

## Lance Armstrong visits GSH Oncology



Lance Armstrong chats to cancer survivors while Profs Abratt and Denny look on.

Cancer survivors had the opportunity to meet Lance Armstrong in the Oncology Unit of Groote Schuur Hospital on Thursday 11 March 2010, as the Tour de France champ launched the LIVESTRONG Global Cancer Campaign.

The campaign will focus on partnering with local patient and cancer advocacy groups to end the stigma of cancer and turn cancer victims into cancer survivors.

The visit was arranged through Groote Schuur Hospital, with a great deal of work having been done by Prof Lynn Denny in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Prof Raymond Abratt, in the Department of Radiation Medicine.

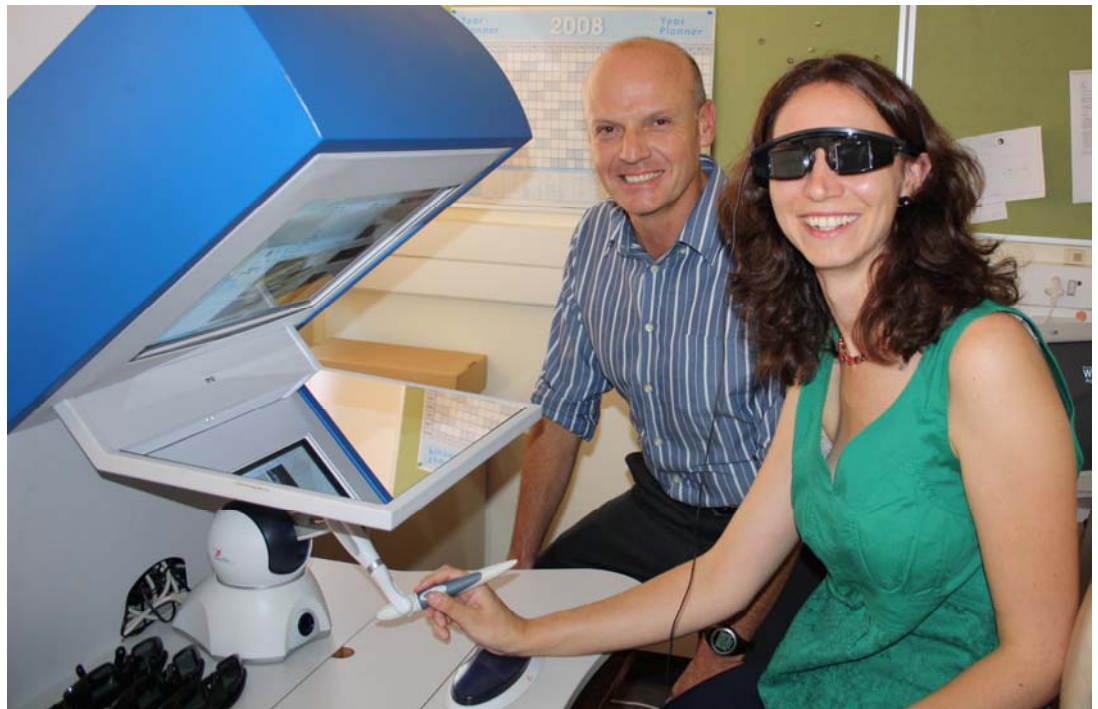
In his speech, Prof Abratt spoke warmly of Lance's commitment and dedication to the cause of destigmatising cancer and paid tribute to the staff who work tirelessly to provide care for patients.

## New 3-D simulator for ENT surgery

The Division of Otorhinolaryngology in the Department of Surgery received a welcome boost recently with the acquisition of a 3-D Temporal Lobe Simulator, which allows ENTs to practice drilling into the temporal lobe.

The simulator is the first of its kind in South Africa and provides an excellent opportunity for surgeons to hone their drilling skills before moving on to cadaver skulls, and then on to patients. Graham Balman, from Neomedical, the company that brought the simulator into the country, gave a demonstration of the machine, which even provides a physical feeling of resistance and realistic sounds when drilling on the virtual bone. Users have the option to undergo basic training, advanced training, or a test to assess the skill level of the user.

Dr Estie Meyer is enthusiastic about the simulator: "This is an excellent opportunity for



our surgeons to learn the basics of drilling into the temporal lobe in a safe, controlled environment. We are hoping that the project will mature into a Temporal Bone Surgical Centre of Excellence."

