

Health Science Matters

Faculty of Health Sciences

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UP taking a bold stand against Malaria!

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The University of Pretoria officially established itself as a national leader in the fight against malaria with the launch of its new Centre for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP CSMC) on the 17th of November 2011.

The Centre, officially opened by Dr Yogan Pillay, Deputy Director General of Strategic Health Programmes at the National Department of Health, will coordinate a number of established malaria research initiatives within different faculties of the University, all aimed at the sustainable control and eventual elimination of the disease.

According to Prof Tiaan de Jager, Director of the Centre, there is an urgent need for research and surveillance in many malaria areas to eliminate the disease by the use of an integrated management approach. *"The Centre has the potential to become an international leader in the fight against the disease as it will be able to guide policy makers on suitable strategies for sustainable malaria control. Top researchers from the University are researching innovative and safe ways to combat malaria, including finding alternatives for the pesticide DDT"* Prof de Jager explained.



Prof C de la Rey (UP Vice Chancellor & Principal) with Dr Yogan Pillay (Deputy Director General of Strategic Health Programmes at the National Department of Health) and Prof Eric Buch (Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences and Chairperson of the UP CSMC Board)



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Faculty of Health Sciences

From the Dean's Office



2012 has got off to a good start for the faculty in many ways, reflecting the hard work last year and promising even more this year. This started with the very efficient student registration process, which we had put in a lot of effort to ensure.

The positive feedback on Prof Tiaan de Jager's appointment as our first Deputy Dean: Research reflects the respect he has gained from colleagues for his work in enabling research in the Faculty and the confidence we all have for what he will bring to this position. We are committed to growing the support required to increase our research output and will soon have a grant writer and scientific editor employed in the Faculty. The key is to increase our publications in international journals and our PhD output.

Congratulations to the two colleagues in the Faculty who were awarded NRF (National Research Foundation) ratings for the first time and to those six Faculty members whose ratings were upgraded, including Prof Bob Pattinson on attaining the prestigious B1 rating. I am pleased to report that we now have 19 NRF rated researchers in the Faculty. Congratulations also to the Centre for Sustainable Malaria Control, with Prof Tiaan de Jager as Director, on being awarded a prestigious SARChI (South African Re-

search Chairs Initiative) chair by the National Research Foundation.

We have recognised how difficult it is for joint appointment staff with heavy clinical loads to find time to do and write up their research and PhD studies. I am pleased to announce that we have secured R5 million from the University for a clinical research fund to buy out time from the province / NHLS for research purposes. This could, for example be a 3 month period in which we pay a locum to release you from clinical duties or we reimburse lost overtime income when you take a sabbatical. In return, we expect you to commit to a certain research output e.g. completion of a PhD write up, a journal article for an international journal. The process to apply is simple. You need to prepare a memo, supported by your HOD, explaining your proposition and submit to your School Chair. This will then serve at the Faculty Executive committee for consideration.

Our educational effort continues to be reflected in our high module pass rates and student throughput. These, together with your commitment to teaching and learning and our strong student support system, have provided the case we are making for a unique student loan system for the Faculty. Negotiations are progressing and I hope to announce their successful conclusion in the near future. Thanks also to all those involved in broadening the longitudinal clinical attachment programme (LCas) to a wider range of disciplines. Both the attachment to clinics in communities and the interdisciplinary learning are amongst the key recommendations of the Lancet commission's report on health professional education.

We are in negotiations with the Departments of Health and Higher Education to increase our medical student intake to 350 in the next few years, an important contribution to meeting our national need. We have shared with them that this is conditional on increased funding as we are stretched already and need to expand our facilities, employ more

staff in the basic medical sciences and offset the loss to the University in training doctors. We are also negotiating with Gauteng and the National Health Laboratory Service to expand our teaching platform and joint appointments.

I trust that everyone has felt the benefit of our various facilities upgrading projects and thank you for the patience shown during building operations. We will share some before and after pictures with you in the next edition of this newsletter. In the meanwhile, we are working on a five year plan to expand our facilities further.

The Gauteng Province and the NHLS have been going through difficult times. We have been in constant touch with both to mitigate the impact on our patients and also on our Faculty. I feel confident that both have turned the corner and that there is strong political commitment for the way forward.

