

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

NEWSLETTER October 2006

People

Ad hominem promotions 2006

To Senior lecturer

Helen Buchanan

Elizabeth van der Merwe

To Associate Professor

Marc Blockman

Clarissa Pieper

"AO" Okreglicki

Jenny Thomas

Andy Nicol

Anthony Westwood

Lee Wallis

Theresa Lorenzo

To Professor

Martin Schwellnus

Lionel Opie

Lionel Opie has been awarded the **Order of Mapungubwe**, South Africa's highest honour. It was instituted on 6th December 2002 and is granted by the President of South Africa, for achievements in the international area which have served South Africa's interests. The order



originally had three classes, and was enlarged to four in 2004:

- Platinum (OMP), for exceptional and unique achievements,
- Gold (OMG), for exceptional achievements,
- Silver (OMS), for excellent achievements,
- Bronze (OMB), for outstanding

achievements.

The order is named after Mapungubwe an ancient African nation which existed a thousand years ago in what is now the northern part of the Limpopo province.

Lionel H. Opie, MD, DPhil, DSc, FRCP is an Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town and the first Director of the new Cape Heart Centre. He was also visiting Professor (1984-1998), Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Stanford University Medical Centre, Stanford University, California. After graduating from the University of Cape Town, he studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and was a Research Fellow at Harvard from 1959-1961. He became a Fellow of the University of Cape Town in 1976. From 1976-1978, he was President of the International Society for Heart Research. In 1997 he was Visiting Research Fellow, Merton College, Oxford and the Department of Physiology, University of Oxford, England. He has numerous publications, chapters and books. His book, *The Heart, Physiology, from Cell to Circulation*, is most popular. His other book,

Drugs for the Heart, has gone into multiple editions, and is an international benchmark in the subject.

Kit Vaughan

Professor C Vaughan head of Biomedical Engineering has been elected a Fellow Member of the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering in recognition of "outstanding contributions to the scientific field with respect to research, teaching and leadership". He will be officially introduced at the world congress of that society in Seoul.



Jacques Roussouw

The U.S. government established a large multiyear study of older women's health, the Women's Health Initiative (WHI). They found that oestrogen supplements, when combined with progestin as part of hormone-replacement therapy, actually increased women's risk of heart disease, stroke, dementia and breast cancer. More revelations from the WHI have rocked the biological world of women in just the past few months: calcium supplements don't necessarily save their bones, and a low-fat diet—long touted as the acme of nutritional virtue—doesn't seem to do much good at all.



Jacques Roussouw, 63, the South African-born, UCT trained physician heads the WHI. A modest fellow, he considers himself "gender impaired," but maybe it took a man to make it happen—"a real insider," as Cindy Pearson, director of the National Women's Health Network, puts it. "He's passionate and committed, articulate. It may have been 'women's work,' but he was the man. He has been named one of Time magazine's 100 personalities of the year.



Lindsay Weight 1962—2006

BSc Natal, BSc(hons) Unisa, BSc(Med), MSC, PhD

Senior Lecturer, Department of Human Biology



Recipients of the order of Mapungubwe:

2002

- Nelson Mandela - Platinum (national reconciliation and nation-building)
- Allan Cormack - Gold (scientist credited for co-inventing the cat-scan)
- FW de Klerk - Gold (national reconciliation and nation-building)
- Basil Schonland - Gold (physicist and founding president of the Council for Scientific and Industrial research)
- Peter Beighton - Bronze (research into the inherited disorders of the skeleton)
- Hamilton Naki - Bronze (medical science)

2004

- Sydney Brenner - Gold (medical science)
- Tshilidzi Marwala - Bronze (engineering science)
- Batmanathan Dayanand Reddy - Bronze (mathematics and science)

2005

- John Coetzee - Gold (literature)
- Aaron Klug - Gold (medical science)
- Frank Nabarro - Silver
- Tebello Nyokong - Bronze (research into the development of cancer treatments)
- Himladevi Soodyall - Bronze
- George Ellis—Silver

Long service awards

On 12th September Professors Njabulo Ndebele and Martin West hosted a lunch in Smuts Hall IN honour of long serving members of the UCT staff. Members from the Health Science Faculty were:

35 YEARS:

John Markus, Human Biology; Ronald Smart, Human Genetics

25 YEARS

Trevor Finch, Medicine; Arawaan Duncan, Anatomical pathology

Sandra Lottering, immunology; Sia Samuels, Medical Biochemistry

15 YEARS

Di Marais, virology; Colleen Gibbon, Pharmacology

Physiotherapy Congress in Dar es Salaam

The Physiotherapy Division of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences were well represented at the recent 6th World Confederation of Physical Therapy Africa Meeting held in Dar es Salaam. Three of the six pre-Congress workshops were presented by UCT. Dele Amosun, Jennifer Jelsma, Soraya Maart, Siviwe Mkoka and Romy Parker presented workshops on tobacco use, the use of the

Deans Corner

September was designated "heritage month" – a period during which we, as South Africans, were encouraged to celebrate the diversity of our beliefs and traditions, and to reflect on those practices handed down from the past by tradition. In our Faculty, the month marked the confluence of some important traditional practices.

