

Distinguished Teacher Award

This year UCT's highest honour for teaching, the Distinguished Teacher Award, has gone to four academics, including Dr Ivan Joubert of the Department of Anaesthesia.

Joubert's students describe his lectures as "incisive, up-to-date, filled with factual information, current and evidence-based".

Head of Department, Professor Mike James, wrote in his nomination that Joubert "is nationally regarded as one of the best teachers of anaesthesia in this country".

Joubert excels at small group informal tutorials and formal teaching to larger audiences. Students say he has the ability to break down a complex topic into a few, well-defined principles, laying a sound foundation.

Congratulations to Ivan on this fantastic achievement!



Faculty Salutes its Retirees

The Dean, Marian Jacobs, paid tribute to 12 retirees at a cocktail party attended by over 80 current and past staff members in the foyer of the IIDMM.

Speaking on behalf of the retirees, who between them have in excess of 300 years' service to the University and Province, Dr Aziz Aboo gave an amusing account of his experiences at Groote Schuur Hospital over the past few decades. He was adamant that Google would never be able to replace the diagnostic skills of a thinking physician!



Our Dean, Professor Marian Jacobs, congratulates Dr Aziz Aboo on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Medicine.

The other retirees included: Professor Solomon Benatar (Medicine), Dr Patricia Burger (Immunology), Associate Professor Ed Coetzee (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), Dr Jean Firth (Medicine), Dr Mike Pascoe (Medicine), Professor Jonathan Peter (Neurosurgery), Dr Areti Philotheou (Paediatrics & Child Health), Dr David Querido (Human Biology), Associate Professor Clare

Stannard (Radiation Medicine), Associate Professor Daan Steenkamp (Chemical Pathology), and Associate Professor Roal van Zyl-Smit (Medicine).

The guests were entertained by Roderick Connolly and his Big Band, most of whose members are either UCT alumni or current students. It was an evening to remember.

Heather Zar Elected a UCT Fellow

The Council of the University has established Fellowships for members of the permanent academic staff in recognition of original distinguished academic work such as to merit special recognition.

There are currently 53 Fellows at UCT, 10 of whom are from our Faculty. Joining them this year is Associate Professor Heather Zar of the School of Child and Adolescent Health.

Heather's research focuses on child lung health, in which she applies complex technology to clinical problems using epidemiologic, clinical, microbiologic, imaging and laboratory-based research methodologies. She has concentrated on infectious diseases, with the principal areas being childhood pneumonia, HIV-associated lung disease, childhood tuberculosis and asthma.

In the area of diagnostic methodology, her development of sputum induction as an effective and safe procedure in young children has been ground breaking, leading to changes in global practice in diagnosis of childhood TB and in other respiratory illnesses. This research has been widely published, including a landmark article in *The Lancet* in 2005.

Her studies of childhood pneumonia were amongst the earliest to delineate the molecular epidemiology, aetiology and outcome in HIV-infected children and uninfected children. Diagnostic studies included the use of novel clinical specimens and improved laboratory

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DEAN'S CORNER

In just a few weeks, we reach the end of 2007, a year which has been filled with challenges. Within the Faculty, we have faced major issues of budget constraints – from the University, also from the provincial health department, with significant consequences for teaching and research, and also for our tertiary health service. On the academic front, our finance department has succeeded in their efforts to get us into the "black", and we have succeeded – with a huge debt of gratitude to them. And while further help is on the way, with the promise of additional funding from the Department of Education, the struggle continues for additional fund-

ing for tertiary care from the national coffers.

Teaching, research and service are the Faculty's lifeblood, and despite the many obstacles and hitches, a dedicated team of academic and support staff have not only kept our work alive, but have ensured that the quality of that life is as excellent as it can be. To all of you who have contributed go our sincere thanks.

We have emerged in positive balance, with the year having been marked by amazing achievements. Many of these have been showcased in the monthly Faculty News, which has proven to be a real communication hit. For not only does it provide Faculty members with

news, but also with the opportunity to win a book prize every month. Thank you to Kit Vaughan for taking on the newsletter this year, with input from Neeran Naidoo (who has left). We invite your comments on the form and content of the newsletter, and also your contributions of stories in the coming year.

To those who cannot take time out, make sure that you have filled in leave forms for the New Year. And to those who can – enjoy! This is a wonderful place, and I continue to feel extremely privileged to be part of such a great Faculty family.

Publication of the Month

Last month we described a new metric that measures research impact, the h-index, and highlighted the publications of Lionel Opie and Harold Varmus. This month we focus on the research output of Michael Hayden (see story below), whose research in human genetics began at UCT in the mid-1970s.

