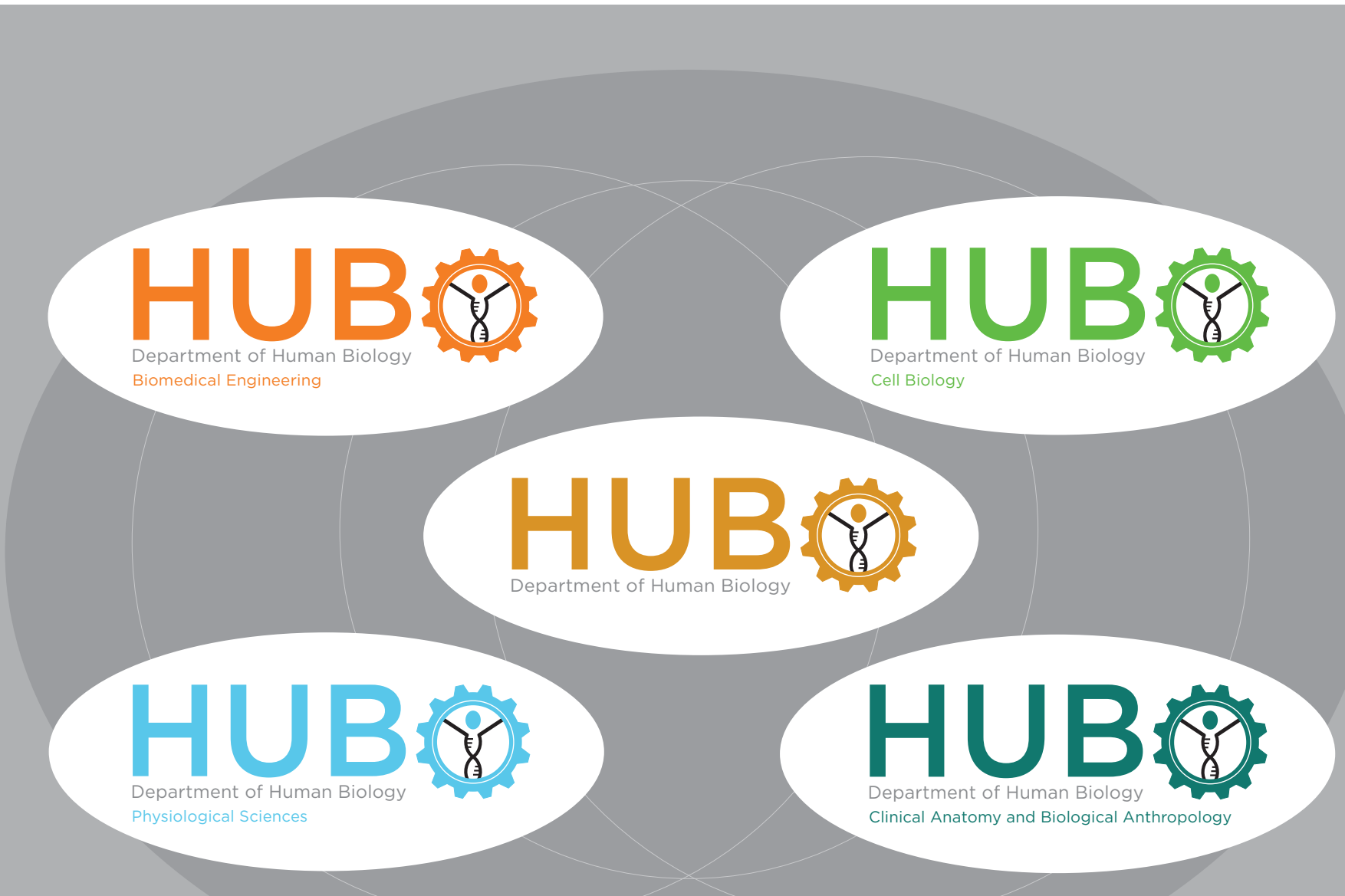
THE HUB CONNEXION

Department of Human Biology

SEPTEMBER 2021 / ISSUE 6



HUB

Department of Human Biology

Physiological Sciences

Welcome to the New **Division of Physiological Sciences**

The newly formed **Division of Physiological Sciences** brings together several scientific and clinical academic disciplines which are all rooted in Human Physiology. In addition to our responsibility in teaching general physiology to undergraduate MBChB, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and BSc students, we also train postgraduate students in Biokinetics, Exercise Science, Neurophysiology, Nutrition, as well as Sport and Exercise Medicine. We also have active and productive research programmes within these academic disciplines, as well as Cardio Physiology, Health Science Education and Sleep Science. The Division also houses the UCT-accredited Health through Physical Activity, Lifestyle and Sport (HPALS) Research Centre, the International Sports Medicine Association (FIMS) Centre of Excellence, and is involved in the activities of the Neuroscience Institute.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

08
PHD GRADUATES

Congratulations to all our July PhD Graduates!

