the topics of smoking; poor diet; obesity and overweight and lack of physical activity.

Develop, evaluate and implement new models for health education, communication and empowerment of patients

The evaluation, by means of a pragmatic cluster randomized controlled trial, the effectiveness of a group diabetes education programme delivered by health promoters with a guiding (motivational interviewing) style, in community health centres in Cape Town.

Divisional Statistics

CDIA/UCT Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Professor	1
Professor (Visiting)	1
Social Scientist	1
Administrative and Clerical Staff	2
Total	5

Prof Naomi Levitt	Professor
Prof Krisela Steyn	Professor
Mrs Kathy Murphy	Social Scientist
Carmelita Sylvester	Centre Manager
Susan Botha	Administrative

UCT Network Members

Professor	5
Senior Lecturer	1
Other (Senior Researcher)	1
Total	7

Prof Bongani Mayosi	Professor
Prof Eric Bateman	Professor
Prof Vicky Lambert	Professor
Prof Karen Sliwa-Hahnle	Professor
A/Prof Alan Bryer	A/Professor
Dr Tracy Kolbe-Alexander	Senior Lecturer
Dr Lara Fairall	Senior Researcher

NON-UCT Network Members

Prof Thandi Puoane (UWC)	Professor
Prof Bob Mash (Stellenbosch)	Professor
Prof Debbie Bradshaw (MRC)	Professor
Prof Carl Lombard (MRC)	Professor
Dr Thomas Gaziano (Harvard)	Adjunt Assistant Professor
Dr Kaushik Ramaiya (Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Tanzania)	Senior Lecturer
Mr Jimmy Ledwaba (Provincial Government, Dept. of	Other

Health)	
Ms Unita Van Vuuren (Provincial Government, Dept. of Health)	Other

Contact Details

Postal Address: J47 Floor, Old Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital

Telephone: +27 21 406 6572

Fax: +27 21 406 6513

E-mail: Carmelita.Sylvester@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETIC MEDICINE

Head of Division: Professor N.S. Levitt

Divisional Profile

The Division provides an inpatient and outpatient clinical service and sub-speciality training in adult endocrinology and diabetes. It has close clinical links with Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes, Reproductive Endocrinology and Chemical pathology.

Research

The Division is involved in a wide range of research activities, interacts with a number of international and local collaborators and is a member of the recently established Chronic Disease Initiative in Africa. The primary areas of research are:

Metabolic consequences of antiretroviral therapy in HIV+ patients: Cross-sectional and longitudinal studies examining the metabolic consequences of HAART are underway. These are being funded by the World Diabetes Foundation and Department of Health.

Burden of disease: The contribution of diabetes and other chronic diseases to the overall burden of disease pattern in the South African context is been studied in collaboration with Dr Debbie Bradshaw, BOD Group, MRC. A cross sectional survey of diabetes and other cardiovascular risk factors in the Black African community in Cape Town has been completed.

Obesity: In collaboration with the Department of Human Biology, a number of studies are in progress. These examine the mechanisms underlying the aetiology of obesity and insulin sensitivity in black and white African women.

Addison's Disease: Cardiovascular risk factors in Addison's disease has been investigated in collaboration with the University of Gothenberg. The impact of glucocorticoid receptor polymorphisms on cardiovascular risk factors has been assessed in Addison's disease.

Health Systems Research: The Division collaborates in projects being conducted by the Chronic Diseases Initiative in Africa. These include: a pragmatic cluster randomised trial of an integrated guideline for the management of diabetes and other chronic diseases is in primary care centre, a randomised controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness of a group diabetic education programme using motivational interviewing in underserved communities; and the development of a resource package for primary health care providers and community health workers to enable them to offer brief counselling on lifestyle.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Professor	1
Professor (visiting)	1
Senior Lecturers	2
Senior Registrar in Training	1
Medical Officer (sessional)	1
Diabetes Specialist Nurse	2

Administrative and Clerical Staff	1
Total	8

Research Fields and Staff

Professor N S Levitt

Diabetes and hypertension health systems research, diabetes burden of disease, mechanisms underlying the metabolic sequelae of obesity, metabolic consequences of HAART

Professor K Steyn

Hypertension health systems research, burden of chronic disease and smoking in pregnancy