This newsletter reflects a number of outstanding achievements by staff in the Faculty. There are many more good stories to share and I urge everyone to help us do so by sharing these with our editor at Jane.Moshoeshoe@up.ac.za

In my first year as Dean, one thing that really struck me is how much is happening in the Faculty – in education, in research, in care and in service to our community and our professions, all carried out with great humility. What is clear to me is that to gain the support we need to achieve our vision and mission, we have to be more visible about what we do and what we achieve. This will help grow the virtuous cycle that will take the Faculty to new heights.

Prof Eric Buch,
Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences

UP taking a bold stand against Malaria!

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Current research include studies on the impact of climate change on malaria areas, an investigating of physical methods of mosquito control, the effects of DDT on human and environmental health as well as the examination of new and innovative ways to target weaknesses in malaria parasite biology.

Another key component in a holistic approach to prevention and management is the engagement with the affected populations to ensure that they are part of the decision making and sustainability of successful interventions. In order to achieve sustainable interventions community members should also fully understand the strategies, and where appropriate carry some responsibility for these in the long term. It is therefore important that community participation is ensured in the research projects and that health promotion and education with the affected community members form part of the research objectives and methods.

The Centre for Sustainable Malaria Control

The mission of UP includes the intention to be an internationally recognised South African teaching and research university that is responsive to the educational, cultural, economic, scientific, technological, industrial, health, environmental and social needs of the country.

The University's vision acknowledges its prominent role in Africa, and its commitment to discharging its social responsibilities. In this context it is clear that the problem of malaria control, which has such a devastating impact on health and the economy in many African countries, has been and continues to be a significant focus of the University of Pretoria. The University is currently one of the leading institutions in malaria research in South Africa, recognized by their focus on

malaria parasite biology, functional genomics, structure-based drug discovery efforts, innovative vector control strategies and public health and community engagement.

The focus of the Centre is on safer malaria control and management with focus areas on:

- Sustainable Methods of Malaria Control
 - *Physical Methods of Vector Control*
 - *Biological Malaria Parasite & Vector Control and Bioinformatics & Drug Discovery*
- Toxicology, Community Health & Occupational Health
- Climate Change
- Integrated Vector Management
- Malaria case management
- Mathematical Modelling & Health Economics
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Education, Health Promotion and Policy



Dr Stella Anyangwe (WHO Africa Regional Director) speaking at the launch



Prof Eric Buch, Prof Tiaan de Jager (Director UP CSMC) & Prof Richard Haynes



Members of the UP CSMC Management Committee

Front (left to right): Dr Francis Hyera, Dr Natalie Aneck-Hahn, Prof Riana Bornman, Prof LynMarie Birkholtz, Prof Fourie Joubert, Prof Steve Koch
Back: Prof Walter Focke, Prof Tiaan de Jager (Director UP CSMC)

Prof Resia Pretorius scoops the Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award in the Basic Science, Technology & Innovation category



Prof Pretorius receiving her award from Dr De Bakke, who is the EU Representative to the AU, in Ethiopia

Science and technology is one of the key focal areas on Africa's development agenda. In 2007, the African Union Heads of State and Government made a special call to promote the greater participation of women in science and technology. In response to this commitment, the AU commission initiated the prestigious "African Union Scientific Awards Programme". The target was outstanding Women researchers at Regional Level for their great scientific achievement and contribution through science to the socio-economic development of Africa.

Five African regions have been identified and 2 awards per region allocated; one for Earth and Life Sciences and one for Basic Science, Technology and Innovation. The University of Pretoria has had a previous winner in the first category in 2009, Prof Brenda Wingfield, the Deputy Dean of Research in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. In 2010, the name of the award changed to the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards**, in honor of the memory of the Great Pan-Africanist and First President of the Re-

public of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

On 14 December 2011, Prof Resia Pretorius from the Department of Physiology of the Faculty of Health Sciences was named Southern Region winner in the Basic Science, Technology and Innovation category at the African Union Commission Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Resia attended the University of Stellenbosch, where she completed her pre-graduate studies, BSc (Hons) (*Cum Laude*) as well as MSc degree. In 1998, she received her PhD from the University of Pretoria, and was appointed as lecturer in the Department of Anatomy at the Faculty of Health Sciences in 1999. Recently, she was appointed in the Department of Physiology of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Resia has published more than 150 peer review articles in international ISI-rated journals since 2000. Since 2005, her research focussed on the use of the electron microscope as tool to study diseases that specifically affect platelets and fibrin networks, using both human

and animal models; with specific reference to haemostasis and how it may be studied using the electron microscope. Resia has also been leader to 28 successful MSc students and PhD students since 2000, which produced research that led to more than 60 peer reviewed articles in International ISI rated journals. Two of her MSc students have been receivers of the prestigious the A2S3 bronze medal for best MSc and runner up at the University of Pretoria.

