

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

NEWSLETTER July 2006

Leap

LEAP Science and Maths School is a partnership between disadvantaged communities where there is a need for better education, private donors and the Western Cape Education Department. The specific objective of the school is for each LEAP student to graduate with a university exemption. In order to achieve this, students are subjected to virtually double the normal tuition time. The school operates on five key systems: structure, feedback, assessment, intervention and support. To celebrate the initiative of "bringing a girl child to the workplace", two female students from LEAP were invited to spend the day with HUB staff. Both students have a dream to study at FHS one day, and thoroughly enjoyed the day. This is hopefully the beginning of a wonderful relationship between LEAP and the Faculty. This was part of Prof Sue Kidson's dream of building bridges with this unique school, and the Faculty of Health Sciences.



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The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital celebrated 50 years of caring for sick children on the 18th June this year. Before this, sick children had been accommodated exclusively in general hospitals sometimes in facilities attached to the female obstetric and gynaecology wards and were largely viewed as an unnecessary problem. Children's Hospitals prior to World War II were a rarity throughout the world.

Red Cross Children's Hospital at 50 years

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Hospital nearing completion 1956

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A children's hospital in Cape Town was proposed in 1945 but it took 11 years before the reality was achieved. It would almost certainly have floundered but for a remarkable and farsighted development. South African soldiers in Italy, towards the end of the war conceived the idea of a living memorial for the comrades who had died and suffered. They did not want a block of granite at the foot of Adderly Street but insisted on a living memorial and each of them contributed 2 days of pay to make it happen. They enlisted the aid of the Red Cross Society and with the encouragement of the Provincial Government launched a public appeal to raise the funds for a War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town. The campaign quickly gathered the support of all sectors of the community and when the Hospital was completed, the appeal had raised one third of the building costs (R1.6 million), the rest contributed by the Provincial Government. A plaque at the entrance of the hospital reads:

"THE RED CROSS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE CAPE REGION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RED CROSS SOCIETY AS AN ENDURING MEMORIAL TO THE SACRIFICE, SUFFERING AND SERVICE FOR OUR PEOPLE IN WORLD WAR II 1939 – 1945. IT IS HOPED THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS, IN THEIR THANKFULNESS FOR THE BENEFITS OF THIS HOSPITAL, MAY BE MINDFUL OF THOSE IN WHOSE MEMORY IT HAS BEEN ERRECTED".

If in the next 50 years we can keep and nurture the partnerships that have served it so well in the past, the hospital will have every chance of remaining a centre of excellence, a centre of learning and research, and an inspiration to the rest of this country and the rest of Africa. DB

Women in Medicine

In 1992 women constituted 42% of the MbChB students at UCT. By 2005 the figure has risen to 63%. There have been various reactions to this: Some people are elated that women have advanced from the times when the guilds of surgeons and physicians did not favour women

The Case of Jack Spratt *[diet & activity, health & disease, from laboratory to policy]*

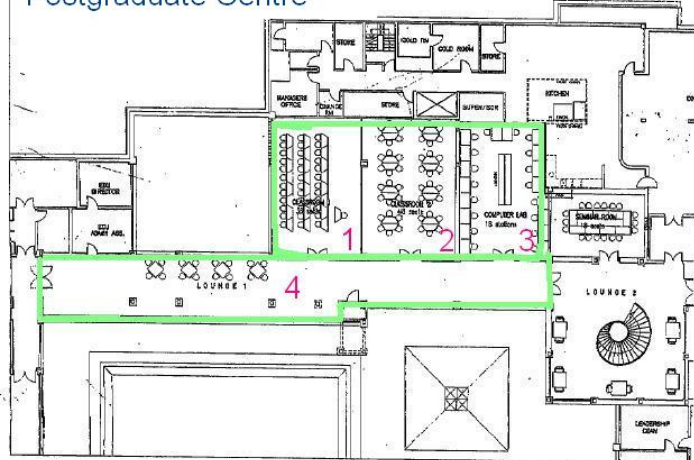
Inaugural lecture
Professor Estelle [Vicki] Lambert
17h15 Thursday 27 July
New Learning Centre, FHS
RSVP: ems@humanities.uct.ac.za