Dr I L Ross

National registry for Study of Addison's Disease and polyglandular autoimmune syndrome

Dr J Dave

Incidence of osteoporosis and vertebral fractures in patents with inflammatory bowel disease Metabolic consequences of antiretroviral therapy

Contact Details

Postal Address: Divisions of Endocrinology and Diabetic Medicine, Department of Medicine, Faculty of

Health Sciences, Observatory, 7925

Telephone: +27 21 406 6140

Fax: +27 21 406 6513

E-mail: susan.botha@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY (Gastrointestinal Clinic)

Head of GI Clinic: Professor S Thomson

Divisional Profile

The Gastrointestinal Clinic is a multi-disciplinary clinical unit consisting of Medical and Surgical components. This report primarily reflects the Medical component. The Clinic carries a large clinical load and offers a number of specialised services, with clinical and applied research interests in: Hepatobiliary disease; Colorectal disease; Oesophageal disease; Inflammatory bowel disease; *H.pylori* related disease; and Nutrition. The Clinic is involved in a number of collaborative research projects.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Lecturers	5
Research Staff	1
Administrative and Clerical Staff	1
Total	5

Students

Masters	4
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Research Fields and Staff

Dr Gill Watermeyer: Risk of malignancy in inflammatory bowel disease treated with Azathioprine or 6-

Mercaptopurine; Predicting bad outcome in Crohn's disease; drug trials – various

Dr Dion Levin: Bleeding Peptic Ulcer Disease; Helicobacter.pylori testing.

Dr Sabelo Hlatshwayo: Achalsia.

Dr Mashiko Setshedi: Drug induced liver injury.

Contact Details

Postal Address: Gl Clinic, E23, New Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory, 7925

Telephone: +27 21 404 3040

Fax: +27 21 447 0582

E-mail: sandie.thomson@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF HAEMATOLOGY and UCT LEUKAEMIA UNIT

Head of Division: Professor N. Novitzky

Divisional Profile

The Division of Haematology at Groote Schuur Hospital is a complex unit with multi disciplinary activities that include outpatient clinics, admission beds as well as diagnostic and research laboratories. The clinical services are organised under the umbrella of the Department of Internal Medicine, while the laboratory diagnostic sections are under the broader organisation of the Department of Clinical & Laboratory Sciences and National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS). The Haematology section of the laboratory was accredited with SANAS 3 years ago and after review, this accreditation was confirmed last year.

Patients with elaborate clinical problems, bone marrow failure or requiring stem cell transplantation are referred from all provinces; particularly the Northern and Eastern Cape and particularly we receive referrals from foreign institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, individuals with multiple myeloma and other lymphoproliferative disorders are treated together with the Department of Radiation Oncology in combined clinics. Of concern is that a substantial increase in the numbers of HIV related malignancies and particularly Burkitt's lymphoma and leukaemia that have significantly strained our hospital beds.

The Division of Haematology provides training for both undergraduate and postgraduate students at the Medical Faculty. Registrars and consultants participate in undergraduate training, facilitating various modules focussing in blood disorders. At the postgraduate level, training is given at the level of Masters and PhD courses in cell biology as well as specialist training in haematopathology for medical graduates. In addition, within the Department of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences 3 divisions participate in the training provided to Clinical Pathology candidates. Regular experiential teaching and microscope tutorials are given to registrars in Haematopathology. Journal Clubs, seminars and group teaching is offered to Haematopathology, Clinical Haematology and general medical registrars. Interdepartmental meetings are held with academic staff from Tygerberg Hospital and Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. Faculty members from the division also regularly contribute to the teaching programmes of the basic sciences as well as Departments of Internal Medicine and Clinical and Laboratory Sciences.