Her achievements include being chosen as Exceptional Achiever: Young Researcher: Faculty of Health Sciences 2007. In 2009, she established the Applied Morphology Research Centre (AMRC) at the University of Pretoria, and serves as director of the Centre. The focus of this Centre is to study human disease using ultrastructure. The Centre works closely with both the private and public sector organizations, with individuals from both these sectors serving as AMRC board members.

Research also involves collaboration with the Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston. Their research focuses on Ferric and Ferrous ions as generators of hydroxyl radicals, and the fact that iron-induced alterations in fibrinogen structure is involved in pathogenesis associated with iron overload and persistent thrombosis. Resia currently has a Scopus, as well as ISI H-index of 13, is an NRF-rated researcher and also serves as editorial board member of international journals.

Family Medicine hosts the inaugural Declaration Ceremony for BCMP students



MEC for Health Ms Ntombi Mekgwe

On 8 December 2011, the MEC for Gauteng Health, Ms Ntombi Mekgwe, was a guest of honour and gave an address at the Declaration Ceremony of the first group of Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice (BCMP) students.

The 44 graduates pledged their commitment to serving the nation's health care needs and to practice at the highest professional standards of care. From the be-

ginning of this year, they have been working in various health districts in the country, mostly rural area in the provinces they came from, where their services are much needed. The military graduates have gone back to the military and now form part of the teams that are deployed on peace keeping missions.

Clinical Associates are a new category of health care workers who are competent, professional member of the health care team with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to function effectively in the health system of South Africa. The MEC Ms Mekgwe said this in her speech: *"The Clinical Associates will add a unique dimension to the capacity to make quality health care available to all South Africans, in line with the national plan"*.

The significance of this first graduate class is that the Clinical Associates will not only be walking away with a qualification and the highest standard of hands-on clinical training, they are also the pioneers in the field who will set the standard for future clinicians.

The Department of Family Medicine in partnership with the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) Twinning Centre and their twinning partner Arcadia University (USA), will be hosting a Gala Dinner to celebrate the first class of

Clinical Associates that will be graduating on 13 April 2012.

A word from the Dean, Prof Eric Buch: *"The Faculty of Health Sciences is proud to have been a pioneer in the training of Clinical Associates in South Africa in a programme that meets international best practice. We are also appreciative of the support that we have received from national and provincial health departments and from South African Military Health Service for seconding some instructors to assist with the training. The real heroes are the university staff members and staff from the hospitals where the Clinical Associates did their training, we thank you for your contribution"*.

The Faculty of Health Sciences was one of the three universities in South Africa who were the first to start at training on BCMP. The other two universities are the Walter Sisulu University and the University of Witwatersrand, with the University of Pretoria having the highest number of graduates.



The BCMP first graduate class with the staff members from the Department of Family Medicine

School of Health Systems & Public Health attends PHASA Conference

The 7th annual Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) conference was held in Sandton, Johannesburg between the 28th and 30th of November 2011. The theme for the year's conference was "Closing the health equity gap: public health leadership, education and practice". On the first day of the conference workshops on critical public health issues – the National Health Insurance, Epidemiology of non-communicable diseases for Africa, Qualitative data analysis in health, Development of personal effectiveness skills, Tobacco Use and Dependence treatment the role of the Cochrane HIV/AIDS review group in meeting MDG6, Undergraduate public health education, and the Letsema Community mobilisation for health and wellness were held. The main conference had 110 oral abstract listed for the oral presentation and 140 posters enlisted.

What made the 7th PHASA conference truly unique and memorable was the fact that for the first time ever undergraduate medical students from both University of Pretoria (Ms Shaaista Cassim, Ms Lorato Maretha Sebetlela and Ms Evodia Makhala Koto) and University of Witwatersrand (Mr Alessandro Bellomo and Mr Meshack Motha) presented posters and oral presentation. Not only did they present on critical timely and informative topics but they also excelled such that Ms Lorato Maretha Sebetlela from University of Pretoria scooped the second runner up prize for the best oral presentation for the whole PHASA 2011 conference.

