

### Welcome to the last CRI quarterly newsletter for 2020.

The newsletter showcases the many cancer-related research activities in the Faculty of Health Sciences to research colleagues, clinicians, funders and the public. The quarterly newsletter is available via email and published on the [CRI website](#):

The COVID-19 had dominated much of the past year and still very much with us. It has affected individuals, communities and the world in many unimaginable ways. With the occurrence of second waves and the emergence of mutant variants of the virus across the globe including South Africa, the losses of lives and livelihoods continue to be counted. Within our oncology community, we have also seen the many enormous ways in which the pandemic has disrupted what we do – from cancer prevention, treatment and care, to research as well as teaching and learning.

### News & events

**The SAMRC Gynaecological Cancer Research Centre (GCRC) receives training awards:** GCRC has received two Carnegie-funded Developing Emerging Academic Leaders (DEAL 2) Awards for URC accredited research groupings (2021/2022). GCRC received 2 awards: 1 PhD award and 1 postdoctoral Research Fellow award. The award value for a PhD is R200,000 per annum for two years and the award value for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow is R300,00 per annum for two years. Interviews for these were held in December 2020 and the recipients of these awards have just been notified. Dr Olivia Carulei was awarded the Postdoc fellowship and Ms Nonkululeko Mkwanzazi was awarded the PhD fellowship. Congratulations to them!

**Annual UCT Head and Neck Surgery cadaver dissection workshop:** The event was held at the Red Cross Surgical Skills Center for 18 surgical trainees and specialists from all over South Africa on 5 and 6 December. Delegates learned a number of head and neck surgeries such as neck dissection, thyroidectomy, submandibular gland resection, parotidectomy and laryngectomy. Kudos to the Head and Neck team for putting this together!

**Grants:** Professor Sharon Prince has been awarded the following grants:

1. International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) grant collaborative research programme grant (2021-2023) for her project entitled “Investigation into the interaction and co-operation between the human papillomavirus oncoproteins E6/E7 with the oncogenic TBX3 transcription factor to promote cervical cancer cell proliferation and

migration” in collaboration with Dr Lawrence Banks (ICGEB, Trieste, Italy), Dr Laura Sichero (Instituto do Câncer do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil) and Dr Georgia Schafer (Division of Medical Biochemistry, Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences, and Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, UCT, South Africa).

2. SA/France (PROTEA) Call for Joint Proposal grant (2021-2022) for her project entitled “Cancer Associated Fibroblasts in Melanoma Progression” in collaboration with Dr Sophie Tartare-Deckert at C3M, Inserm, France.

**New Graduates:** the following former students from Professor Prince’s Lab have recently graduated:

1. Dr Rehana Omar (Ph.D.)
2. Mr Luqmaan Mohamed (M.Sc)

Congratulations and best wishes to the new graduates!

### Database feature

The CRI continues to support hospital-based cancer databases within the UCT/Groote Schuur/Red Cross Children’s Hospital academic complex. This year, we have added a number of new databases, including the urology database, dermatology database and the Oncology COVID-19 database. The database will register all new cancer patients and all cancer patients attending radiotherapy or chemotherapy during the COVID-19 pandemic (from March 2020 onwards) from Clinicom and cross-referenced with the Provincial Health Data Centre to obtain data of oncology patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

### Upcoming events

World Cancer Day 2021 – 4 February

The World Cancer Day is commemorated every 4 February as a global initiative led by the [Union for International Cancer Control](#) (UICC). The overarching aim is to raise worldwide cancer awareness, improving education and catalysing personal, collective and government action, towards a world where millions of preventable cancer deaths are saved and access to life-saving cancer treatment and care is equal for all. This year's World Cancer Day's theme, 'I Am and I Will', is all about you and your commitment to act. We believe that through our positive actions, together we can reach the target of reducing the number of premature deaths from cancer and non-communicable diseases by one third by 2030. To learn more about World Cancer Day, please visit the [World Cancer Day website](#).

Please let us know if you are planning any World Cancer Day events.

