## #LifeChangers

### **NEWSLETTER**

**2023 SECOND EDITION** 











#### Faculty of Health Sciences

Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo

Make today matter

### **Dean's Note**





'Our theme for the year, 'Innovative Clan with a Plan', stresses the need for 'Innovation'.

#### Dear Colleagues

Midway through the year, I am pleased to welcome you to the second edition of the Faculty of Health Science Life Changers' newsletter for 2023

Our theme for the year, 'Innovative Clan with a Plan', stresses the need for 'Innovation'. The theme is underpinned by co-creation, collaboration and good communication, to ensure teamwork triumphs.

Our Faculty is fast evolving into a state-of-the-art facility premised on Artificial Intelligence, with simulation and innovation integral for student training.

In this edition, we focus on collaborative and innovative events in the Faculty and share some highlights.

We demonstrated the importance of collaboration and partnership with high-level visits to seven training hospitals. We value our partners and together we strive to improve the clinical training platforms.

In a first for Africa, the Faculty launched an interactive, 21st-century hi-tech library in May for students to reach their potential.

Nine doctors received Basic and Essential Surgical Training (BESST) in February. This course equipped them with the latest surgical skills. It also lays the foundations for effective teamwork, addressing basic concepts and skills in surgery.

I congratulate advanced midwifery specialist Dr Maurine Rofhiwa Musie, currently the youngest recipient of a doctorate in the Department of Nursing Science.

Global leaders in public health, Prof Carel IJsselmuiden, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Dr David Nabarro were honoured with a prestigious Chancellor's Medal and honorary doctorates, respectively, for service to humanity.

To conclude on a heartwarming note, hot soup and doughnuts were served during the #CaringforOurCarers campaign in June. Please look after your mental health and well-being!

Seeing our Faculty demonstrating our commitment to nurturing teamwork with impactful collaborations and partnerships is encouraging.

Kind Regards,

Prof Tiaan de Jager



The University of Pretoria welcomes the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme fellows and launches the Albert Luthuli Leadership Platform for Health

### Three outstanding University of Pretoria researchers recognised by the SAMRC



The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) has recognised three researchers from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences at the 09th SAMRC Scientific Merit Awards ceremony on 09 March 2023.

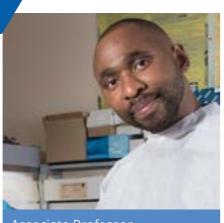
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# On 27 February 2023, medical doctor, epidemiologist, and global health expert Professor Stella Anyangwe delivered a stirring speech at the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme (KAGHLP) opening dinner that was held at the Javett Art Centre, University of Pretoria. CLICK TO READ MORE

### Researchers who received ratings from National Research Foundation



Prof Trevor Nyakudya wins the Gauteng Accelerator Program Award



Associate Professor Simnikiwe Mayaphi NRF awards UP researcher C2 rating



Dr. Abe Kasonga recognised as a Y2 NRF rated researcher



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### **COMMUNITY**



The annual "#CaringForOurCarers" campaign highlights importance of mental health matters among healthcare professionals

The Faculty of Health Sciences was abuzz in bright, "crazy" socks on Friday, 2 June, despite the cold weather, demonstrating their wide support of the "#CaringForOurCarers" campaign

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### Occupational Therapy students provide much-needed mental health support at Atteridgeville Clinic

On Friday, 09 June 2023, the Occupational Therapy Department in the Faculty of Health Science at the University of Pretoria held a Mental Health Awareness event for Community Health Workers (CHWs) at Atteridgeville Clinic.



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University of Pretoria visits Melusi Holistic Care Clinic to showcase research work and explore further collaboration opportunities

The University of Pretoria recently visited the Melusi Holistic Care Clinic under the Faculty of Health Sciences to strengthen the community engagement

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#### Sanlam donates towards the Food Parcel Project

On 18 May 2023, the School of Dentistry at the University of Pretoria Faculty of Health Sciences received a donation of non-perishable foods and sanitary towels from Sanlam in support of the Food Parcel Project.



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### RESEARCH

### How collaboration and new drugs could beat malaria

With its rolling hills and traditional thatched adobe houses, Vhembe District may look picture-perfect. Yet, many people who call this part of Limpopo, South Africa, home live with the deadly threat of malaria.

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Everybody has specific experience that they can add and apply to malaria

- Prof Tiaan de Jager



### UP and partners launch Innovative Solar Power Pilot Project in Melusi

In a pioneering effort to explore the viability of implementing solar power in informal settlements, the University of Pretoria, Wits University and the Gauteng Research Triangle (GRT) have joined forces with SAPRIN. The collaborative project kicked-off on 30 March 2023 at the Melusi informal settlement in





#### Cell C and Reach for a Dream unveil a dream room to bring joy to patients

Cell C and Reach for a Dream Foundation today unveiled a new Dream Room at the Paediatric Cardiology and Pulmonology Clinic at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital designed to transform the treatment experience of seriously ill children in Pretoria.