In addition a University of Cape Town Leukaemia Unit established within the division, has now been reviewed and approved by the University Research Committee and will continue focusing its research work in the area of haemopoietic stem cell biology and stem cell transplant immunology. The research laboratory located at the medical school campus is well equipped to support undergraduate and postgraduate pathology and science students. Dr Shaheen Mowla has joined Dr Karen Shires to expand the molecular and cellular research in the Leukaemia Unit laboratory. The main objective will be to pursue further research into the area normal and malignant haematopoiesis, detection of minimal residual disease in patients with leukaemia, cellular therapies and stem cell transplantation.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff:

Professor	1
Clinical Service	
Senior Specialists	2
Clinical Registrars	3

Senior House Officers	2
Chief Professional Nurse	2
Administrative and clerical staff	3
Diagnostic Service	
Senior Pathologist	1
Pathologists	2
Pathologist part-time	1
Scientist	1
Pathology Registrars	5
Laboratory Manager	1
Medical Technologists	17
Technicians	4
UCT Leukaemia Unit	
Scientist	1
Research Officer	1
Research Technologist	1
Clinical Research Co-Ordinator	1
Administrative and clerical staff	1
Laboratory assistants (medical school)	2

Students

Doctoral	2
Masters	3
MMed	2
Honours	1

Research Fields and Staff

Professor Nicolas Novitzky

Haematopoietic stem cell biology; clonogenic assays; haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; immune reconstitution; haematological malignancies

Dr Cecile du Toit

Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation; haematological malignancies; haemophilia

Dr. Estelle Verburgh Myelodysplastic syndrome

Dr Maureen Stein

Haematopoietic stem cell biology

Dr Jessica Opie

Molecular biology of neoplasia: chronic myelogenous leukaemia; coagulation abnormalities

Dr Karen Shires

Molecular biology and diagnostics

Dr Shaheen Mowla Minimal residual disease and flow cytometry.

Mrs Rygana Abdulla

Cellular biology of neoplasia; clonogenic assays

Contact Details

Postal Address: 6th Floor, Chris Barnard Building, Anzio Road, Observatory, 7925

Telephone: +27 21 406 6154/404 3073

Fax: +27 21 448 8607

E-mail: Coleen.Fredericks@uct.ac.za Web: http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/haem/

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF HEPATOLOGY

Head: Associate Professor Wendy Spearman

Divisional Profile

The Division of Hepatology runs the only dedicated liver clinic as well as the only state liver transplant programme in the country. We also run a Porphyria clinic.

The unit is referred patients from all provinces in South Africa as well as from neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe and Namibia for assessment regarding the aetiology and management of both acute and chronic liver disease and suitability for liver transplantation. These referrals come from both the private and public sector.

We provide a direct call-in service telephonic to primary, secondary and tertiary medical centres regarding management of liver disease. The Liver unit works closely with the Surgical Hepatobiliary unit and collaborates with the Surgical Research laboratory.

The major areas of research include: viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver disease, immune abnormalities in liver disease, HIV and liver disease, porphyria, liver transplantation and development of bioartificial liver support devices.

The unit is actively involved in drawing up national guidelines for the management of Hepatitis B / HIV coinfection Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Associate Professors	1
Senior Lecturers / Research Officers	2
Technical Support Staff	2
Total	5

Honorary Staff

Honorary staff	1
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Research Fields and Staff

H.N. Hairwadzi

Autoimmune liver disease; viral hepatitis, bone disease in chronic liver disease

M.W. Sonderup

HIV and liver disease; viral hepatitis; porphyria

C.W.N. Spearman

Liver transplantation; viral hepatitis; paediatric liver disease, acute liver failure and bioartificial liver support devices

M. Setshedi Drug-induced liver injury

M. Kew Hepatitis; liver cancer

Contact Details

Postal Address: Division of Hepatology, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town, Medical

School, Observatory, 7925 Telephone: +27 21 406 6394

Fax: +27 21 448 6815

E-mail: Wendy.Spearman@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE THE ALBERTINA AND WALTER SISULU INSTITUTE OF AGEING IN AFRICA/ DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE

Head of Division of Geriatric Medicine: Professor M Combrinck

Acting Head of Institute of Ageing in Africa: Dr S. Kalula

Institute Profile

The Albertina and Walter Sisulu Institute of Ageing in Africa (IAA) is a Cross-Disciplinary Group. The IAA represents a coalescence of institute – wide disciplines with a focus on ageing: specifically Geriatric Medicine; Geriatric Neurology; Geriatric Neuropsychology and Old Age Psychiatry. The International Longevity Centre—South Africa is incorporated in the Institute. The vision of the IAA is to be an academic, clinical, research and policy centre of excellence and relevance in Africa. Its mission is to facilitate the delivery of the highest standard of inter-disciplinary, in-context training for health and allied professionals and evidence-based clinical and social care for older people, whilst undertaking appropriate research and audit upon which policy and planning for older persons may be based. The mission is achieved through inter-disciplinary partnerships and teamwork, and human resources development within current legal, ethical and financial constraints. The IAA is a leader in the area of research on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa, and enjoys international recognition and acclaim.