The University of Pretoria had more than ten posters and oral presentations, three of which were undergraduate presentations. Among the presentations made were the



Dr Flavia Senkubuge, centre, with the students at the conference

presentation by the chairperson of the School Of Health Systems And Public Health (SHSPH) Professor Tiaan De Jager, entitled "DDT, male reproductive health and thyroid homeostasis of non-occupationally exposed men from a malaria area in Limpopo Province, South Africa". Professor Kuku Voyi also presented on "Reviewing the international health regulations and the pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009". Dr. Flavia Senkubuge who is the vice president of the Africa Federation of Public health Associations, the current PHASA vice president and also a public health specialist within the SHSPH chaired a number of the critical sessions of the conference.

Public health specialists, masters in public health students, researchers, public health professionals from all around Africa converged at the Sandton Convention centre for two days of information and knowledge exchange and moments to network.

The guest speakers included Professor Sharon Fonn whose main message was on the development of research designs and tools specifically for Health service research. Day two, Dr Tewabech Bishaw (President of the Ethiopian Public Health Association) presented an enlightening speech on the background of the relevant health protocols, bodies, developed worldwide and the action that has been taken thus far in trying to bridge the health equity gaps.

Dr Debbie Bradshaw gave an overview of the current state of South Africa in terms of the burden of disease and health inequalities. Dr Carol Marshall from the National department of health shared the concerns that the Office of Standards for Health Compliance have in terms of quality of care and how there is a complex interplay between poor quality of care and health inequalities. She also alluded to the actions that

School of Health Systems & Public Health attends PHASA Conference

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Ms Lorato Maretha Sebetlela during her oral presentation at the Phasa Conference

the Office will take on to ensure better quality service delivery.

On the last day of the conference, Dr. Davidson Gwatkin (Senior Associate at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health) talked at length on confronting global health inequalities: public health leadership and possibilities for action – in his speech he alluded to National Health Insurance schemes citing how poor implementation could result in furthering existing health inequities. He also presented seemingly successful stories of how implementation in Mexico, India and Brazil of the National Health Insurance schemes has managed to reach the poor and hard to reach populations. In essence the successful implementation of the NHI in South Africa also depends on public health leadership and careful strategizing to ensure successful implementation.

Dr. Yogan Pillay from the National Department of Health presented on the progress and challenges that have been made so far in “Revitalising the Primary Health Care in South Africa”. To date 2300 Community Health workers have been trained of the targeted 5000 by December 2011, he added. He emphasised

that the department is willing to work in partnership with all interested stakeholders. Dr Ramphela Mamphela founder of the Lestema circle gave the closing speech on the last day of the conference. In her closing remarks she spoke of the need to help South African societies, communities, health professionals and all citizens to step up and take active roles and responsibilities in society and where there is need bring to account to those in authority as a concept of “citizenship” as symbolised by being a “shareholder”.

A book entitled “Health Behaviour Interventions in Developing Countries” was also launched by Karl Peltzer and Supa Pengpid.

Four international Masters in public health students from University of Pretoria also attended the conference- and found it very insightful and informative – Melanie Vincenz (Switzerland), Rajeeva Shamisra (India), Nomathemba Sibanda (Zimbabwe) and Patrick Ngasa Cameeroon) who also presented on the dangers of second hand smoke.

Therefore, the 7th PHASA conference presented a forum for researchers and public health specialists to interface on the day-to-day activities that each of them are engaging in as a way of combating the health equity gap in South Africa. The conference guest speakers undoubtedly left all delegates with pointers on ways to engage and thoughts on how to manage the challenges that are associated with health inequities, and ways in which communities could be involved in bridging the health equity gap.

Furthering the cause of closing the health equity gap worldwide-2012.....

The PHASA conference has made a commitment to opening its doors for undergraduate students to present their research in coming conferences. Therefore, continued mentorship should be made to young researchers at the University of Pretoria to foster timely and meaningful contributions in Public health. The next PHASA conference will be held in Bloemfontein in September while the 13th World Congress on Public Health will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 23-27 of April 2012. The theme of the conference is “Towards Health equity: opportunities and threats”. Unfortunately the call for abstracts has been closed however; interested individuals may visit the conference webpage: <http://www.wfpha.confex.com/wfpha/2012/cfp.cgi>.

