

# FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

## NEWSLETTER June 2006



Visiting the IIDMM at the ICGEB bid meeting: Vice Chancellor Njabulo Ndebele, Premier Ebrahim Rasool, Professor Iqbal Parker (Director Research), Professor Greg Hussey (Director IIDMM), Minister Mosibudi Mangena (Minister of Science and Technology.) [23 May 2006]

### Bid by UCT for ICGEB Centre



South Africa's Minister of Science and Technology, Mosibudi Mangena, on a visit to UCT last week announced that the IIDMM would be South Africa's candidate institution to host the third component centre, a major international laboratory, of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). The other two component centres are in Trieste, Italy and New Delhi, India. The ICGEB conducts innovative research in life sciences for the benefit of developing countries. It strengthens

the research capability of its members through training and funding programmes and in an advisory capacity. At present more than 300 people from 28 different countries are working in the ICGEB laboratories as research scientists, postdoctoral fellows, PhD students, research technicians and administrative personnel.

Minister Mangena toured the IIDMM laboratories accompanied by Professors Njabulo Ndebele [Vice Chancellor], Cheryl de la Rey [Deputy Vice Chancellor], Marian Jacobs [Dean, HSF], Cathy Driver [Dean, Science], Greg Hussey [Director IIDMM], and Iqbal Parker [Director of Research]. Premier Ebrahim Rasool was also present, and pledged the support of the Western Cape Government.

In his address to staff, students and visitors he indicated that "this new international biotechnology hub will address the disease burden of the developing world". In addition Department of Science & Technology "plans to dedicate significant funds over the next three years in support of the establishment of the proposed new centre".

### Major awards by the NSTF to two Faculty of Health Science members

#### National Science & Technology Forum (NSTF)

One of the groups involved in South Africa's landmark CODESA Convention was the Science and Technology Working Group. As a result of the findings and recommendations of this group, Government founded the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) in 1995 to oversee implementation. The Forum was established against the background of the Government of National Unity's Reconstruction and Development Programme. The challenge was to oversee the restructuring of South Africa's national science system and to ensure an integrated approach to science and technology. The NSTF makes annual awards to South African scientists, who have made major contributions to science.

#### In the category A: Over a lifetime

##### Prof Timothy D Noakes, UCT and Sports Science Institute

[With the Minister of Science and Technology Mr Mosibudi Mangena]

Prof Noakes' contribution to the field of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine has revolutionised the scientific approach in this area. He has contested, sometimes alone, erroneously held practices such as that athletes should drink "as much as tolerable" during exercise. In 1985 he described the world's first case of exercise-associated hyponatraemia (EAH) and concluded that the potentially fatal condition was due to voluntary over-drinking during exercise. His views were vindicated in 2005 by his published research, and the international guidelines were revised. He has also driven the development of a novel model known as the Central Governor Model of Exercise for the regulation of bodily function during exercise.



#### In the category J: Distinguished Young Black Researcher over the last 2 to 5 years

##### Female winner: Dr Tania S Douglas, Senior Lecturer, FHS

Dr Douglas contributes to addressing major public health problems in South Africa by developing innovative instruments and techniques for the diagnosis of pathologies such as foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), spinal injuries, adolescent scoliosis, tuberculosis and meningitis. Children have been the main beneficiaries of her work. Commercialisation of her contributions is making these benefits accessible to more people.



#### People

##### Dr Charles Slater of the Department of Human Biology presented

"Factors influencing students' determination of 'core knowledge' in a medical curriculum". at the 36th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa, held at Golden Gate in April, for which he was awarded the Hanno Boon prize for the best presentation in Medical Education. Charles Slater receives his award from Prof John Soley, President of ASSA,



##### Professor Kit Vaughan was unanimously elected Fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering (SAAE). He is Director of the MRC/UCT Medical Imaging Research Unit (MIRU).

The mission of the unit is to conduct world-class research in medical imaging that specifically addresses the health care needs of Africa. The unit has a multidisciplinary focus, attracting talented physicists, engineers, computer scientists and clinicians. In addition to cutting across departmental boundaries at UCT, the institute also facilitates active collaboration with other universities and organisations in South Africa and abroad.



#### Darwin Seminar

##### When Viruses Jump Species

**The science of how the immunodeficiency virus, HIV jumped to the human species.**

Professor Girish Kotwal, Division of Medical Virology, IIDMM

**The science underlying the fear of human to human infection in the case of the H5N1 avian flu virus.**

Professor Barry Schoub, Executive Director, National Institute for Communicable Diseases.



Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences, June 7, 2006 at 6pm  
RSVP: Nuraan Amlay at 422 4207, namlay@africagenome.co.za

### Dean's corner

Reflection is an essential element of any effective organisation, and in this respect, the Faculty is striving to meet this criterion in terms of all its core functions.

For service, the practice of good clinical governance is applied across all disciplines, with clinical departments convening mortality and morbidity review meetings on a regular basis.

For research, the University Research Committee has embarked on a schedule of reviews of all the Faculty's accredited research institutes, centres and units, and to date, this has had good outcomes for quality assurance and planning.

The timetable of education programme reviews is an on-going process, with the most recent review having been of the honours programme in nutrition and dietetics. The recommendations which emerge from these reviews provide a very useful agenda for our action. There are several other areas of our education endeavours which are being appraised - through research, informal interviews, discussion and debate. These include the education approach to undergraduate teaching and learning, the curriculum content, the language policy, and the impact of the programmes on the health sector, among others. Some of these will be a special focus for the next Faculty Board meeting.

While review is an important component of organizational practice, reflection is also the prerogative of those who are leaving the organisation. From next month, Faculty News will invite retiring staff the opportunity to share valedictory reflections with our readers. This is an important channel of transfer of knowledge and also a means to ensure retention of institutional memory. **Marian Jacobs, Dean**

### Dr Kathy Chubb Memorial Prize

Dr Leah Reid, winner of the Dr Kathy Chubb Memorial Prize for paediatrics and surgery, with the Dean, Professor Marian Jacobs and Mrs Karin Chubb. The Prize was established in 1994 in honour of the late Dr Katherine Chubb MBChB, who died tragically in April of that year whilst an intern at Windhoek State Hospital.



### Fellowships of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa 2006

**Fellowship of the College of Anaesthetists**  
MULDER Rosemary Dianne, PIENAAR Johann Bastiaan Hendrikus, WILLEMSE Josias Johannes



**Fellowship of the College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists**

ADIE Victor Ishang

**Fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists**

SARA Alan Michael

**Fellowship of the College of Orthopaedic Surgeons**

THEUNISSEN Hugh Bryan

**Fellowship of the College of Otorhinolaryngologists**

DOOLARKHAN Zubair, HOFMEYR Christopher John, VAN LIEROP Anton Christiaan

**Fellowship of the College of Paediatricians**

BROMLEY Carolyn Louise, DONALD Kirsten Ann Mary

**Fellowship of the College of Physicians**

ARENDESE Craig Grant, GEORGE Deepu George, GOVENDER Paramanathan

**Fellowship of the College of Psychiatrists**

HATHERILL Sean, JORDAAN Hester Sophia Helena, MOHIDEEN-BOTES Farzana Begum

**Fellowship of the College of Diagnostic Radiologists**

LEVY Anthony Alon, MNGUNI Phindile Faith Thelma

**Fellowship of the College of Radiation Oncologists**

KRAUS Peter Alfred

**Fellowship of the College of Surgeons**

BOUGARD Heather Colleen

### International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Meeting

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Atomic Energy Association [IAEA] "for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way". The IAEA Board of Governors subsequently decided that the IAEA's share of the prestigious prize would be used to create a special fund for fellowships and training to improve cancer management and childhood nutrition in the developing world. They have decided to use the money in various ways, including a Course is to be run in Cape Town over 5 days in late November or December at the Graduate School of Business. Professor Raymond Abratt has been appointed course convenor: "Human resources development in radiation oncology, in the context of cancer control programs".

**Art at work:** Head of the Division of Human Genetics and director of the MRC/UCT Human Genetics

Research Unit, Prof Raj Ramesar with his original acrylic artwork depicting the emotional gamut experienced by those suffering from bipolar disorder.

Jonathan Savitz is the first author of the paper and Cinda-Lee Cupido is a co-author. His article: *Trends in Suicidology; Personality as an*

*endophenotype for molecular genetic investigations*, recently published in PLoS Medicine.



### Quiz

A for May: *The Anatomy lesson of Dr Nicholas Tulp*, by Rembrandt van Rhyn. [The body had been removed.] Peter Meissner got the answer in first.

Q for June: Which medical student, and doctor founded "The Kensington Clinic", the organization which was to become SHAWCO?

Answers: [dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za](mailto:dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za)