Institute Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Associate Professor	1
Senior Lecturers	5
Senior Scientific Officer	1
Medical registrars	2
Administrative and Clerical Staff	1
Total	10

Honorary Staff

Visiting Researcher	1
Senior Lecturer	2
Total	3

Students

Doctoral	3
Masters	3
Total	6

Research Fields and Staff

Dr Sebastiana Kalula

Epidemiology of dementia; falls; quality of care.

Dr Linda de Villiers

Stroke risk factors and rehabilitation; post-discharge stroke community care.

Professor Marc Combrinck

NRF Research Chair in Clinical Neurosciences: neuro-inflammation and mechanisms of neuro-degeneration with specific reference to cognitive impairment in the elderly and in HIV-associated encephalopathy.

Dr Kevin G.F. Thomas

Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology: geriatric neuropsychology; dementia; impact of stress on memory; impact of life stressors on age-related cognitive decline.

Associate Professor John A. Joska

Senior Lecturer, Division of Neuropsychiatry, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health: neurocognitive disorders in HIV infection.

Contact Details

Postal Address: The Albertina and Walter Sisulu Institute of Ageing in Africa, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, L51, Old Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory 7925, Cape Town, South Africa.

Telephone: +27 21 406 6211 Fax: +27 21 406 6846

E-mail: iaa-institute@uct.ac.za

Web: http://www.instituteofageing.uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY AND HYPERTENSION

Heads of Division: Associate Professor B.L. Rayner

Divisional Profile

Currently the new division offers a wide range of clinical services including chronic and acute dialysis, renal transplantation, assessment and treatment of a broad range of kidney disease and resistant hypertension, 24 blood pressure monitoring renal biopsies, prevention of chronic kidney, and cardiovascular risk assessment. The unit is supported by a dedicated team of transplant surgeons. Treatment is offered to both private and indigent patients. It also offers out reach programmes to Khayelitsha Community Health Centre and GF Jooste Hospital locally, and to George Hospital, the Northern and Eastern Cape.

There is active training programme for senior registrars in Nephrology and the unit is currently training 5 nephrology fellows. The division supports the Department of Medicine training of medical students, specialist physicians and professions allied to medicine. The division also supports training of renal technologists and the nephrology course for nurses.

The main academic research activities of the division relate to renal bone disease; systemic lupus erythematosis (SLE); genetics of salt sensitive hypertension; diabetic nephropathy; classification, genetics, prevalence and treatment of HIV associated nephropathy; the genetics of ACE inhibitor related angioedema in black and coloured South Africans; treatment of renal artery stenosis due to atherosclerosis; vascular calcification in CKD stage 5 and its effects on central aortic BP; detection of vascular calcification; and the effects of antiviral treatment on BP in patients living with HIV.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff and students

Associate Professors	2
Senior Lecturers	2
Emeritus Professor	1
Senior registrar	5
Part-time consultant	1
Medical officers	3
Medical registrars	3
PhD Students	0
Total	15

Research Fields and Staff

Associate Professor C.R. Swanepoel

HIV and the kidney – worked on the development of a HIV and renal disease classification. Principal researcher is Dr N Wearne.

Dr Z Barday Kidney transplantation

Dr Yvonne Trinder Hypertension

Dr Ike Okpechi Lupus registry; Quality of life in CAPD patients

Associate Professor Brian Rayner

Cardiovascular outcomes in renal atherosclerotic lesion (CORAL Study): A prospective, multi-center, unblinded, two-arm, randomized trial; Genetics of salt sensitive hypertension (PhD dissertation); PTH and low renin hypertension; The genetics of ACE inhibitor related angioedema in black and coloured South Africa

Dr Nicola Wearne

Retrospective analysis of all HIV positive renal biopsies between 2004 and 2008 at GSH hospital; Prospective observational study of all HIV positive patients who undergo a renal biopsy at GSH hospital to establish best medical management, mortality and spectrum of disease; HIV related renal disease: Histological Classification; Randomised controlled study: Treatment of HIV +ve patients with confirmed HIVAN on renal biopsy with Corticosteroids; Epidemiology of renal dysfunction and chronic kidney disease in HIV positive HAART naïve patients