DR JEAN-RASSAIRE FOUEFACK

Thesis: **Towards a framework for multi class statistical modelling of shape, intensity and kinematics in medical images.**

Supervisor: Assoc Prof Tinashe Mutsvangwa

Jean did a joint PhD between UCT and IMT-Atlantique in France. He expressed his gratitude to the staff of the HUB for assisting him academically and allowing him to enter this exciting and rewarding level.

He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research, France LaTIM inserm umr 1101.

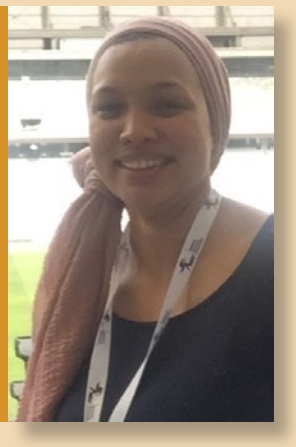
DR NICOLE ELLMAN

Thesis: **Adipose tissue oxidative stress and antioxidant systems and its association with insulin resistance.**

Supervisors: Prof Julia Goedecke
Dr Dheshnie Keswell

Nicole says that ESSM felt like another family and another home to her. Her best memory is having a surprise baby shower. She also thoroughly enjoyed working with participants in her research study.

She is currently on maternity leave and plans to work as a post-doc or in the biomedical industry in the near future.



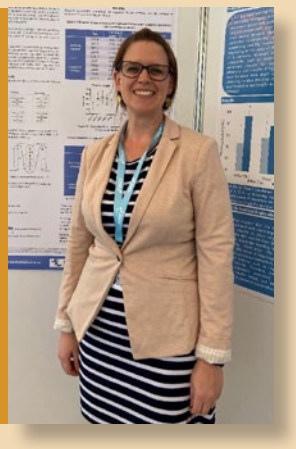
DR FAATIEMA SALIE

Thesis: **Analysis of orthopaedic device development in South Africa: Mapping the landscape and understanding the drivers of knowledge development and knowledge diffusion through networks.**

Supervisor: Prof Tania Douglas

Faatiema feels blessed to have had Tania as a supervisor for her thesis. She will always cherish the mentorship she provided. She misses her dearly, and hopes that the work she does going forward, lives up to the vision she had created.

Faatiema is currently a postdoc in the Health Innovation research group, in the Division of Biomedical Engineering, where she is continuing work into medical device innovation in South Africa.



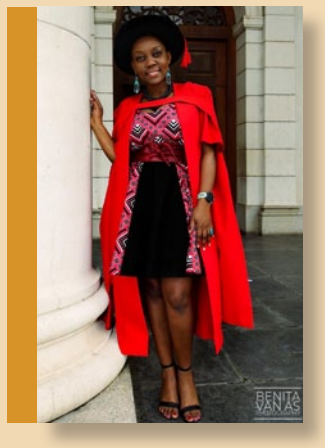
DR KIM BUCHOLTZ

Thesis: **Balance and agility in mountain bikers: a reliability and validity study on skills affecting control in mountain biking.**

Supervisor: Prof Mike Lambert

Kim says she really enjoyed working from SSISA with the other students (after starting her PhD based at Groote Schuur). She says it was a really positive environment, and great to see other students performing research in different areas. It also gave them the opportunity to interact with the staff daily.

Kim moved to Luxembourg in September 2019 to join the Department of Physiotherapy at LUNEX University as a lecturer while finishing up her PhD. She is looking forward to just working one job and not doing any part-time studying for the foreseeable future!



DR NONHLANHLA SHARON MKUMBUZI

Thesis: **Aetiology of pain in chronic midportion Achilles tendinopathy.**

Supervisor: Prof Malcolm Collins

One of the biggest challenges Sharon faced was working two part time jobs while doing her PhD.

She is currently doing a postdoc, focusing on the menstrual cycle hormones and how they influence injury risk in female athletes. She is also doing her passion project, which is research on the interaction between gender, race, economics, and sports medicine in female African athletes.

DR ANJA DE LANGE

Thesis: **Exploring molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying seizures in neurocysticercosis.**

Supervisor: Dr Joe Raimondo

Anja says that the thing that stands out for her about her time in HUB is the truly amazing people she met, and had the privilege of working alongside, over the years - from other graduate students to her incredible supervisor, Joe. Anja is currently looking into postdoc and job opportunities abroad.