apprentices. Others are concerned that with the feminisation of the profession, it will enjoy less "power and influence". With more women entering the profession and very likely possibility that a large percentage of them will leave (even temporarily) to have children and raise them, it raises a very real concern of human resources planning. We do not at present have enough part time posts for registrars in the health services to cater for women who want to train as specialists and raise a family. The long hours required to render services in the public sector are not suitable for women with children. Our society has not progressed yet to a point where men take equal responsibility for the raising of children. How do we at UCT respond to this challenge? Limit

the number of females we accept to study into the MBChB programme? Ensure that we have more or less equal numbers of males and females in the first year classes? Any other solutions? I think that we at UCT should debate this issue, writes Gonda Perez.. gperez@curie.uct.ac.za



Postgraduate Centre



Postgraduate Centre

Orientation: Barnard Fuller Building, first floor. Top = mountain. Spiral staircase bottom right, MacClub off picture left. 1: 36 seat class room, 2: 48 seat class room, 3: computer laboratory, 4: corridor / lounge.

A generous donation from MSD has allowed the creation of a Postgraduate Centre, which is already in partial use. Classrooms 1 and 2 are currently used for tutorials, and meetings. Installation of the computers is awaited.

Forthcoming Inaugural Lectures

George Swingler [Child & Adolescent Health] 30 August
Lorna Martin [Forensic Pathology] 27 September
Dhiren Govender [Anatomical Pathology] 25 October

All at 17h30, New Learning Centre. *Diarise now.*

International Brain Research Organisation

The 12th IBRO African Regional Committee School : Neural Systems – from Channels to Circuits is to be held in Cape Town, being hosted jointly at UCT, in the Department of Human Biology and University of Stellenbosch, Department of Physiology, during the first week of July. This is an advanced school on Neural Systems and is modelled after one of the top Neuroscience courses in the world – the Neural Systems and Behaviour (NS&B) summer course held at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole Massachusetts, USA. The organizers (Prof J Weeks, U. Oregon, Prof D Glanzman UCLA) and Faculty, of whom the local members are Prof Viv Russell, Dr Laurie

Dean's corner

For the past eight years, the School of Public Health and Family Medicine has convened an annual course on health and human rights, producing almost 200 graduates. This week we are hosting a conference at which alumni of that course are sharing their experiences and insights with colleagues from around Africa. This event – at which the keynote address was delivered by Nkosinathi Biko – serves as a reminder that health and human rights has a long history in our country, at our university and in the Faculty of Health Sciences, a history which we remember mixed feelings.

From a time in which the rights of our patients and our students were abused, and the human rights principles of our profession were contaminated by collusion with the apartheid forces in the most extreme ways, Frances Ames and others set our Faculty on a new course. We have embarked on a new path in which human rights and ethics are embodied in our Faculty Charter, our transformation and teaching programmes, and – across the Faculty – efforts are under way to promote equity in health and health care as a critical expression of a commitment to social justice. Principles of ethical practice aimed at ensuring scientific integrity are also reflected in the governance and management of our research, and our human resource policies strive to protect the rights of our staff.

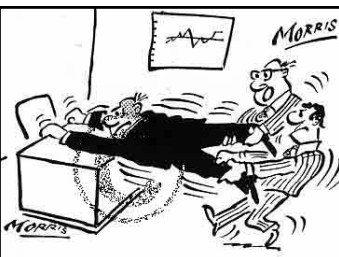
We take pride in our commitment to the values of human rights and ethical practice, and appreciate those Faculty structures and processes through which compliance is promoted. But we have faltered along the way. Perhaps the time has now come for us to reflect on how far we have come, and to plan how we can move into the future.

Marian Jacobs

Kellaway (UCT) and Prof Willie Daniels (US) together with 5 other well known Neuroscientists from a number of Universities in USA, and from Kenya, collectively bring together decades of experience and a desire to provide training to young African Neuroscientists.