Contact Details

Postal Address: E13 Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory, 7925

Telephone: +27 21 404 3318 Fax: +27 21 404 5215

E-mail: mmcadi@pgwc.gov.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF NEUROLOGY

Head of Division: Associate Professor A. Bryer

Divisional Profile

A general clinical neurology service is operated at Groote Schuur Hospital. This provides a full range of clinical activities, including in-patients, consultative, and emergency services. Additionally, there is a clinical neurophysiology laboratory, a dedicated actue stroke unit, and specialised clinics for stroke, myasthenia gravis, HIV neurology, neuro-genetic disorder and epilepsy.

Areas of research include:

Stroke: A large cohort of stroke patients were followed up for 6 months post incident stroke to determine survival, disability and functional outcomes following their discharge from an acute stroke unit to community-based health care and rehabilitation. Factors predictive of poor outcome were identified. Data from this study are being used to develop a community based model of stroke care. An in-service training program for health care workers involved in stroke care in under-resourced settings is being developed. The new South African National Guideline for the management of acute ischaemic stroke and TIA has been published with substantial input from the GSH/UCT stroke Unit. A longitudinal study of HIV associated stroke to evaluate the underlying biological mechanisms (specifically endothelial dysfunction and ultrasonographic vascular phenotypes) has been undertaken.

Myasthenia gravis: Clinical and Laboratory-based research projects are focussed on improving therapeutic strategies and increasing understanding of disease pathogenesis.

- a. Methotrexate vs. azathioprine randomized trial completed. Presented at NASA and ANA 2010. Submitted to Neuromuscular Dis. 2011
- b. A Multi-center, Randomized Study comparing Thymectomy to No Thymectomy in Myasthenia Gravis- International study NIH funded. On advisory committee.
- c. The psychiatric manifestions in thymomatous MG (Dr Freeman, Psychiatry) Complement regulation in MG subjects with DAF promoter SNP and the effect of therapies. This work done by the Neurology Research Group in partnership with Human Bilogy laboratory. PI J Heckmann with Dr's Amaal Abrahams and Sharon Prince. MSc student Ms J Auret.
- d. TGFb polymorphisms and their association with extraocular muscle MG damage- in collaboration with Dr C Dandara, Human Genetics.

HIV/AIDS: Clinical and Laboratory-based research projects studying the risk factors for developing neuropathy in HIV-infected subjects.

a. Research collaboration with Endocrine (UCT) and Neurology (Emory University) – longitudinal prevalence study of HIV neuropathy and risk factors at the Crossroads CHC.

Dr Johan van der Watt, received the CIDRI Post Graduate Scholarship award to study inflammation in HIV- associated toxic neuropathy

- b. Dr Chad Centner is studying Pyridoxine & NAT 2 genotypes as risk factors for HIV- associated neuropathy.
- c. Dr John- Randel Vermaak is studying the incidence of HIV- neuropathy since the cART regimen has changed from d4T to Tenofovir.
- d. Collaboration with Dr's Todd Hulgan (Vanderbilt University) and Dr P Sinxadi, Pharmacology, UCT to investigate mitochondrial DNA haplotype and susceptibility to HIV- associated toxic neuropathy by examining mitochondrial haplogroups and association with HIV- associated neuropathy in African subjects on d-drugs.

- e. Dr Friedrich Thienemann is performing a retrospective analysis of demyelinating CNS disease in HIV- infected subjects.
- f. Pilot project examining the efficacy and CSF drug penetration of cART in patient with neurological HIV- associated disease. Dr's Thienemann, Vermaak and Decloedt (Pharmacology)

Dementia: A longitudinal study of cognitive impairment in the elderly, with an emphasis on the role of inflammation in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. The study includes imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) of the brain and volumetric MRI analyses of various brain regions.

Neurogenetics: A clinical and counselling service for patients with Huntington disease and familial spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA) with a study to find an appropriate SNP to target for SCA1 gene silencing and to knock down the expression of mutant Ataxin1.

Multi-media teaching: The use of clinical encounter simulations is being explored.