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#### **UP and Aviro Health launch app for diabetes management**



The University of Pretoria's (UP) Diabetes Research Centre, in conjunction with health tech company Aviro Health, recently launched the Aviro Pocket Clinic app for diabetes which allows for patient registration, guided clinic and home visits for insulin initiation for people with type 2 diabetes

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#### Inaugural international PACRI meeting to forge collaborations in the fight against cancer

The Pan African Cancer Research Institute (PACRI) hosted its inaugural international meeting at the University of Pretoria's Future Africa institute campus from 26 February to 1 March.

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#### **UP and Edinburgh University forge strategic inter-institutional** partnership

University of Pretoria (UP) Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe along with Prof Tivani Mashamba-Thompson, Deputy Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies in UP's Faculty of Health Sciences, recently visited the University of Edinburgh to discuss strategic partnership focus areas for the two universities.

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### **Demonstrating the importance** of collaboration and partnership

The University of Pretoria demonstrated the importance of collaboration and partnership with a high-level visit to seven training hospitals under the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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### UP building capacity through community of practice in health professions education

In a spirit of collaboration, members of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria recently engaged in a voluntary capacity to develop a community of practice in health professions education

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### FEATURED LIFECHANGERS



### UP graduate beats cancer and becomes a medical doctor

Saman Akhtar is not only a cancer survivor. She has beaten the odds and is now a qualified medical doctor. The-24-year-old recently graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) from the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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Advanced midwifery specialist and midwifery lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria, Dr Maurine Rofhiwa Musie is currently the youngest recipient of a doctorate in the Department of Nursing Science.

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### UP graduate set to be the first female doctor in her village

"I decided to become a medical doctor after my mother was diagnosed with chronic conditions," said the newly qualified medical doctor, Dr Tshepiso Maila, who obtained her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree.

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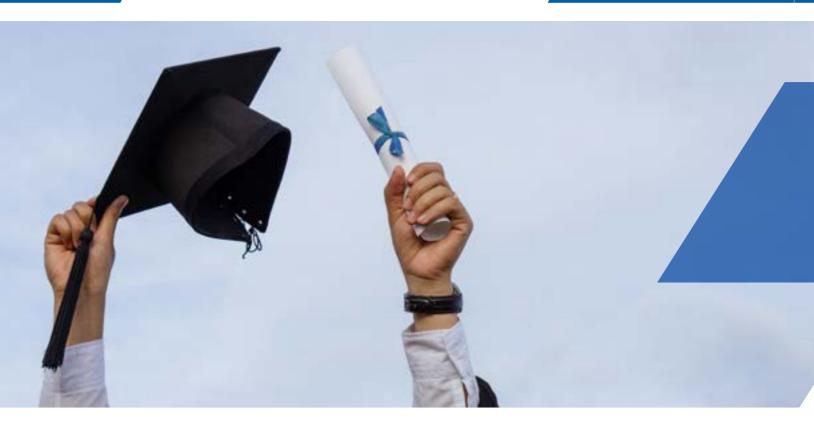
### UP graduate keeps the UP flag flying high

Michael Stark began his research journey in the Department of Physiology in 2019 under the supervision of Dr. Michelle Visagie and Professor Annie Joubert when he was only 19 years old

### Award-winning graduate has her eyes set on making an impact in global healthcare

University of Pretoria (UP) graduate Ruvasha Govender recently received a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) degree from the Faculty of Health Sciences with 12 distinctions.





# SPECIAL FEATURE

### Prof Carel IJsselmuiden and Dr David Nabarro honoured by the University of Pretoria

Two Leading academics and global leaders in public health were honoured by the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria's (UP) autumn graduation ceremony, one with the prestigious Chancellor's Medal and the other an honorary doctorate, respectively, for sterling service to humanity.



### **University of Pretoria honours WHO director-general Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus**

University kicked off its Autumn graduation ceremonies on 1 April, until 16 May, with 11 908 qualifications conferred. Among them was Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), whom the University awarded an honorary doctorate.





### **Event highlights**

### Faculty of Health Sciences launches a 21st-century library

In a first for Africa, the University of Pretoria has launched its "new" interactive, 21st-century Health Sciences Library at the Faculty of Health Sciences, seeking to bridge the gap between learning and innovation and providing virtual spaces – and the technology – for students to reach their potential.

#### The Faculty of Health Sciences hosts Merit Awards Ceremony

On 09 May 2023, the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences hosted the Merit Awards ceremony to honour and celebrate academic excellence for undergraduate students.

### **Book Launch: Doctor of Hearts - The Biography of Bongani Mayosi**

On 11 May 2023, the Faculty of Health Sciences hosted the launch of the biography of a renowned academic, Dr Bongani Mayosi to celebrate and honour his legacy. The launch was held at the new 21st-century Health Sciences Library.

# "The Amazing Radiography Race" to orientate UP students to the Steve Biko Academic Hospital

The University of Pretoria's first-year radiography students participated in an Amazing Race adventure to learn how to navigate the Steve Biko Academic Hospital.









