

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

NEWSLETTER December 2005

New Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences



Professor Marian Jacobs has been elected Dean, and will assume office in February. She was Professor of Child Health, Director of the Children's Institute and was closely associated with the Child Health Policy Institute. She is a public health paediatrician who has been active in research, teaching and service delivery in the child health field for many years. A strong advocate of human rights, especially children's, she has served on local and national policy bodies and organizations and was advisor to the South African government committee steering the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child and the National Programme of Action for Children. Supporting clinical services and sorting out our relationship with the health departments.

People

Three new Fellows of the University

This year the Faculty of Health Sciences had three out of the 7 new UCT Fellows: Eric Bateman, Frank Brombacher and Peter Meissner. They will be recognised at this year's graduation ceremony. [See Department of Correction]



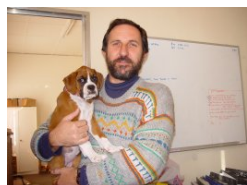
Professor Eric Bateman's major contributions are in the disease management, pharmacology, and epidemiology of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as well as the classification and treatment of diffuse parenchymal lung diseases.

Professor Frank Brombacher's interests are spread widely in the field of immunology: the role of cytokines in human infectious diseases;



Vaccine and drug development in African Trypanosomiasis, Tuberculosis, Leishmaniasis, Bilharzia and other Helminth infections; The macrophage effector killing genes in Listeriosis and Tuberculosis

Professor Peter Meissner's work has focused on the porphyrias, often complementing the work of his clinical



colleague, Richard Hift. His scientific contributions relate particularly to the underlying biochemistry of the acute attack, the diagnosis of porphyria in the laboratory and delineating the underlying mutation in the predominant South African

form of variegate porphyria. His non-porphyrin interests cover various areas of liver pathology, including genetic hemochromatosis and iron-related disorders.

More NRF Scientists. Well done!

A: Frank Brombacher **B:** Gordon Brown, Carolyn Williamson, **C:** Lyn Denny, Zephne van der Spuy, Sebastian van As, Iqbal Parker, Edward Ojuka, Mike Lambert, Sue Kidson, Jennifer Jelsma, Mohamed Jeebhay **Y:** Jo-Anne Passmore, Sandrine Lecour



Neil White

Colleagues, friends and family gathered at the UCT Lung Institute on November 8th to honour the work of Professor Neil White, who died a year ago at the age of 50. Guest speaker Tony Davies, Emeritus Professor of Occupational Health at Wits, eloquently described Neil's pioneering work on occupational lung disease in South Africa, and his passionate advocacy for improved working conditions and compensation. A bound volume of his published work was presented to Justine Quince, Neil's widow, and to the faculty.



Professor Jimmy Volmink

Professor Volmink will be leaving to become a Deputy Dean [Research] at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch. He was Professor of Primary Health care at UCT, Chairman of the South African Cochrane Collaboration, recent invited Editor of the British Medical Journal for its Africa issue, major force behind the Vanguard Drive initiative, and much more. We wish him every success in his new position, and thank him for his major contribution here.



The other Raj Ramesar

One part of Professor Raj Ramesar is the nationally known geneticist, the other part is the artist.



Dr JJ [Japie] du Toit has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Groote Schuur Hospital. His appointment was welcomed by the Faculty and members of the clinical staff. He is perceived as a tough but scrupulously fair manager. As CEO he will have much to manage in this world famous hospital. Some statistics are:



STAFF STATISTICS	
Categories	Number of Staff
Doctors	532
Nurses	1 370
Allied Health Professionals	285
General Staff	1 003
Admin and Management	473
Total	3 663
PATIENT STATISTICS (Financial Year 2003/2004)	
Total Number of Beds (Aug 2004)	906
Inpatient Admissions	36 220
% Bed Occupancy (approximate)	80,2%
Average Length of stay (days)	6,68
Operations	23 930
Deliveries	4 497
% Private Patients (approx.)	8%
Outpatient Attendances	526 947

Dr Derek Yach



Faculty graduate [MbChb, UCT] Derek Yach, has been appointed director of the Rockefeller Foundation's program on global health. Dr. Yach is professor of Public Health and head of the Division of Global Health at Yale University, and a former executive

director with the World Health Organization (WHO). He will assume his new position in January, 2006. He established the Centre for Epidemiological Research at the South African Medical Research Council, which focuses on quantifying inequalities and the impact of urbanization on health. He is co-editor of the online journal Globalization and Health, and is a member of several international health advisory committees. He has authored or co-authored numerous articles, including most recently, Global Chronic Diseases, Science, 2005; Politics and Health, Development, 2004; and The World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Aphorisms

A Professor is a gentleman who has a different opinion.

August Bier [1861 – 1949]

A teacher is paid to teach, not to sacrifice rats and hamsters.
Edward A Gall. Journal of Medical Education.36:275,61 1961

The only weapon with which the unconscious patient can immediately retaliate upon the incompetent surgeon is haemorrhage.

William Stewart Halstead. Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. 23:191, 1912

A good clinical teacher is himself a medical school. *Oliver Wendell Holmes. Medical Essays. Scholastic and Bedside Teaching.]*

Department of Correction.

Dr Tania Douglas (human biology); and Associate Professor Bongani Mayosi (medicine) were awarded the UCT Fellow's Award, a new incentive for young scholars, [and not made Fellows of the University as indicated in the November Newsletter]. [The power of the apostrophe, as in Eats, Shoots, and Leaves.]

Faith and the faculty: Diwali , Eid, Hanukka and Christmas

Diwali: Professors Girish Kotwal, Raj Ramesar and Dhiren Govender hosted the annual Diwali Festival in the Woolfson Pavilion on the evening of 2nd November. Friendship, candles and excellent curries and sweetmeats were the order of the evening. Speeches were made by Professors Ramesar, Kotwal and de la Rey, as well as Mr Sandeep Kumar, the Head of the Office of the Indian High Commission in Cape Town.

Eid was celebrated on the sighting of the moon on Thursday 3rd November.

Hanukka and **Christmas** lie ahead: Faculty members of the Jewish and Christian faiths are wished well over these ceremonial times.

Competition

November Question: *Sir Julius Charles- and Otto- monitor research in the FHS. Full names and from where do they do the monitoring?* Answers: Sir Julius Charles *Werner* and Mr Otto *Beit*, major benefactors and the origin of the naming of the Werner Beit Complex. Paintings of them hang in the Woolfson Pavilion. No correct answers, alas.



'Alas, poor Yorick, Sahra won't let me know you well.'

*Alan Morris, frustrated
[Cape Times 24 November]*

Gonda Perez

Dean, on behalf of the
Executive Committee of the
Faculty of Health Sciences