Drug trials: The division is active in phase 3 drug trials for Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Associate Professors (Full-time)	4
Senior Lecturers (Full-time)	1
Lecturers (Part-time)	2
Total	7

Postgraduate Students

B.Sc Hons	2
M. Sc.	4
PhD	1
M. Med (Psychiatry)	1
M. Med (Family Med)	1
MA (Neuropsychology)	2

Research Fields and Staff

Associate Professor A. Bryer Stroke; neuro-genetics.

Dr E. Lee Pan

Health systems information technology; multi-media teaching.

Associate Professor J. Heckmann

Myasthenia gravis; HIV neurological disease, HIV neuropathy, neuro-immunology; neuro-genetics.

Dr L. Tucker Epilepsy Dr K. Bateman Tuberculous meningitis

Contact Details

Postal Address: E8, New Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory, 7925 Telephone: +27 21 404 3197/8

Fax: +27 21 406 6251

E-mail: alan.bryer@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Head of Division: Professor Gary Maartens

Divisional Profile

The major research thrusts of the division are focused on drugs for malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. The research in these fields is broad and encompasses drug discovery, pharmacokinetics, pharmacogenomics, clinical trials, pharmacoepidemiology, and pharmacoeconomic evaluation. The analytical laboratory plays a key research role with small animal models for drug discovery and in patient samples for drug concentrations. A large multicentre malaria clinical research group headed by Prof Karen Barnes has secured substantial funding from the Gates Foundation and the Global Fund - this programme is at the forefront of translational malaria research in Africa. The MRC South African Traditional Medicines Research Group is a drug discovery programme: Prof Kelly Chibale, Dept Chemistry, UCT and Prof Peter Smith from our division are co-directors. Compounds with antimalarial. antibacterial (including antitubercular) and antifungal activity are identified and optimised from plants used in traditional medicine. The analytical laboratory has recently been awarded funding from NIH as an International Pharmacology Specialty Laboratory. Prof Helen McIlleron heads our clinical pharmacokinetic group, which conducts a series of pharmacokinetic studies evaluating antitubercular drugs, antiretroviral drugs, and the interaction between them in adults and children with funding from the Wellcome Trust, NIH, and MRC. Our collaboration on population pharmacokinetics with Uppsala University is ongoing and we have a pharmacometric laboratory to perform these complex analyses.

Divisional Statistics

PERMANENT AND LONG TERM CONTRACT STAFF

Professors	2
Associate Professors	3
Senior Lecturer	3
Senior Research Officer	1
Medical Research Officer	1
Registrars	4
Research Fellow	1
Technical Support	10
Database Manager	1
Quality Assurance Manager	1
Information Pharmacist	4
Editor SAMF	1
Clinical Trial Monitors	1
Administrative and Clerical Staff	7
Departmental Assistance	1
TOTAL	41

HONORARY STAFF

Honorary professor	1
Honorary Lecturers	2
Honorary Research Associates	1
TOTAL	4

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Post Doctoral	1
Doctoral	13
Masters	1
TOTAL	15

Research Fields and Staff

Barnes, KI.

Malaria, combination antimalarial therapy – operational and policy research. Antimicrobial pharmacokinetic studies to inform optimal dosing in vulnerable populations

Blockman, M.

Rational and cost-effective prescribing of medicines; drug utilisation review; adverse drug reaction monitoring; drug policy and regulation; human research ethics.

Campbell, WE.

Phytochemical studies on indigenous Amaryllidaceae species; structural studies on active compounds isolated from traditional medicinal plants

Cohen, K.

Antiretroviral pharmacokinetics and efficacy; pharmacokinetics of antiretrovirals in children; pharmacoepidemiology.

Gabriels, G.

Analytical chemistry, pharmacokinetics, traditional medicines, drug discovery and development, drugs and sport performance

Maartens. G.

Adherence to antiretroviral therapy; immunopathology & diagnosis of HIV-associated tuberculosis; pharmacoeconomic evaluation of antiretroviral therapy; pharmacogenomics of antiretrovirals

McIlleron, H.

Pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic relationships of antitubercular and antiretroviral drugs; pharmacogenomics; population pharmacokinetics; drug interactions between antiretrovirals and rifamycins.

Smith, PJ.

Mechanisms of antimalarial drug resistance; pharmacokinetics of anti-tuberculosis drugs; isolation of novel drugs from traditional medicines; development of new drug assays.

