

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

NEWSLETTER November 2006

People and Posts

Colleges of Medicine of South Africa: President



Professor Zephne van der Spuy will assume this Presidency in May, 2007. She has previously served as President of the College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and has made major contributions to the CMSA.

Special Psychiatry Award



Emeritus Professor Brian Robertson received a special award at the 17th Congress of the International Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions in Melbourne, Australia for his services to Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Africa.

Honorary Professors



Bernard Gersh is a UCT graduate and previous member of the Groote Schuur Hospital Cardiac Clinic, who has been working at the Mayo Clinic for many years. He has collaborated extensively and continues to do so with the Department of Medicine, the Division of Cardiology and the Hatter Institute.



George Mensah is internationally recognised as a researcher with an interest in the prevention of heart disease in Africa. He is Chief of the Cardiovascular Health Branch, CDC, Atlanta, GA.



Professor Ahmed Azad was previously Director of Research in the Faculty of Health Sciences. He is an elected representative on the Council of Scientific Advisors to the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), with this organization having strategic importance to UCT and its research mission; and he serves on the Board of the Medical Research Council of South Africa.

Nuffield Scholarship

Dr Maylene ShunKing, the Acting Director of the Children's Institute, has been awarded a Nuffield Scholarship.

Groote Schuur Hospital Facilities Board



Professor Janet Seggie has been appointed as the clinical representative to the Groote Schuur Hospital Facilities Board. [Previously Groote Schuur Hospital Board]. This overarching Board has members from the Department of Health, the University, the public and various leaders of industry, and serves to monitor all aspects of patient care and other activities.

ICGEB visit

Two senior members of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Professor Francesco Baralle and Mr Decio Ripandeli, visited the Faculty, to clarify relationships with Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), the Faculty and the University. Matters discussed were space loan, lease agreements and governance. Legal arrangements will be finalised later in the year.

Important meetings

The UCT Brain Behaviour Initiative

"Neuroscience research in the developing world"

Public lecture: Professor Michael Zigmond (Neurology, Pittsburg)

Guest Lecture: Dr Kevin Thomas (Neuropsychology, UCT)

UCT Brain Behaviour Initiative: Professor Cheryl de la Rey

17h00—19h00, 6 November, IIDMM, Wolfson Pavillion, FHS

rspv: vives@mweb.co.za

CMSA Association of Members in the Western Cape

"What is Happening to Professionalism in Medicine in SA?"

Professor Solly Benatar

19h00, 21 November 2006

The Colleges of Medicine of SA . 17 Milner Road, Rondebosch

For they are jolly good Fellows

A floodgate of UCT postgraduates get Fellowships of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa

College of Anaesthetists of South Africa – FCA(SA)

CHANTLER Sara Kathryn, FRANZ Kevin Thomas, GRAY Rebecca Mary, KEMP Karmen, KESSOW Aneet Brijlal, PIENAAR Grant Louw, SINGH Dhinesh, VAN DEN BERG Sarah

College of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of South Africa – FC Cardio(SA)

LEGODI Humphrey Thabo, MPHAHLELE Mphela George

College of Dermatologists of South Africa – FC Derm(SA)

OMAR Mohamed Hanif

College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of South Africa – FCOG(SA)

DEO Tebogo Gloria, MOHLALA Boshisi Kanyane Frank, MTIMKULU

Nondwe Ntombizethu

College of Ophthalmologists of South Africa – FC Ophth(SA)

MOTALA Mahomed Ismail, VAN HEERDEN Anton Auret

College of Orthopaedic Surgeons of South Africa – FC Orth(SA)

EHLERS Pierre Jakobus, POLLEY Peter James

College of Otorhinolaryngologists of South Africa – FCORL(SA)

ESSA Muhammad Firoze

College of Paediatricians of South Africa – FC Paed(SA)

BARNABAS Shaun Lawrence, JULIES Priscilla, KARABUS Sarah Jane

KRIGE Katherine Margaret, MAHMUD Samina, SCOTT Christiaan,

TSHENKENG Oarabile Lynus

College of Physicians of South Africa – FCP(SA)

SHOBA Bonginkosi Shadrack

College of Psychiatrists of South Africa – FC Psych(SA)

BENTLEY Judith Margaret, TOMCHECK Christine Maria, VAN

NIEKERK Stephanie

College of Public Health Medicine of South Africa – FCPHM(SA)

DRAPER Beverley Helen, OLIPHANT Clothilde Elspeth Maegan

College of Diagnostic Radiologists of South Africa – FC Rad Diag(SA)

ESHUN Albert Amamoo, MDUNGE Nkosikhona Sandile Mpilehile,

SESAY Sheikh Omar, STEVENS James Donald

College of Radiation Oncologists of South Africa – FC Rad Onc(SA)

MAUREL Jean-Marc Joseph Pierre

College of Surgeons of South Africa – FCS(SA)

BURMEISTER Sean, DE BRUYN Pieter Jacobus, HEWAT Mark John

Victor, TROSKIE Casparus Gerhardus

College of Urologists of South Africa – FC Urol(SA)

DE BRUIN Pieter, SINHA Sunil

Membership of the College of Family Practitioners of South Africa –

MCFP(SA)

MOOSA Mohamed Irshad, RAS Tasle

Dean's corner

November signals the start of the examinations period and provides me with an opportunity to pay tribute to our undergraduate students and those who have supported them to get this far. While the students' results in the first semester examinations augur well for great academic success in the finals, I have also been deeply impressed by the diverse roles that our students play in the extracurricular life of the Faculty community, and the passion and capability with which they have undertaken their tasks. This was ably demonstrated in the organisation of the Duma Baqwa lecture; in the arrangements around Lindsay Weight's memorial gatherings; in the mentorship programmes; and in the activities of the HSSC, the Impilo Students Society, and the Rural Support Network, among others. And the award to Cocoka Mfundisi, outgoing chair of the HSSC as the best student in all student societies across the campus, was just the brightest and biggest feather in the Faculty students' cap.