The oldest of these is the annual delivery of the van den Ende lecture. Yet another tradition is our annual commemorative event to mark the brutal murder of Steven Biko, in September 1977. Convened as a reminder of the fundamental and crucial need for us to respect human rights and uphold ethical conduct in all aspects of the practice of our profession, this year's lecture was delivered by Jody Kollapen, Chair of the SA Human Rights Commission. As a young lawyer, he participated in the inquest into Biko's death, and later, in the legal challenge led by Frances Ames and others in charging the Medical Association for their collusion with the heinous malpractice of Tucker and Lang, a pair of doctors who were meant to have been caring for Biko.

Although seemingly unconnected, the two lectures epitomize a set of values which we hold dear, which are strong elements of our heritage, and which bear reflection as we witness a significant change in our Faculty's practice with the November graduation of the last medical students educated through the "old" curriculum. While different in design and the organization of content, the foundations of the "old" and "new" curricula cannot be posited as a dichotomy, but rather as a continuum, since both are underpinned by those elements of our tradition of which we are so proud: a Faculty which is founded on the values of human rights, ethics, social justice and equity; and in which practice is guided by evidence generated by excellent, relevant and appropriately-resourced research. *Marian Jacobs*



The South African delegates with the Tanzanian Minister of Health and the Congress Organising Committee.

International Classification of Functioning and the management of chronic pain. In addition Dele Amosun delivered a key-note address and both Siviwe and Soraya took part in the scientific programme by presenting papers.

Van den Ende Memorial Lecture 2006

Professor Henk Schmidt of the Institute of Psychology, Erasmus University, Rotterdam delivered a lecture: The nature of clinical reasoning: recent developments.

Marinus van den Ende

Marinus van den Ende was born in the then small village of Potgietersrust in 1912. After school he came to the University of Cape Town, where he had to both learn the English language, and study for the MbChB degree, which he obtained in 1933, with distinctions in many subjects. After working in the Department of Pathology he proceeded to England, where he obtained his PhD from Cambridge University. In 1945 he accepted the Chair of Bacteriology in the University of Cape Town. He was the first UCT graduate to be accepted to a Chair, all others having been imported from overseas. Here he rapidly built up a large and active department of virology and bacteriology, with an emphasis on

research. The South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research recognized his rare qualities and in 1950 established a virus research unit under his leadership, the first such unit in South Africa. He became widely recognized as an authority and in 1954 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1954, while on a Sims Travelling Fellowship in Melbourne in the laboratories of Sir Frank McFarlane Burnet, he was diagnosed with what was to be a fatal illness. He returned to Cape Town, where he faced his remaining days with remarkable courage, working fervently to the end. He was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine [again the first South African to hold this position], and national advisor on many committees. He died at the age of 45 in 1957. He had married Joan Herold Barry in 1939, and they had four children: Jan, Pieter, Joan and Marina. His friends, admirers and colleagues made it possible for a Memorial Lecture to be held at intervals in the memory of a remarkable man, who among his many achievements established the first Division of Virology in this country.



Marinus van den Ende

Research Day: Biomedical Sciences

Incorporating the Departments of Human Biology and Clinical and Laboratory Sciences this School has many postgraduate students, including some who are who conducting their research dissertations in the IIDMM. Their research spanned a wide spectrum of basic and applied activities, from the level of the gene, via the cell and organ to the whole body. There were 28 oral and 30 poster presentations. *First Prizes* (we don't have space for all the prizes) were awarded to: Janine Scholefield & Bruce Spottiswoode [Oral Ph.D, shared], Ann Kerrigan [Oral, M.Sc, being handed her certificate by the Dean in the picture], George van der Watt [Oral MMed], and the best overall Prize for Oral Presentations was awarded to Ann Kerrigan. The 1st Prize for Poster presentations, [Ph.D]. was awarded to Dheshnie Govender



Quotes by Anton Chekhov

-When a lot of remedies are suggested for a disease, that means it cannot be cured. ~ The Cherry Orchard

-Doctors are just the same as lawyers; the only difference is that lawyers merely rob you, whereas doctors rob you and kill you, too. ~Ivanov

-Off campus electronic journal access

[For UCT staff and students only]

1. Go to: <http://ezproxy.uct.ac.za>

2. If security certificates appear, click YES.

3. You will have reached the login screen.

Type your user name: jsoap_chm_staff_health_med_uct, and password.

4. click on libraries, and health science libraries.

Quiz [for book voucher]

September: "Disgraceful conduct" is a statement in the artwork [Biko / Tucker] by Sue Williamson in the foyer of the Barnard Fuller building. Janine du Preez, Genetics, gets the book voucher (again).

October: What illness did the 44 year old Chekov succumb to, AND what was he doing at the time?

Answer to:

dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za



laparoscopy