Senior retirees 2006

An echelon of senior staff will retire at the end of this year:



Professor David Beatty,
School of Child and Adolescent Health.

Professor Tony Murray,
Morris Mauerburger Chair of Ophthalmology.

Professor Heinz Rode,
Charles FM Saint Chair of Paediatric Surgery.

Associate Professor Lutz Thilo, Biomedical Science.,
Associate Professor RN

Scott Millar, Cardiology, **Dr Minnie Garb**, Radiology. Personal profiles will appear later in the year.

MbChB(UCT) graduates and history

While UCT MbChB graduates who were not white bore the brunt of apartheid era discrimination and oppression, certain of our white graduates were not silent. Four profiles this month, more next.

Francis Ames, [MbChB 1942] Francis Ames was an ardent human rights activist and one of the Health Sciences Faculty's most distinguished professors. She is well remembered as the person who "blew the whistle" on the district surgeon and doctor who had treated Black Consciousness leader Stephen Biko in detention in 1977. Through Supreme Court action, she and five of her colleagues forced



the South African Medical and Dental Council to discipline the doctors who him.

Sir Raymond Hoffenberg (MbChB, 1948). specialised as an endocrinologist at Grootte Schuur Hospital. In 1967 the apartheid government served him a banning notice, severely restricting his movements and limiting his interactions to no more than one person at a time. No one was allowed to publish his work. Soon after, his teaching position at the medical school was terminated for unknown misdemeanours.

In 1972, Hoffenberg was made the William Withering Professor and head of the medicine department at the University of Birmingham, one of the most prestigious chairs in England. He remained a close observer of South African affairs and lent his efforts to the aftermath of the Steve Biko affair. UCT conferred an honorary doctorate of science in medicine on him in 1993.

Neil Aggett, (MbChB 1976) the first white person to die in police detention under the apartheid regime, was a lecturer at the University of Natal at the time of his death. Aggett was detained in 1981 and allegedly committed suicide, at the age of 28, in 1982 following a brutal interrogation at the hands of the security police.

Wendy Orr, (MbChB 1983) the medical officer in the District Surgeon's office in Port Elizabeth who successfully applied for a court interdict prohibiting police from torturing and assaulting detainees in 1985. From 1992 to 1994 she was back at UCT, this time as director of Student Health Services. She joined the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995.

Research quotes

Werner von Braun [German born rocket engineer] Basic research is what I am doing when I don't know what I am doing.

Peter Medawar [Nobel prize winning scientist] If politics is the art of the possible, research is surely the art of the soluble. Both are immensely practical-minded affairs.

Anita Roddick [English business woman] Running a company on market research is like driving while looking in the rear view mirror.

Konrad Lorenz [Austrian zoologist] It is a good morning exercise for a research scientist to discard a pet hypothesis every day before breakfast.

James Black [Nobel prize winning pharmacologist, β blockers etc] In the culture I grew up in you did your work and you did not put your arm around it to stop other people from looking—you took the earliest possible opportunity to make knowledge available.

Quiz

Q [For June]: Which medical student and doctor founded the Kensington Student Clinic, later to become SHAWCO?

Andrew Kinnear was the pioneering student, working closely with Dr Golda Selzer, the first doctor of the organisation, who later became its Honorary Life President. In 1943, as a result of their conviction and subsequent action, The Students Kensington Clinic was established. Each Friday, students from the university would travel to Windermere/Kensington, where they would provide free health care services. The clinic operated from the African Methodist Episcopal School and was staffed by student volunteers, although it was not yet officially supported by UCT. In 1947, the clinic's constitution specified the aim of providing "free social and medical services in the Kensington area by means of regular clinics". REF: *An Analysis of the Progression of the Student Health and Welfare Centres Organisation, University of Cape Town*. Jim te Water Naude won [in seconds of posting], and Alix Klein cited the clearest explanation.

Q: [for July] Who are these two stalwarts?

A: dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za