**For details on future events and more visit [CRI website](#) and [Twitter page](#)**

## Recent Cancer Publications

1. Saidu R, Kuhn L, Tergas A, Boa R, Moodley J, Svanholm-Barrie C, Persing D, Campbell S, Tsai W-Y, Wright TC, Denny L. Performance of Xpert HPV on self-collected vaginal samples for cervical cancer screening among women in South Africa. *Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease*, 2020.  
[DOI: 10.1097/LGT.0000000000000575](https://doi.org/10.1097/LGT.0000000000000575)
2. Chambuso R, Ramesar R, Kaambo E, A, Murahwa AT, Abdallah MOE, De Sousa M, Denny L, Williamson A-L, Gray CM. Age, absolute CD4 count, and CD4 percentage in relation to HPV infection and the stage of cervical disease in HIV-1 positive women. *Medicine*, 2020;99:9. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000019273>
3. Moodley J, Constant D, Mwaka AD, Scott SE, Walter FM. Mapping awareness of breast and cervical cancer risk factors, symptoms and lay beliefs in Uganda and South Africa. *PLoS ONE*. 2020;15(10). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240788>
4. Adoch W, Garimoi CO, Scott SE, Okeny GG, Moodley J, Komakech H, Walter FM, Mwaka AD. Knowledge of cervical cancer risk factors and symptoms among women in a refugee settlement: a cross-sectional study in northern Uganda. *Conflict and Health*. 2020; 14(85). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-020-00328-3>
5. Harries J, Scott SE, Walter FM, Mwaka AD, Moodley J. Women's appraisal, interpretation and help-seeking for possible symptoms of breast and cervical cancer in South Africa: a qualitative study. *BMC Women's Health*. 2020; 20(251). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-020-01120-4>
6. Harries J, Constant D, Cairncross L, Moodley J. Contraceptive needs and fertility intentions of women with breast cancer in Cape Town, South Africa: a qualitative study. *BMC Women's Health*. 2020; 20(224). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-020-01094-3>
7. Nnaji CA, Kuodi P, Walter FM, Moodley J. Effectiveness of interventions for improving timely diagnosis of breast and cervical cancers in low and middle-income countries: a systematic review protocol. *BMJ Open*. 2020; 10. DOI:[10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042788](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042788)
8. Denny L. Socioeconomic factors and cancer prevention in Africa: Cervical cancer as an example. In: Wild CP, Weiderpass E, Stewart BW (eds). *World Cancer Report: Cancer research for cancer prevention*. Lyon, France: WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer, pp246-251.
9. Denny L, Sankaranarayan R. Cancer screening and prevention in gynaecology. In: Arulkumaran S, Ledger W, Doumouchsis S (eds). *Oxford Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp755-765.
10. Mbatani NH, Richards DGD. Uterine cancer. In: Arulkumaran S, Ledger W, Denny L, Doumouchsis S (eds). *Oxford Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp777-786.
11. Rogers L, Oonk M, van der Zee A. Premalignant and malignant disease of the vulva and vagina. In: Arulkumaran S, Ledger W, Denny L, Doumouchsis S (eds). *Oxford Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp797-808.
12. Benamrane A, Herry B, Vieru V, Chakraborty S, Biswas S, Prince S, Marschnerlonic C, Blom B (2020) Ruthenium and Iron Based Complexes Bearing Silver Containing Anions as a Potent New Class of Anticancer Agents, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, accepted.
13. Omoruyi SI, Jardine A, Prince S (2020) Response to letter to the Editor: The therapeutic strategy of drug re positioning to induce autophagic cell death in brain malignancy, *Apoptosis*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10495-020-01646-w>
14. Hunter E, Stander M, Kossmann J, Chakraborty S, Prince S, Peters S, Loedolff B (2020) The identification of a cannabinoid-like compound (adrenoyl-EA), in the flowers of a South African medicinal plant (*Leonotis leonurus*), *BMC Research Notes*, 13:522 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-020-05372-z>.
15. Jacobs BA, Prince S, Smith KA (2020) Gastrointestinal nematode-derived antigens alter colorectal cancer cell proliferation and migration through regulation of cell cycle and epithelial-mesenchymal transition proteins, *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 21, 7845; DOI:[10.3390/ijms21217845](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21217845).