DR KAREN SCHWABE

Thesis: **Medical complications during a community-based mass participation endurance running event – an investigation of the epidemiology and risk factors associated with medical complications, with recommendations for risk mitigation.**

Supervisors: Assoc Prof Andrew Bosch
Prof Martin Schwellnus
Prof Wayne Derman

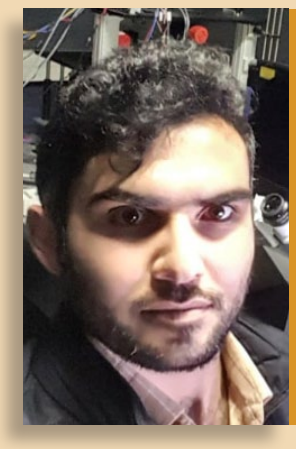
Karen's most memorable experience of her time in HUB is around the Two Ocean's Marathon. She remembers the yearly medical planning, organising and meticulous data collection. This involved very early mornings over Easter Weekend each year, with often extreme weather conditions (either pouring rain of extreme heat) together with a team of the most caring and wonderful doctors, nursing staff and Two Oceans organisers (and some good coffee), taking care of the medical encounters of the participants.

Karen hopes to further build on the findings of her research of the PhD with the aim of making endurance events safer and in this quest surrounds herself with like-minded passionate scientists and doctors. She says together we can all go further.

DR MOHSIN KHAN

Thesis: **The molecular role of TBX3 in malignant melanoma.**

Supervisor: Prof Sharon Prince



Mohsin notes his PhD was the greatest, happiest, and most productive time of his entire life where he fulfilled his dream that was cancer research in an extremely cooperative environment. He is currently looking for postdoc opportunities at UCT and continue his research in the same field.

PEOPLE OF HUB
DR SHARIEF HENDRICKS: ACADEMIC, SPORTSMAN & FAMILY MAN

MEET DR SHARIEF HENDRICKS

Dr Sharief Hendricks is a young academic clearly going places. In 2019, Sharief was awarded the UCT College of Fellows Young Researcher Award and listed on the Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans. He was a finalist for the TW Kambule-NSTF Award (for South Africa's top scientists) in 2020 and 2021 and was recently placed on the Future Professors Programme, a national initiative of the Department of Higher Education, and is also part of UCT's Next Generation Professoriate.

Currently Sharief is a fellow of the European College of Sport Science, the social media editor for the European Journal of Sport Science and an associate editor for the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport and BMJ Open Sport and Exercise Medicine. He is also president-elect of the South African Sports Medicine Association (the first non-physician to hold this position) and is the new Chair of the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee's Sport Science, Technology and Research Commission in preparation for the 2024 Olympics. Adding to this, Sharief is also a Visiting Fellow at Leeds Beckett University (UK).

What about his past has shaped him?

Sharief comes from a humble background, which embedded in him a "hard work" ethic – something he is reminded of every day as he travels to and from work and sees where his Mom worked as a fruit seller in Newlands. In fact, he and his cousins are the family's first generation to attend university.

It is not entirely coincidental that he has landed up in a sports-related research career. Sport has always been a part of his life. Sharief describes that in the neighbourhood where he grew up, rugby was the main thing – in fact the only real option outside of drugs and gangsterism. Thus, rugby and sport kept him grounded. Not surprisingly, Sharief took rugby seriously, first playing senior rugby at club level, then for UCT, and then U21 Western Province rugby in 2006. While he chuckles that, for him, professionalism took the fun out of rugby, he notes that it was a great experience to learn that "fun" is key. Although he no longer competes, if you wander past the public fields at Rondebosch Boys High, you might spot him playing touch rugby, just for fun!

Although sport led Sharief to UWC to do an undergraduate degree in Sport and Exercise Science (BSc) – it was there that he fell in love with science, rather than sport. Through his Honours degree at UCT with Profs Viv Russell, Laurie Kellaway and Edward Ojuka he found the perfect mix of science and sport. This in turn led him to Prof Mike Lambert, initially his MSc supervisor and later on his mentor, together with whom he developed his own niche area of rugby-related research.

What does his current research programme look like?

Right now, Sharief's main focus is tackle research in rugby. His observation is that the tackle is not being trained as it should be and his interest is "How can we improve tackle training?" Consequently, he also investigates injury prevention and performance, and return to play in rugby players. He notes too that a big thing today is the lack of research on women who play rugby, and to this end is setting up international collaborations to fill this gap. Separate to his rugby research programme, Sharief is interested in "science communication and stakeholder engagement", important aspects of research translation. Lastly, Sharief also consults for the South African Cricketers' Association around the well-being of players and the transition through their sporting career.

What message would he offer to other young academics just starting out?

"Practical tip - Write! There is a quote I always keep in mind...This is how you do it...[quote by Neil Gaiman]. Writing is a skill...(even if it is bad)."

What excites him at work these days?

"Writing!", says Sharief. While he enjoys all aspects of the research process, for Sharief, writing is the joy. And he loves seeing the "Ah ha" moment in his students, the energy and excitement they feel, when a paper gets close to completion and the whole point of the study becomes tangible.

What does he do for fun?