**Above: Dr Estie Meyer, looking more like a teenager going to a 3-D movie than the clinician she is, demonstrates the new temporal lobe simulator. Graham Balman, who was instrumental in bringing the machine to Groote Schuur Hospital, offers guidance.**

# PATA project garners top award

UCT paediatrician Dr Paul Roux has been recognised by the Professions Council of South Africa for his work in paediatric AIDS treatment. He received the Excellence in Healthcare Award late in 2009.

The project he has been recognised for is the Paediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa (PATA) programme, an NGO dedicated to the improvement of quality of health care delivered to African children living with the virus.

PATA was started after Kidzpositive, another NGO Roux initiated, had begun to deliver anti-retroviral treatment to children at Groote Schuur Hospital in May 2002, two years before the South African government began its ARV roll-out.

The organisation borrowed its name from a Miriam Makeba song, Pata Pata, meaning "reach out" in kiSwahili and "to touch" in isiXhosa and isiZulu.

By reaching out and touching communities and health professionals, and helping to build capacity in Africa, PATA aims to create a ripple effect of treatment action that will give a growing number of children access to life-saving antiretroviral therapy and holistic care.

It is a network of treatment teams that includes doctors, nurses, counsellors and pharmacists who work to improve quality of health care through self-initiated projects.

So far, PATA has 150 teams running projects that involve more than 120 clinics in 23 countries.



Dr Reno Morar, Lesley Bourne and Leslie London at the function to commemorate the life of David Bourne and to launch the David Bourne Prize for the best student in the MPH programme.

## Remembering David

The School of Public Health and Family Medicine held a memorial gathering to acknowledge the contribution of David Bourne to Public Health and HIV prevention in South Africa. David, a leading demographer in the field of HIV prevention and its impacts, died unexpectedly in Feb 2009. His death left a huge gap in national capacity to understand the impact of the epidemic and the opportunities to address prevention.

As colleagues, we felt it important to honour his legacy and to acknowledge his unstinting willingness to put science ahead of ideology in the fraught world of HIV prevention and treatment in South Africa over the past decade. This commitment to scientific integrity often brought him into conflict with authorities who did not like to hear the evidence emerging from the data, but David was adamant about ensuring that the science should speak for itself.

The School therefore held a small gathering attended by family, friends and colleagues at which a compendium of a selection of his published works (over 130 in total) was given to his widow, Lesley Bourne. Copies were also given to the Dean and donated to the library. In addition, the School announced a prize to be named after David which will be awarded henceforth to the best student in the MPH programme. This will help to keep David's legacy alive and remind us of the contribution this extraordinary scientist, demographer, health advocate and general enthusiast for life made to public health in South Africa.

Lesley, herself a distinguished nutritional researcher of note based at the Medical Research Council, retains a strong link with the Faculty, having been appointed as an honorary Associate Professor in the School in 2009.

- Leslie London

### DEAN'S CORNER

It seems like a recurring nightmare, but the all-too-real recent murder of a second UCT student in the suburb adjoining our Faculty has once again brought the spotlight to bear on safety and security in and around our campuses.

The Faculty of Health Sciences extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Dominic Giddy, a student in the Faculty of Humanities, who was stabbed to death on the evening of 13 February, near his Glenres digs. We join the Vice-Chancellor in his outrage and condemnation of this violent act and urge authorities within the University, the City of Cape Town and SAPS to take action against the criminal element invading our home.

This tragedy, coming so soon after the death of FHS student Pakiso Benny Moqobane has served as yet another reminder

of the need for students and staff to constantly be aware of our environment and to ensure that we do not also become victims.

The Faculty continues to bring these issues to the attention of campus security authorities and to make every effort to secure the safety of our Faculty family. The Groote Schuur Community Improvement District, spearheaded by UCT, will form part of a sustained campaign to rid the suburbs surrounding the campuses of criminals and will also promote general aesthetic and safety improvements to the area.

I would like to commend the 2010 HSSC for their commitment to addressing safety issues on campus—they arranged a meeting of students to discuss safety concerns and have come up with recommendations for the Faculty to take forward.

On a happier note, Groote Schuur Hospital

and the departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Radiation Medicine hosted Lance Armstrong, winner of seven consecutive Tour de France races (1999 to 2005) and survivor of testicular cancer that had already metastasized to his brain and lungs prior to his diagnosis in 1996. He was promoting his LIVestrong foundation during a visit to SA to participate in the Cape Argus Cycle Tour.

I found one of the statements he made to the cancer survivors at the event very touching. He told the group that although people tell him he is a hero, he sees the people before him, the patients and survivors, as heroes and told the group that he looks forward to a day when he comes back to South Africa and "sit in a chair and take pictures while you guys do the talking!"