### **Upcoming events**

#### **Faculty Research Day 2023**

Date: 24 August 2023

Time: 08:00

Venue: Tswelopele Building

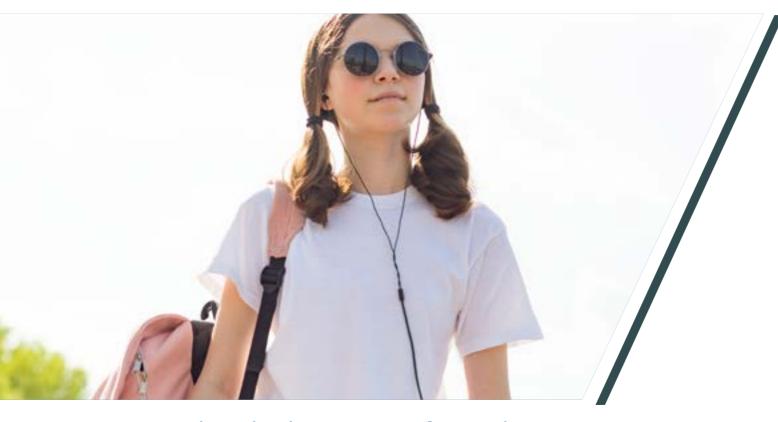
#### **2023 Diabetes Summit**

Date: 15 November 2023 Venue: Future Africa Campus

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### **TURF Symposium ignites research passion among undergraduate students**

The Faculty of Health Sciences recently hosted the highly anticipated TURF Symposium, marking the opening of TURF for the year 2023. Undergraduate students from all disciplines were welcome to participate in this enlightening event.

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### **New Appointments**

Mr A Antonio Research Assistant (Department of Family Medicine) Mr MJ Bassa Research Assistant (Department of Neurosurgery) Research Assistant (Department of Physiology) **Miss C Basson** Mrs M Beeforth Research Assistant (Department of Family Medicine) **Dr C Blignaut** Project Manager (Department of Immunology) Ms MM Chilufya Research Assistant (Health Sciences Deans Office) Research Assistant (Department of Forensic Medicine) Miss IO da Silva Mr GLS Dikgole Research Assistant (Department of Human Nutrition) **Ms SLR Downs** Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology) Mr C Esterhuizen Research Assistant (Pharmacology)

Ms GJP Grobler Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)

Mr W Hansen Lecturer (Nursing Science)

Mr G HattinghResearch Assistant (Department of Physiology)Mrs C HoodAdministrative Officer (Health Sciences Deans Office)Dr MNS Janse vanSenior Researcher (Department of Family Medicine)

Rensburg
Ms N Kharva
Research Assistant (Department of Occupational Therapy)
Ms R Kopeledi
Social Worker (Department of Family Medicine)

**Dr M Leuschner** Lecturer (Pharmacology)

Miss M Leventis Research Assistant (Department of Physiology)

**Dr C MacMillan** Lecturer (Department of Physiology)

**Ms BI Mamabolo** Research Assistant (Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology)

Mr S MangreyComp Lab Assistant (IT) (Health Sciences Deans Office)Ms NP MatelaJnr Research Assistant Gr I (Public Health Medicine)Ms TS MatshebeleSpecial Assistant Grade III (Department of Family Medicine)

Mr JM MhlabineDriver (Department of Family Medicine)Mr OC ModisaneResearch Assistant (Department of Anatomy)Mr PE MolekoaSenior Accountant (Health Sciences Deans Office)Miss MK MolomoResearch Assistant (Department of Physiology)

**Dr JM Moodie** Data Analyst/Administrator (Department of Family Medicine)

**Dr TP Moto** Lecturer (School of Health System & Public Health)

Ms A Motsepe Lecturer (Department of Radiography)

Ms T Mulaudzi Social Worker (Department of Family Medicine)

Dr TE NakanyaneLecturer/Specialist (Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology)Ms P NkoneResearch Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)Ms DP NtseonaSocial Worker (Department of Family Medicine)Dr CS PhillipsSenior Researcher (Department of Immunology)

Ms Z Phote Clinical Associate (Department of Family Medicine)
Ms KC Pule Social Worker (Department of Family Medicine)

**Prof PA Rachuene** Dept Head Allowance (Joint) (Department of Orthopaedics)

Miss NL Ragophala Internship (Health Sciences Deans Office)

Miss BM RaphiriResearch Assistant (Health Sciences Deans Office)Ms M ShanahanResearch Assistant (Health Sciences Deans Office)

Ms X Sithole JnrResearch Assistant Gr II (Department of Internal Medicine)Mrs JP SitholeSpecial Assistant Grade III (Department of Family Medicine)Mr TA StraussTechnical Helper Ii (Department of Occupational Therapy)

Miss MA Van Der Mescht
Miss M van der Walt
Miss S van Eeden
Mr RK Walter
Research Assistant (Department of Immunology)
Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)
Research Assistant (Department of Physiology)
Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)

Ms PT Xaba Departmental Administrator B (School of Health System & Public

Health)



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