The HAPPY Mentorship Program

Ever wondered why the students in the School of Health Care Sciences seem to be happy and relaxed? This is no mere coincidence; it might be the result of a huge amount of organising and hard work - A Peer Mentorship Program!

The peer mentorship program of the School of Health Care Sciences (SHCS) has been running for the past 3 years as you may or may not have known. At the beginning of 2009 the program was implemented in all five departments: Human Nutrition, Nursing Sciences, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Radiography. The main objective of this program is to provide emotional, social and academic support to first year students as they enter the overwhelming world of tertiary education.

In order to stimulate the imagination of the students and help them identifying with the program, it was decided that the program should have a unique name. With the characteristics of a mentor and a mentorship program and the objectives of the SHCS for the mentorship program in mind, the name for the mentorship program in the form of an acronym HAPPY was decided on, representing:

- H: honourable
- A: approachable
- P: positive attitude
- P: productive participant
- Y: yearning for learning

This program is offered to all first year students. The peer mentors are selected from second or third year students who volunteer to become peer mentors. These mentors are not remunerated nor do they receive any credits for being a mentor. And still they volunteer!

This year a total of 70 mentors were trained and they were matched with first year students at a ratio of 1:2 or 1:5 depending on the department. In 2009, 55 mentors were trained and 70 in 2010. For this year already 100 students have volunteers. This is a great testament to the value of the programme and the impact that it has on the student lives. The first training seminar for the peer mentors of 2012 has already taken place and the second seminar will be presented on the first Saturday in February 2012.

The value of this program is reflected in

the evaluation forms completed by the students each year as well as feedback from lecturers. The program is also expanding every year with more students volunteering to be trained as mentors. The first year students reported that it is very encouraging and motivating to know that there is a senior student who can help them whenever they need it. The mentors report that the main benefit of being a mentor is learning life skills that they can use for the rest of their careers. They also feel empowered by helping others; having support from the program manager; interacting with students from other departments and getting together informally and in this way also learning from one another.

The HAPPY mentors are ready to welcome the first year students to the Faculty from day one! For more information on how to take part in this programme, you can contact Corne Nel, Mentorship Manager, at corne.nel@up.ac.za



The HAPPY Mentorship Volunteers in their HAPPY t-shirts during one of their training sessions

Department of Medical Virology shows that they care by organising a Christmas Charity Drive

During December 2011, the Department of Medical Virology organized a Christmas Charity Drive. Staff members opened their hearts by donating baby clothes, toys, prams and baby food. Jenny McKeown, founder of the Bear Hug Charity organization, donated blankets and toys. She also organised baby clothes from Plumtree Cottage nursery school in Johannesburg, which was delivered by Jane Gilchrist.

These donations were taken to the Tshwane Haven on the 14th of December and given to the Healthcare manager Karin Bruyere by members of the department. Tshwane Haven is part of the Tshwane Place of Safety Association and cares for babies and toddlers with medical problems. This organisation relies totally on funding from companies and individuals.

The happy faces of the children were a rewarding experience, which was made possible by the collective effort of everyone involved.



The team from the Department of Medical Virology with all the goodies that they have collected for the children of the Tshwane Haven

Prof Joubert recognized for her research in the fight against Cancer



At the award ceremony.

From left: Mrs J Van Rensburg, Dr Blair, Prof Hesseling, Prof Joubert and Dr Albrecht

The Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Association of South Africa awarded the AG Oettlé Memorial Silver Medal to Prof Annie Joubert from the Department of Physiology, Prof Peter Hesseling (University of Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Children's Hospital) and Dr Blair (National Council against smoking) at a function held on 22 September 2011 in Bedfordview.

The medal is awarded to a South African cancer researcher who contributed significantly to the fight against cancer in South Africa. The medal is named in memory of Dr Alfred George Oettlé, a cancer-research pioneer, who died in 1967 at the age of 47.

Prof Joubert is currently a full professor at the Department of Physiology and is recognised for her research on the in silico analysis, synthesis and in vitro evaluation of novel anticancer agents.