"Diving!", smiles Sharief. He loves being in the ocean, free diving mostly, but snorkeling too. He has an obsession with sharks. He admits it's hard to describe why he has this obsession, and wonders about it lot..."there's something about observing and being around sharks underwater, the situation demands an absolute calmness and focus". Have you heard of a gully shark? According to Sharief these are "friendly" sharks to be found in the waters around Cape Town. His goal is to dive with as many different types of sharks as he can, and ultimately some whales too. Not a small goal! Through diving he has connected with a non-profit organisation called #SeatheBiggerPicture Ocean Initiative, which does beach cleans, takes disadvantaged kids snorkeling and exposes them to the ocean, science and marine biology. A more recent pleasure he also enjoys is gardening. Last but not least, there is his 16-month old son, Maahir, who he describes as a complete joy and blessing.

Image: Crystal High School in Hanover Park, Cape Town. Source: iol.co.za / File picture.

Crystal Clear

UCT-Crystal High School Science Project [2021/2022]

PROJECT COORDINATORS UCT: Associate Professor Delva Shamley and **Crystal High Educator:** Randall Christians

Crystal Secondary School is situated in Hanover Park on the Cape Flats. The school was established in 1972 and was named after the daughter of the first principal of the school, the late Mr. C.R Fortuin. It is located in a sub-economic area of Cape Town.

The school is constantly faced with serious socio-economic challenges. The parent community is cash-strapped and can barely afford the minimal school fees they are required to pay. The school has adopted a holistic approach to the education of their learners and their goal is always to provide quality education that would affirm them and prepare them to take up their rightful positions in society.

Crystal Secondary School's motto is **Facta Non Verba**: **Deeds not Words**.

Above: A/Prof Shamley set up 12 microscopes and models from HUB for the workshop at Crystal Secondary School.

Initial Contact with UCT

Randall Christians, Science Educator at Crystal High School, made contact with Associate Professor Delva Shamley in March 2021 to ask whether UCT's Science Facility are prepared to assist the science departments at Crystal High School. After our first very successful science session, which was admirably conducted by Associate Professor Shamley, it can be said that such a project holds positive prospects for the school.

A/Prof Shamley set up 12 microscopes and models from the Department of Human Biology for the workshop. She presented a short lecture on the cell and how the structure was related to viral attack and response. By relating this to COVID-19 she was able to reach the pupils meaningfully. This was followed by the students viewing human tissue slides down a microscope for the first time. By far the most exciting part for the pupils were the models. A/Prof Shamley explained each model and answered questions. During the sessions several teachers came into the room to view the materials. The session was very well received and A/Prof Shamley thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Mr Christians and A/Prof Shamley have agreed to formalise a relationship between HUB and Crystal High School and called the initiative **Crystal Clear**.

Crystal High School's present phase of development requires the growth and consolidation of a class of intellectuals whose fundamental task must be in the economic, social and cultural areas. For if we are to build entrepreneurs in South Africa, at the same time we must build the intelligentsia. Getting UCT on board to assist in the strategic development of the science departments at our school, will be a major impetus to better learner participation and positive results. UCT will play a key role to uplift and further develop science in this disadvantaged school in Hanover Park on the Cape Flats of Cape Town.

Christoph Meyer Maths and Science Centre
in a class of its own

Social outreach and engagement with the community that is affected by Mseleni Joint Disease has been ongoing by Assoc. Prof. Victoria Gibbon (CABA) and Dr Robea Ballo (Cell Biology).

Since 2017 they (together with their students Elizabeth Dinkele and Tafadzwa Tawha) have regularly made contributions to the Christoph Meyer Maths and Science Centre in Mseleni in the form of scientific resources and volunteering time. The Centre is a non-profit organisation committed to scientific engagement and upliftment through education in the Mseleni region of KZN.

The Centre organises a Science and Maths upskilling programme for learners who failed these subjects in Grade 12, with the aim of providing a second chance to pass and be eligible for attending University. Their involvement includes STEAM activities for teachers and children in the region, including introductions to coding and robotics.

In May 2021, they heard the Centre needed new desks for the learners, so they rallied to raise some funds to help them. Due to the generous donations from research groups and individuals at UCT's FHS, 52 desks were gifted to the Centre in Mseleni. The desks will be used in their newly built classrooms, and they hope these desks will provide many productive hours of learning for the learners who make use of them over the years.

Thank you to everyone who helped us make this possible:
A/Prof Victoria Gibbon, Dr. Robea Ballo, Mrs Elizabeth Dinkele, Prof Shahida Moosa (US), Prof Jacquie Greenberg, A/Prof Sudesh Sivarasu, Prof Alison September, A/Prof Tinashe Mutsvangwa, Dr. Dorit Hockman, Dr. Yumna Albertus, Dr. Sharief Hendricks, Dr. Geney Gunston and Prof Peter Beighton.

Photos below: Scenes from the day desks were delivered to learners. Photos supplied.