In all of these activities, the students have shown their capacity for leadership for now, and their potential for leadership in the health professions in the future. To support leadership potential and imbue our graduates with the requisite skills in this area should be a crucial element of our curriculum, and one to which I intend to pay attention, and for which I shall be seeking funding, in the coming year.

Behind our student body is a band of committed teachers, who go the extra mile for the students in support of their academic endeavours and catch them when they are faltering. Unbeknown to most of the Faculty staff, there are many students on this campus who have social, emotional, psychological and financial problems which are devastating. Just one gross manifestation is the number of students who can be found sleeping in the corridors outside the postgraduate rooms in Barnard Fuller, because they have nowhere to study at home - a situation which is totally unacceptable in a leading, internationally competitive university. The student support team - comprised of undergraduate office and academic staff - make a huge contribution to alleviating the plight of our students in distress, for which we are highly appreciative. However, they have limitations, and in the new year we will also have to apply our collective attention to addressing this situation. *Marian Jacobs*

UCT LIBRARIES

CLINICAL EVIDENCE and **UPTODATE**, are two evidence-based databases, which attempt to identify important clinical conditions and their appropriate treatment. However, there are some important differences in the way they present their information.

CLINICAL EVIDENCE

Clinical Evidence is an online database from the BMJ Publishing Group and is accessible via the Library's home page. It attempts to answer clinical questions by systematically searching for randomized controlled trials and then summarizing the best evidence. Research sources include Medline, Cochrane Library and Embase. Each peer-reviewed topic lists interventions that are shown to be beneficial, followed by those that are shown to be harmful and those with uncertain effectiveness. Information is not exhaustive as it is limited to selected clinical conditions and is updated twice a year.

UPTODATE

UpToDate is a collection of well-referenced reviews and is updated three times a year. The library subscribes to the CD version which is only available on one computer in the Health Sciences Library. An online version is also available but is considerably more expensive and would possibly only be considered if the use of this database warrants it. All the articles or topic reviews are peer-reviewed and sourced from 330 hand-searched journals as well as Medline, Cochrane Library, Clinical Evidence and ACP Journal Club. UpToDate gives much more detailed information about the condition than Clinical Evidence (especially useful for students) and makes recommendations whenever possible. Their recommendations are based upon a synthesis of evidence including clinical trials and clinical experience. Clinical Evidence indicates

evidence as to whether a treatment is effective or not – the physician has to draw his own conclusions.

MESAB

Medical Education for South African Blacks (MESAB) is to close. It was a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to quality health care for historically disadvantaged South Africans by providing financial aid, training and education for the development of South African black health care professionals in South Africa. In 1985, when MESAB began, there were only 500 black doctors in all of South Africa-2 in Soweto, to serve that community's 2 million black residents. (One of those two, Dr. Nthato Motlana, was the chair of the MESAB/South Africa Council until the USA and SA Boards merged.) For 20 years, Medical Education for South African Blacks (MESAB) has worked steadfastly to improve health care for all South Africans by providing disadvantaged black students with much needed scholarship support in fulfilling their goals of becoming health professionals. In 2002 alone, MESAB provided scholarships to 721 students who were pursuing health professions degrees across a range of disciplines. Mesab will close down in November 2006. The reason for the closure has been the recent lack of American donations to it. The reasons given by the CEO, Saul M Levin, are the perception that South Africa is now a fully democratic country; also important were the American disasters of 9/11, Katrina and the Iraq war, which have sapped donor funding. UCT has 6 pipeline students who will be funded until the completion of their studies.

Medics Cricket

There have been various Medics cricket teams since the foundation of the medical school in 1912. The last one came out of the pavilion 20 years ago, and has been batting on and off ever since. The Captain has been the intrepid pulmonologist Joe Grobbelaar. The ravages of mounting injuries (its a tough game you know) means that Graham Fieggen and Tom Dicker need to find some new blood. If you want to don faculty flannels, and bat and bowl for the finest, please contact Graham Fieggen gfieggen@ICH.uct.ac.za



Medical Students of a public spirited kind

October saw an impressive queue of medical students waiting to donate blood in conference rooms 1 & 2. The average donation was a whole right armful.

Department of Correction

Apologies to Joe Wilmshurst who was left out of our ad hominem Associate Professor announcements.

Quotes

The peculiar thing in medicine is that we never believe anything unless it can be demonstrated in animals. - *John A. Schindler, M.D.*

We have not lost faith, but we have transferred it from God to the medical profession. - *George Bernard Shaw*

Nothing is more fatal to health than over care of it. - *Ben Franklin*

Quiz:

October answer: Dr Chekhov and his brother both died of TB. He was receiving treatment at the Badenweiler Sanatorium (Germany) at the time. He had multiple bouts of haemoptysis, and died from the last of these. Landon Myer. Public Health & Family Medicine, gets the book voucher. [No, the account of him drinking champagne and turning his face to the wall was a fanciful version by his wife.]

November question: Who designed the crest and when? Answers to: dmdent@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za