Dr Meyer awarded a Fellowship at the Royal Children's Hospital in Australia

In October 2011, Dr Anell Meyer was awarded a scholarship from the Nestle Nutrition Institute to complete a Fellowship in Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Clinical Nutrition at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. Applicants from Asian, African, Pacific Island or South/Central American countries could apply.

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Melbourne is one of the world's great children's Hospitals with a passionate, highly skilled and committed staff of more than 3 900, they provide a full range of clinical services, tertiary care and health promotion and prevention programs for children and young people. They are the major specialist paediatric hospital in Victoria, and also provide specialist care for children from Tasmania and southern New South Wales, and other states around Australia and internationally. When it comes to training and research they partner with the very best.

Their campus partners the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and The University of Melbourne are onsite with the hospital in Parkville. The brand new state-of-the-art Royal Children's Hospital was opened on the 26th October 2010 by Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II of England and offer won-

derful, world class facilities for patients, families and staff. The Gastroenterology Department provides a state-wide service with a wide range of gastroenterological conditions, transplantation and clinical nutrition.

Diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, liver and disorders of nutrition are important causes of morbidity and mortality, especially in developing countries like South Africa. Optimal management of these conditions requires specialized knowledge of the specific disease processes and treatment options available, as well as diagnostic and interventional skills. Paediatricians trained in this field can make an important contribution to the specialized care of these children. As it is, there is a significant paucity of paediatricians with expertise particularly in this field in South Africa.

Dr Meyer had this to say: *'I am very fortunate to get this opportunity as the first South African to receive this scholarship. I am very excited as I will be training with world renowned paediatric gastroenterologists and experience a different culture. I would like to be one of the pioneers establishing this service in South Africa when I am done with my fellowship.'*



Dr Anell Meyer

Dr Meyer will join a medical team including 9 gastroenterologists from July 2012 for a period of 12 months and will undergo formal training in all of the clinical skills offered by the department. There is an active clinical research program, individual and collaborative research projects are planned.

Department of Human Nutrition rocks Hammanskraal

The fourth year BDietetics students from the Department of Human Nutrition, as part of their twenty one weeks of in-service training, provided community service at Rekopantswe and Mathibestad clinics from 10 May -14 October 2011. A total of 18 students were involved under the guidance of Dr Rendani Ladzani, a Lecturer from the department.

Moretele subdistrict is very rural, with dirt roads, poor transport services, limited dietary diversity, a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and HIV/AIDS. During the seven-week service learning period, Dietetics students educated patients with NCDs, pregnant and lactating mothers, monitored growth of children under five, participated in breastfeeding week by training health care workers and clients.

Students identified needs at the communities and tried to address them. They identified a school with orphans and educated caretakers and teachers to improve the quality of school meals and food hygiene. Primary health care facilities in the rural areas do not have dietitians. Thus, the Dietetics students filled the service gap and thus added value to service delivery. The two clinics also had nonfunctional blood pressure measuring machines, the students managed to obtain sponsorship for five new machines from LifeMax. Clinic staff and management expressed their appreciation of the service provided by students during the subdistrict feedback meeting.



The simple way of living at life at Rekopantswe



Five blood pressure machines donated by LifeMax being handed over to a nursing sisters at Mathibestad and Rekopantswe

Department of Human Nutrition rocks Hammanskraal



Left: A student monitoring growth of a child. Right: A student handing out fruit to some pre-school children.



Students teaching mother with young children the importance of healthy eating



A Hypertension Awareness Campaign in session aimed at improving nutritional health of the community.

Izaan de Jager awarded for her Outstanding Contribution to the Physiotherapy Profession

Final-year physiotherapy student, Izaan de Jager, was awarded the trophy for Outstanding Contribution to the Physiotherapy Profession at the physiotherapy oath-taking ceremony on the 11th of November 2011. She was class representative and leader of her research group. The research study, "Comparison of two approaches to weekend rehabilitation on the functional outcome of patients in the acute stage post stroke", was also placed second at the Faculty Research Day in August 2011 in the Young Researcher category.