Medical Devices Lab's French Connection

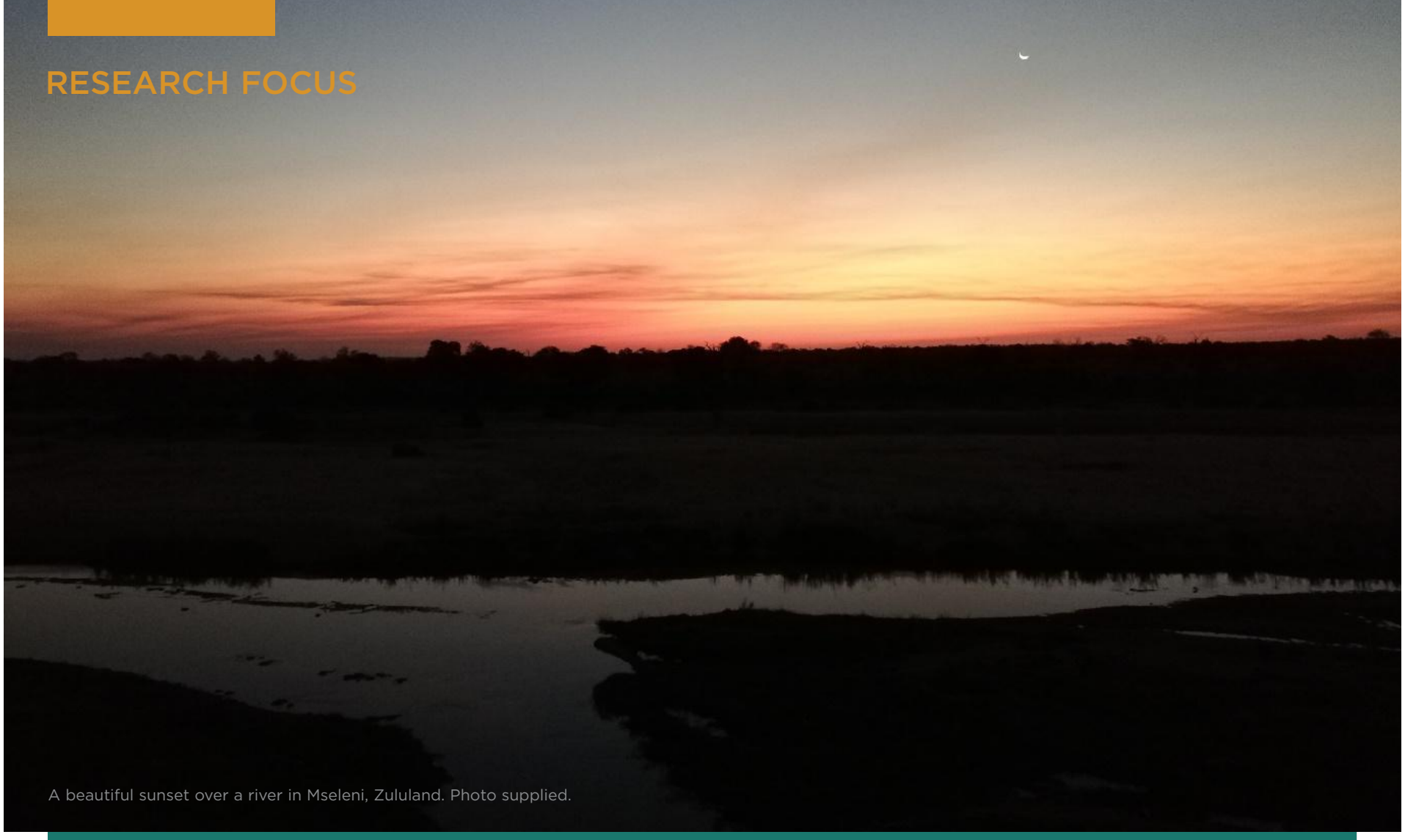
Earlier in the year Giancarlo Beukes, Gokul Nair (founders of Impulse Biomedical and Alumni of the Medical Devices Lab), Associate Professor Sudesh Sivarasu and Ameen Bardien (Medical Devices Lab) presented technologies developed in the Medical Devices Lab at a meeting between UCT's Research Contracts and Innovation office (RCI) and the French Diplomatic Mission in South Africa. The French delegation, which included French Ambassador Aurélien Lechevallier and the French Embassy's Attaché for Innovation Mathieu Bécue, met with UCT-affiliated start-ups and researchers to better understand the technologies that would benefit from the French South Africa Tech Transfer Bridge.

Impulse Biomedical presented their ZibiPen adrenaline auto-injector. The ZibiPen is an innovative award-winning device that will provide its anaphylaxis suffering users with a cost-effective adrenaline auto-injector that is more functional than its competitors. Instead of requiring replacement every year when the adrenaline expires like traditional adrenaline auto-injectors, the ZibiPen allows users to simply swap out a low -cost adrenaline cartridge while also letting users adjust the needle penetration depth of the device to suit their body proportions.