Michael has an h-index of 70 (i.e. 70 of his papers have at least 70 citations each) and one of his first major articles was published with his mentor, Peter Beighton:

Hayden MR, Vinik AI, Paul M, Beighton P "Impaired prolactin release in Huntington's chorea. Evidence for dopaminergic excess", *The Lancet*, 2(8035): 423-426, 1977.

In addition to this paper in *The Lancet*, Michael and Peter published a number of other papers on Huntington's chorea in the *South African Medical Journal*. Recently he provided the first evidence of a cure for Huntington's disease in laboratory mice. "I feel like a student starting out, there are so many things yet to be

discovered", he said. "There are so many patients every day who are crying out for treatment, there is an opportunity to do something great".

Hayden is not only a prolific scientist, but also an extraordinarily successful entrepreneur. He has co-founded three companies: Xenon Pharmaceuticals, Aspreva Pharmaceuticals Inc., and Neurovir, currently serving as chief scientific officer for Xenon and chairman of the medical advisory board for Aspreva which recently announced the Galenica Group is taking it over in a deal worth more than \$900 million.

Alumnus Recognised

UCT alumnus Professor Michael Hayden (below) has received the prestigious 2007 Prix Galien Canada, dubbed the Oscar of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology world.

Hayden, now a professor of medical genetics at the University of British Columbia in Canada, won the accolade for his "pioneering, ground-breaking" medical research.

Hayden, the top MBChB student in 1975, is modest about his achievements, calling the Galien "an unexpected honour".



Monthly Quiz

On 3 December 2007 we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the world's first heart transplant at Groote Schuur Hospital. What day of the week did Chris Barnard and his team perform the surgery and what are the names of the three other surgeons who assisted him? Send your answers to: kit.vaughan@uct.ac.za.

Answer to last month's quiz: Leonardo da Vinci attended anatomy lectures in Pavia by Marcantonio della Torre, a master in the field. There was a mutually beneficial partnership: while Marcantonio's assistants dissected the cadaver and he lectured, Leonardo recorded with drawings. Stef Steiner was the winner. Well done!

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tests. The development of a low cost effective device for inhaled asthma therapy has similarly had a global impact (see photo at right).



Her referees spoke about the "originality of her work and its impact on public policy", "an outstanding, original mind" and that "her clinically based research studies have modified my own professional practice". One measure of Professor Zar's standing as a scientist, is that she was awarded a B2 rating by the National Research Foundation in 2006.

Congratulations to Heather on this outstanding achievement and continuing the tradition of high-quality scholarship in the Faculty. Her contributions will be formally recognised at the Faculty's Graduation Ceremony on 10 December.

Promotions

After a rigorous process, 14 academic staff members in the Faculty were recently recognised with *ad hominem* promotions. They represent more than a third of all such promotions in the University this year.

Promoted to Senior Lecturer were Dr Sharon Prince (Human Biology), Ms Nicki Fouche (Health & Rehabilitation Sciences), and Ms Susan Cleary (Public Health & Family Medicine).

Those who were promoted to Associate Professor included Drs Eugenio Panieri (Surgery), Pradeep Navsaria (Surgery), Tania Douglas (Human Biology), Marjanne Senekal (Human Biology), and Silke Dyer (Obstetrics & Gynaecology).

There was a bumper crop of six Associate Professors promoted to Full Professor: Dianne McIntyre (Public Health & Family Medicine); Paul Potter (Medicine); Sebastian van As (Child & Adolescent Health); Heather Zar (Child & Adolescent Health); Anwar Mall (Surgery); and Alan Morris (Human Biology). We look forward to their inaugural lectures in the next year!

All these promotions take effect on 1 January 2008.

Champagne Moment for Medical Graduands

It was an unexpectedly wet start to the week – and more so for the nearly 300 final-year health sciences students who gathered for the traditional snap, crackle and pop of champagne corks in the Barnard Fuller quad.

As is tradition, the final lists of those who passed were scattered among the hopefuls after a short congratulatory message from dean Professor Marian Jacobs. And then it was time to shower the successful graduands with bubbly.

It was good news for 163 new MBChB graduands, 26 in BSc Communication Sciences Disorders (speech and language pathologists and audiologists), 58 in BSc Occupational Therapy and 51 in BSc Physiotherapy.

There was a 100% pass rate for the BSc Communication Sciences Disorders cohort, and two distinctions. Emma Dodd won the University Gold Medal for speech and language pathology.

Four physiotherapy students passed with distinction and Anna Dubanowicz won the Physiotherapy Gold Medal. Ten MBChB students graduated with first-class honours and 16 with honours.

Jacqueline Cirota won the MBChB University Gold Medal for the most distinguished MBChB student, graduating with honours.

Congratulations to all our successful undergraduates!

[Helen Théron]



Ernie Dudley, one of the IT specialists in the Faculty, celebrates the outcome of the final-year MBChB results with his son Alistair.