# Kit wins UCT book prize

Prof Kit Vaughan has done it again! He has been awarded the prestigious UCT Book Award, which recognises the publication of outstanding books written by members of staff. The award was given for his work, "Imagining the Elephant", about the life and achievements of Allan MacLeod Cormack, who pioneered the computer-assisted tomography (CAT) scanner, for which Cormack received a Nobel Prize. The award, which is presented annually, carries a cash prize, which will be added to the Allan Cormack Book Fund in the Faculty. The royalties from the sales of the book also go into the fund.

In the 25 years that the award has been running, this is only the third book from the Faculty of Health Sciences to have been recognized. Prof Vaughan proudly says: "In the inaugural year (1984), the winner was 'Waiting for the Barbarians' by Nobel Laureate JM Coetzee, so it's good to be in such lofty company!"



# Interversity road relay just a few days away

The Interversity Road Relay has a long and important tradition in athletics competition between UCT and Stellenbosch. Famous victories have been fought and won on both sides and live long in the lores and legends of both clubs.

On **27<sup>th</sup> March 2010**, students past, students present and possibly even students future from both UCT and Stellenbosch will line up at the Groote Schuur campus to race the traditional nine-leg road relay around the Cape Peninsula. Spectators are welcome, so bring along your family and friends!

This year's event promises to be the biggest ever. There are a number of pre and post event functions including:

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Jacks Run:** 17h00 meeting at Oval for Jacks Run led by Chris Sole and Andrew Leary. Informal drinks afterwards from 18h30 at Barristers, Newlands.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – Relay & Prize Giving:** 07h00 Relay: staggered starts

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – UCT Runners Memorial Run:** 07h00 UCT Runners Memorial 10km, followed by a brunch at Kirstenbosch (just above or near the Silvertree Restaurant – either bring own picnic or order your own picnic basket directly from Kirstenbosch).

For further information you can go to the UCT website (<http://sportsclubs.uct.ac.za/athletics/reunion/>) or the facebook account, please sign up and join in the fun - UCT Athletics Club Reunion 2010.

# Climate change issues take centre stage

Using technology only recently introduced to the Faculty, on Friday 12 March 2010, Prof Marian Jacobs and Prof Zephne van der Spuy co-chaired an e-conference entitled: "Climate Change and its Impact on Women's and Children's Health", linking South Africa with Geneva, London and Hyderabad.

The e-conference consisted of four main presentations, with local discussion at the end of each presentation, and a general discussion at the end, allowing delegates from all venues the opportunity to ask questions of their colleagues.

The first presentation was by Prof Mala Rao, Director of the Indian Institute of Public Health, who spoke from Hyderabad, India and gave an overview of the projected impacts of climate change. She then focused on the impact of these events on women, and closed by offering a way forward, particularly in terms of educating women and strengthening their role in community leadership. "Women are more likely to volunteer for disaster management projects and build and maintain social networks for community resilience," she said, adding that a report on deforestation in 61 nations between 1990 and 2005 found that countries with large and numerous women's non-governmental organisations showed significantly lower levels of forest loss—proving the value of women in community causes.

Dr Monir Islam, from the Department of Making Pregnancy Safer at the World Health Organisation used the examples of the tsunami that struck in 2004, and the earthquake in Haiti to illustrate the vulnerability of pregnant women in extreme weather conditions.

The Faculty's speaker was Prof Louis Reynolds,



Photo: UNEPA Report—State of the World Population 2009. (taken from Prof Mala Rao's presentation)

who spoke eloquently of the imminent changes to the planet as a result of climate change, and the impacts that these changes would have on society, with emphasis on the impact upon children. Linking his points on climate change with the Millennium Development Goals, he painted a stark picture of the problems facing South Africa, and its children in particular.

Dr David Pencheon, Director, NHS Sustainable Development Unit in the UK spoke about the importance of minimizing the impact of the business of health on the environment.

There was much discussion during the open session—so much so that there was not enough time to address all of the questions raised, but Prof Jacobs ended by saying that this was the beginning of a dialogue and a process of change in the Faculty, so as they say in the movies: "Watch this space!"

# Inaugural Lectures 2010

DATE	LECTURER
21 April	Graham Louw
28 July	Heather Zar
4 Aug	Graham Fieggen
22 Sept	Pete Meissner Ed Sturrock
20 Oct	Anwar Mall
24 Nov	Andrew Argent