Impulse Biomedical also presented their Eazy Squeezy asthma inhaler sleave. The Eazy Squeezy aims to make operating asthma inhalers easy for young children and those with weak hands. The device also incorporates fun aesthetic features that help children facing stigma for using their inhalers.

Assoc. Prof. Sudesh Sivarasu and Ameen Bardien presented the Laxmeter knee laxity measurement device. The Laxmeter, developed by Sudesh, Sarthak, Giancarlo and Ameen, aims to disrupt the knee laxity measurement space by providing an all-in-one solution to the diagnosis of injury to four major ligaments of the knee. RCI are currently in the process of negotiating a licensing agreement with a major French company that specialides in knee laxity measurement.

Collectively, the medical devices lab is extremely proud of all the technologies it presented on the day. The presentations garnered a keen interest from the French delegation and the Medical Devices Lab is excited at the opportunities that the French South Africa Tech Transfer Bridge may bring in the future. It is also to be noted that earlier in January both Medical Devices Lab and Impulse Biomedical were approved funding from the French South African Tech Transfer Bridge Programme to facilitate commercialisation of the device with a French company. This compliments the exciting world class medical devices innovation coming out of the Department of Human Biology.



A beautiful sunset over a river in Mseleni, Zululand. Photo supplied.

Fieldwork in Zululand

Beautiful sunsets, mist-clad hills and ferocious thunderstorms from behind a mask.

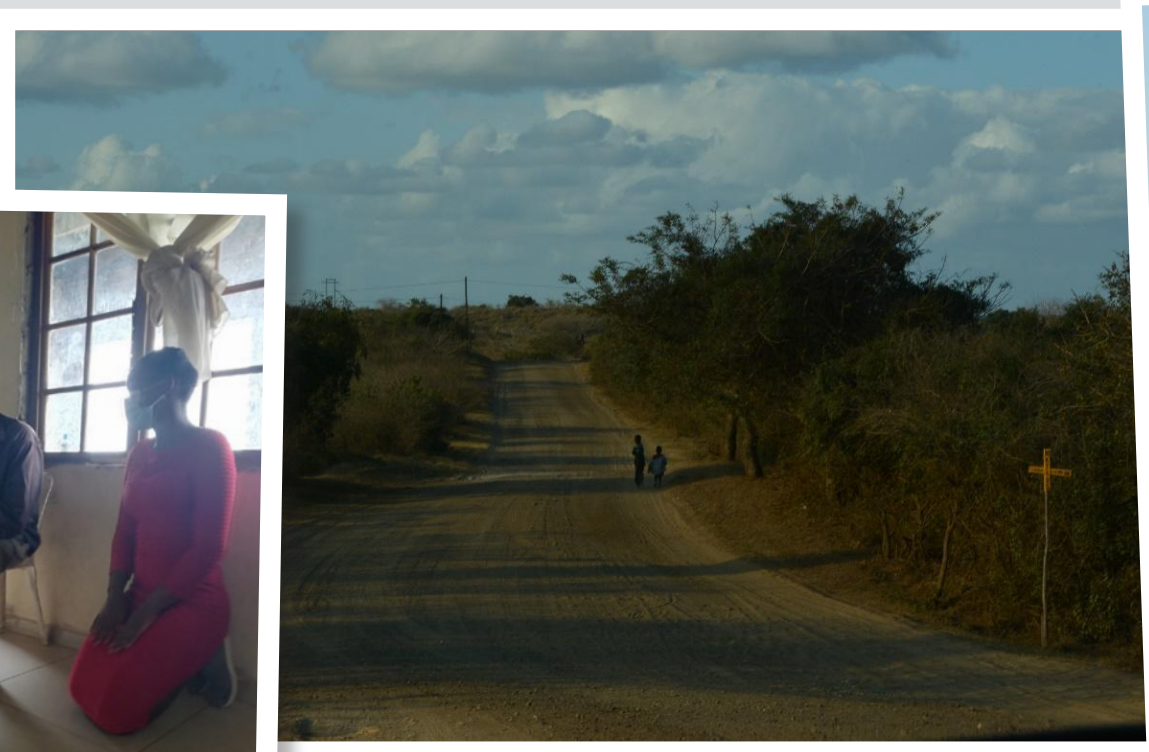
Zululand is a region on the Eastern Coastline in Southern Africa that is characterised by fine coastlines, subtropical forests, scorching summers and traditional settlements. The region is home to an endemic condition known as Mseleni Joint Disease, which continues to cause pain and disability in locals.

In November 2020, Elizabeth Dinkele embarked on a fieldwork visit to Zululand armed with vast quantities of hand sanitiser, medical face masks and mosquito repellent. Her aim was to survey patients and healthcare providers to better understand biocultural factors implicated in the causation and perceptions of Mseleni Joint Disease.