16. Aldeghi N, Romano D, Marschner C, Biswas S, Chakraborty S, Prince S, Ngubane S, Blom B (2020) Facile Entry to Germanate and Stannate Complexes As Potent Anti-Cancer Agents, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, 121214; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jorganchem.2020.121214>.
17. Hofmeyr R, Llewellyn R, Fagan JJ. Multidisciplinary difficult airway challenges: Perioperative management of glottic and supraglottic tumors. *Operative Techniques in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. 2020 June;31(2):120-7 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.otot.2020.04.008>
18. Mehanna H, Harman JC, Shenson J, Abou-Foul AK, Topf M, AlFalasi M, Chan JYK, Chaturvedi P, Chow VLY, Dietz A, Fagan JJ, Godballe C, Golusiński W, Homma A, Hosal S, Iyer NG, Kerawala C, Koh YW, Konney A, Kowalski LP, Kraus D, Kuriakose MA, Kyrodimos E, Lai SY, Leemans CR, Lennon P, Licitra L, Lou P-J, Lyons B, Mirghani H, Nichols AC, Paleri V, Panizza BJ, Parente Arias P, Patel MR, Piazza C, Rischin D, Sanabria A, Simon C, Takes RP, Thomson DJ, Uppaluri R, Wang Y, Yom SS, Zhu Y, Porceddu S, De Almeida J, Simon C, Holsinger C. Recommendations for Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Practice in a setting of severe resource constraint: A Consensus Statement by HNCIG, ASTRO, et al. *Lancet Oncology* 21(7), July 2020, e350-e359. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(20\)30334-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(20)30334-X)
19. Fagan JJ, Wetter J, Otiti J, Aswani J, Konney A, Diom ES, Baidoo K, Onakoya PA, Mugabo RM, Noah P, Mashamba V, Kundiona I, Macharia C, Garba M, Biadgelign MG, Bogale M, Twier K, Faniriko F, Melesse GB, Shrimel MG. Is AJCC/UICC staging still appropriate for head and neck cancers in developing countries? *Oto Open* 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F2473974X20938313>
20. Goncalves N, Lubbe, DE. Transorbital Endoscopic Surgery for Sphenoid Wing Meningioma: Long-term Outcomes & Surgical Technique. *J Neurol Surg B Skull Base* 2020 DOI: 10.1055/s-0040-1713854 Aug 2020 Thieme <https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/abstract/10.1055/s-0040-1713854>
21. Viljoen G, Viljoen N, Bolding E, Fagan JJ. Fine needle aspiration cytology of head and neck masses: Is ultrasound guidance routinely warranted? *S Afr Med J* 2020;110(8):713-4. DOI:[10.7196/SAMJ.2020.v110i8.14898](https://doi.org/10.7196/SAMJ.2020.v110i8.14898)
22. Fagan JJ, Manana W, Van Zyl JE. Lateral craniofacial reconstructive challenges in the developing world. Ch 12, pp 131-8 in *Principles of Lateral Craniofacial Reconstruction*. SJ Wang and K Fung (eds). Springer Nature (2020) ISBN 978-3-030-50290-4 ISBN 978-3-030-50291-1 (eBook) <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-50291-1> <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030502904#aboutAuthors>
23. Viljoen G, McGuire JK, Alhadad A, Dalvie S, Fagan JJ. Does thyroid-sparing total laryngectomy decrease the risk of hypothyroidism? *J Laryngol Otol*. 2020 Nov 27:1-4. doi: [10.1017/S0022215120002479](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022215120002479). Online ahead of print. PMID: 33243316
24. Kohler HF, Mehanna H, Shah JP, Sanabria A, Fagan J, Leemans CR, O'Sullivan B, Krishnan S, Kowalski LP. Comparison of different guidelines for oral cancer. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*. Published online 20 October 2020 ISSN 0937-4477 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00405-020-06423-8>

Please send any cancer-related news, events, publications and conference information for the period Jan-March 2021 for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter to:

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