Wiesner, L.

Pharmacokinetics of antimalarial drugs; drug assay development; metabolite identification; drug formulation.

Contact Details

Postal Address: Division of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Cape Town, K45, Old Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory, 7925

Telephone: (021) 406 6286 Fax: (021) 448 1989 Email: gary.maartens@uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Head of Division: Professor Asgar Ali Kalla

Divisional Profile

The Division of Rheumatology has several research interests relating to different aspects of the rheumatic diseases. Osteoporosis is an area of interest for many years and there is ongoing collection of longitudinal bone mineral density data in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Age-related bone loss at different skeletal sites is being prospectively studied in collaboration with the Department of Nuclear Medicine and the Endocrine Unit. Recently, collaborative studies with the Division of Hepatology have been carried out to see the relationship between bone mineral density (BMD) and auto-immune hepatitis. Clinical drug trials are in progress to study the safety and efficacy of the newer biological DMARDs in RA and SLE.. Recently, the trials of coxibs are concentrating on cardiovascular outcomes to a greater extent than their gastr-toxicity. We have also been looking at SLE genetics in collaboration with the Hepatology, with particular reference to the Vitamin D receptor and its role in the pathogenesis of auto-immune diseases. Newer areas of research include the study of chronic tophaceous GOUT; community aspects of diagnosing and treating rheumatic diseases at Community Health Centres; early rheumatoid arthritis; genetics of bone loss in SLE; and functional problems in ankylosing spondylitis.

Divisional Statistics

Permanent and Long-term Contract Staff

Professor	1
Senior Lecturer	1
Lecturers	2
Research Staff	2
Nurse practitioner	1
Administrative and Clerical staff	1
Total	8

Honorary Staff

Honorary Lecturers	3

Students

Rotating Medical Registrar	2
Medical Officer	1
Total	3

Contact Details

Postal Address: J47 Old Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital, Observatory 7925

Telephone: +27 21 404 5422/2131 or 406 6514

Fax: +27 21 448 3253

E-mail: melanie.burger@uct.ac.za; kallaa@iafrica.com

Research output

Chapters in books

Barnes, K.I. 2012. Antimalarial drugs and the control and elimination of malaria. In H.M Staines and S. Krishna (eds), Treatment and Prevention of Malaria: Antimalarial Drug Chemistry, Action and Use, pp. 1-17. London: Springer Science & Business Media B.V. ISBN 9873034604796.

Bekker, L., Beyrer, C. and Quinn, T. 2012. Behavioral and Biomedical combination strategies for HIV Prevention. In F. Bushman, G. Nabel, and R. Swanstrom (eds), HIV: From biology to prevention and treatment, pp. 537-559. New York: Cold Spring Harbor Lab Press. ISBN 9781936113408.

Blumberg, L., Cohen, C. and Barnes, K.I. 2012. Malaria. In M. Kibel, H. Saloojee and T. Westwood (eds), Child Health for All, pp. 404-411. 5th edition. Cape Town: Oxford University Press Southern Africa. ISBN 9780199042357.

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Wearne N. HIV ASSOCIATED NEPHROPATHY: Kumar and Clarke's Clinical Medicine 8th Edition, Kumar P, Clarke M (eds), Elsevier, 2012. ISBN-9780702044991.

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- Andrews, J.R., Wood, R., Bekker, L., Middelkoop, K. and Walensky, R.P. 2012. Projecting the benefits of antiretroviral therapy for HIV prevention: the impact of population mobility and linkage to care. Journal of Infectious Diseases, 206: 543-551.
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- Arentz, M., Pavlinac, P., Kimerling, M.E., Horne, D.J., Falzone, D., Schunemann, H.J., Royce, S., Dheda, K. and Walson, J.L. 2012. Use of anti-retroviral therapy in tuberculosis patients on second-line anti-TB regimens: a systematic review. PLoS One, 7(11): e47370.
- Ataher, Q., Portsmouth, S., Napolitano, L., Eng, S., Greenacre, A., Kambugu, A., Wood, R., Badal-Faesen, S. and Tressler, R. 2012. The epidemiology and clinical correlates of HIV-1 co-receptor tropism in non-subtype B infections from India, Uganda and South Africa. Journal of the International AIDS Society, 15:2.
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