To mitigate risks of transmitting COVID-19, surveys were conducted outdoors at patients' homes or in large, ventilated rooms. Conducting surveys and wearing a mask outdoors can be challenging especially on humid days when temperatures reached 41°C!

For more information about our research and engagement with the Mseleni community, visit our website: anatomybioanth.uct.ac.za/mseleni-joint-disease

Supervisors: Associate Professor Victoria Gibbon and Dr Robea Ballo.



Above: Two children walking down a dusty road, as ominous clouds linger in the background.
Right: On the road again!
Left: Obtaining informed consent from a study participant. Wearing masks can make communication difficult! *Photos supplied.*

ACHIEVEMENTS

There have been a number of fantastic achievements throughout the Department since our last issue worth celebrating, among them are:

Dr Yumna Albertus

1. Received Global Challenges Research Grant (R 600 000, UK funder) for establishing the Southern African Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Innovation (SASRI) Network, where she is leading five countries in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and SA, and UK partner from Hertfordshire University) in designing low-cost innovative rehabilitation equipment.
2. Received the NRF-Japan Science Grant (R800 000), with collaborator Prof Kohei Watanabe from Chukyo, Japan for research to identify motor unit activity in stroke and spinal cord injury.
3. Two PhD students passed and will be graduating (Robert Evans and Claire Shackleton) on *Effectiveness of Robotic Locomotor Training in Spinal Cord Injury*.
4. On the board of the first South African Society of Biomechanics, who are currently organising their first conference and are officially affiliated with the International Society of Biomechanics.
5. Received the UEC Equipment Grant and ACC grant to upgrade the 3D motion capture system and software (R1.6 million).
6. Arranged and hosted a High School workshop on Biomechanics in South Africa (South African Society of Biomechanics in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Education) held in May, where over a 100 high school learners Grades 9 to 12 attended and were shown around the lab.

Mary Ann Dove gave evidence at the Cricket South Africa Social Justice and Nation Building hearings into transformation and discrimination in cricket. She was one of the scene setters prior to players, coaches and other stakeholders giving their evidence. She presented findings from her PhD, in a 1 ½ hour presentation and question session entitled *Understanding the factors affecting the development of cricket expertise in South Africa. Giving voice to the players and guiding policy for Cricket South Africa.*

Joseph Raimondo has recently been awarded a prestigious Wellcome Trust International Intermediate Fellowship. His project is entitled *Cestode modulation of host networks in the human brain* and will be exploring how tapeworm larvae affect the brain.

The AIESEP Developing Country Scholar Award was won by **Lara Paul.** She was one of five scholars who received the AIESEP Developing Country Scholar Award. The award is intended to support scholars from a developing country to attend an AIESEP conference in order to recognise their scholarly work and create stronger connections between AIESEP and developing countries. The award includes presenting and participating in the 2021 virtual AIESEP International conference in June.

Dirk Lang and **Ash Isaacs** have been awarded the University Equipment Committee Grant for 2021/2. The grant is for R895 665 and will be used to purchase a new Cryostat.

Dr Adhil Bhagwandin received a grant from the UCT Advanced Computing Committee (ACC) for software used in his research.

Chelsey Voegt (pictured right) received the SAWISE ANGUS Scholarship in 2021. The SAWISE (South African Women in Science and Engineering) ANGUS scholarship, valued at R15 000, is awarded to one female student who is in their 4th year or honours year and studying in the science or engineering field. This year it was awarded to Chelsey Voegt from CABA. The association aims to raise the profile of women scientists and engineers and is passionate about lobbying for the advancement of women in these fields. Apart from being the 2021 recipient of the scholarship, Chesley has also been invited to join the organisation as an official member.

Ms. Xolisile Octavia Thusini (pictured right) a promising young African female researcher reading for her PhD in the Division of Biomedical Engineering, was awarded the Mamokgethi Phakeng Scholarship for 2021. Born and raised in the small village of Isandlwana in northern KwaZulu-Natal, she has had a passion for science from a young age. Through determination and hard work she was accepted to the University of Zululand where she received a BSc in Physics and Electronics in 2012. She completed two Masters' degrees – in Mathematical Sciences from the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Stellenbosch University and in Physics from the University of Cape Town.

Ms. Thusini's PhD work focuses on three-dimensional (3D) analysis of two-dimensional (2D) medical images. While the engineering application of her project is on the 3D reconstruction of anatomical structures from a limited number of 2D X-ray images, the conceptual focus of her research is on Monte Carlo sampling methods and their potential for integrating different image features into a single probabilistic framework. In a general, she is furthering research into solving non-convex functions in high-dimensional parameter space. Her work will not only result in a practical, real-world diagnostic imaging application but will have implications more broadly in computer vision.

In addition to the Mamokgethi Phakeng Scholarship, she was recently awarded the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship and will spend one year in the laboratory of renowned computer vision expert and collaborator of A/Prof Tinashe Mutsvangwa and Professor Thomas Vetter, at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Congratulations to all!

Please do send along any recent achievements, awards, NRF ratings or the like that you would like published in the next issue of this newsletter to your Divisional Comms Reps. We love to celebrate the accomplishments of the HUB family!

Online Teachers Workshop

Since 2017 the Division of Cell Biology has successfully hosted an annual Teachers Workshop to provide Life Sciences teachers from low-income schools in the Western Cape with the tools to achieve learning goals in fun and exciting ways.

The rationale for these workshops is two-fold. Firstly, we hope that these workshops will equip teachers in poorly resourced schools to perform easy and cheap experiments in their classrooms which would inspire school learners to pursue careers in science. Secondly, we believe this engagement will give us as academics an insight into how the science curriculum is delivered at secondary school level, with the view to improving our teaching and learning approaches to assist students from disadvantaged schools entering our first-year courses.

The workshop programme is based on the Grade 10 to 12 Life Sciences curriculum and takes into consideration concepts that our lecturers have found first year students to struggle with. Sessions are organised and managed by academic staff and postdoctoral fellows, are designed to be interactive and to demonstrate activity-based experiments and models which could easily be replicated in the classroom using inexpensive and easily accessible materials. We have published a comprehensive booklet which outlines the experiments, learning objectives and additional resources that teachers can use in their classrooms, and at the end of the workshop, each teacher receives the booklet and a foldscope (paper microscope).

The Teachers Workshops have been mutually beneficial in that it provides a platform for discussions on best teaching practice in the current South African context both at secondary and tertiary level. It has further enhanced our engagement with local schools in collaboration with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED).

In 2020, the workshop was cancelled due to the national lockdown but this year the workshop was presented online to roughly 40 teachers. Resource kits were thus prepared and distributed to various teaching districts across the Western Cape prior to the workshop so that attending teachers could replicate experiments during the workshop.

Above: Roopam Dey sent us a picture of a familiar view. The M3 as viewed from the Anatomy Building. Captured pre-pandemic.

LOCKDOWN LETTERS

Out of the challenges of distance learning has come an appreciation from staff and students alike of the efforts made by members of HUB in adapting to our new situation. We share with you some of the messages that have been received in the past few months applauding the work done by our colleagues.

An email from a course convenor to Ashwin Isaacs

Dear Ashwin,

I met with the MPhils HUB6014F after the final exam yesterday. They gave me oral feedback on the course and raved about the histology. They said you were an amazing teacher and it was the best part of the course. You have brought along the histology, as 3 years ago it was the least favoured part and the aspect students performed poorly on.

I am so proud of you and would love to hear some tips from your success. I wanted to share this glowing feedback. I am sure these comments will come through in the course evaluations. Also, from my side, working with you has been a pleasure.

An email from a student to Jeshika Luckrajh

Dear Jeshika,

Thank you for the study techniques and recommending the YouTube videos to me. They were of great help to me. I really enjoyed all your lectures this semester. I can't believe that I'm actually excited to take the HUB exams. I really appreciate all the help and advice that I have received, thank you.

An email from a student to the HoD

Dear Professor Prince,

I hope you are well. I write to you with the purpose of highlighting Dr Paul Steyn's hard-working and caring nature. He has been instrumental in the success of the third year Human Biology students and I believe that his work should be commended.

With the onset of Covid-19 and the move to online teaching, Dr Steyn has been extremely understanding with students who are struggling. Personally, I was not in a good space in the second semester of last year and his kindness was very much appreciated.

Dr Steyn is always available (within reason) to students on our WhatsApp group, often answering questions past office hours and going above and beyond to make sure that we as students are as supported as possible.

I attempted to nominate Dr Steyn for a Distinguished Teacher Award. However, since he is technically part of the Faculty of Health Sciences, I was not able to. It was then suggested to me that I email you, hence this communication.

CAPTION CORRECTION

In our previous issue (May 2021, page 5) the caption on the left photograph was unfortunately mislabelled. Please note that those featured in the photograph, from left to right, are Senior Technical Officer Ms Shirees Benjamin, Associate Professor Jacqui Friedling, and Associate Professor Victoria Gibbon. The HUB Connexion team would like to apologise for the error.

Left (from left to right)**:** Senior Technical Officer Ms Shirees Benjamin, Associate Professor Jacqui Friedling and Associate Professor Victoria Gibbon

CONTACT HUB
Physical Address Anatomy Building, Level 5, Room 5.14, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, Anzio Road, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa
Email thehubconnexion@uct.ac.za **Website** humanbiology.uct.ac.za **Twitter** twitter.com/uct_hub **Facebook** facebook.com/ucthumanbiology **Instagram** instagram.com/hub_uct/