Some of her achievements involve organising a Breast Cancer and Health Awareness event in collaboration with CANSA, the Breast Health Foundation and Project Phakamisa. She presented the project to community health care workers in Eersterust, as part of her community-based clinical examination, as well as at the Wellness day of the South African Police Service (SAPS) of Tshwane. She also started training as a Gauteng classifier for disabled sports. Earlier this year Izaan was the youngest participant in the history of the Kilimanjaro Ultra Mountain Bike Marathon (260 km) in Tanzania and was placed third overall.



Izaan with her father Prof Tiaan de Jager at the Faculty Day Prize Winners function



Eersterust Community Health



Members of the Eesterus Community Health

TuksPhysio helps to keep the Faculty healthy

The third and fourth year Physiotherapy students had the opportunity to attend a Pilates Training workshop from the 21 - 23 August 2011 that was held at the department. This training was offered to the students to broaden their scope of prescribing exercises to their patients once they are qualified in March 2012. After the theory and practical examination, they will be able to present Pilates classes as qualified instructors, nationally and international. The workshop was run by BASI Pilates South Africa and Body Intellect Pilates Studio. A total of 32 students attended the workshop.

In line with the Department of Physiotherapy's aim to keep bodies moving and to give the senior students more hands on experience, they have now introduced Pilates classes for staff members at a nominal fee of R30.00 a class or R100 for 4 classes.

These classes take place as follows:

- Monday: 16h00-16h45
- Tuesday: 07h00-07h45
- Wednesday: 07h00-07h45
- Thursday: 07h00-07h45

Only 20 people can be accommodated per class. The classes started on Monday 6 February 2012. For bookings, you can contact Didi Makwaeba at 012 3542023 or Didi.Makwaeba@up.ac.za



Physio students during the Pilates Instructors Training Weekend

Staff Achievements & Highlights



Anja Ackermann, from the Department of Anatomy, recently won a prize for the best paper by a young individual (<35), published in the South African Dental Journal in 2010. The full reference of the paper is: A Oosthuizen, M Steyn. *"The usefulness of canine measurements and indices in determination of population affinity in South Africans"*. South African Dental Journal 2010 65(10):466-473



Prof Tiaan de Jager was appointed as the new Deputy Dean: Research for the Faculty of Health Sciences. He brings with him to this new role a strong track record as a researcher, publishing regularly, securing grants and winning awards and also as a research manager and developer. Prof de Jager has served successfully as Chairperson of the Research Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences since 2009, putting in place a number of significant improvements. He steered the development of and is Director of the UP Centre for Sustainable Malaria Control, a post he will continue to hold. He will retain his position as Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health, but will relinquish his post as Chairperson of the School of Health Systems & Public Health (SHSPH). Prof de Jager has a C1 NRF rating.



Prof Robert Swanepoel was officially appointed as a Biosecurity and Zoonotic Disease Consultant and full Professor in the Zoonosis Research Unit. The Zoonosis Research Unit has evolved out of the Respiratory and Zoonotic Virus Research group which was initiated in 2006 by Prof Marietjie Venter in the Department of Medical Virology. Prof Venter and Prof Swanepoel have been collaborating closely over the past 10 years and will be conducting research on zoonotic viruses in humans and animals in South Africa. Prof Swanepoel is responsible for the commissioning of the new BSL-3 laboratory and registration of the unit with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Staff Achievements & Highlights

Long Service Awards

The following members of staff will be receiving the Long Service Awards in the month of February. Prof Eric Buch, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, would like to congratulate and thank you for all the time and effort put into making the faculty what it is today. Your contribution to the success of the faculty is greatly appreciated:

35 Years of Service:

- Mev H Kriek (Student Admin)

30 Years of Service:

- Me GJ Gericke (Human Nutrition)
- Mr RD Kgwadi (Messenger)

25 Years of Service:

- Mev MC Aronstam (Occupational Therapy)
- Mev CS Joubert (Surgery)

20 Years of Service:

- Mev AA vd Spuy (Physiotherapy)

15 Years of Service:

- Dr M Coetzee (Physiology)
- Mev CM de Klerk (Management Services)
- Prof AM Joubert (Physiology)
- Mrs KS Maluleka (Internal Medicine)
- Ms FM Mokomane (Physiology)
- Ms RM Molebaloa (Facilities Management)
- Mnr WC Nienaber (Anatomy)
- Dr AC Oettle (Anatomy)
- Dr MD Peu (Nursing Science)
- Mev M Pretorius (Anatomy)
- Mev JA Strauss (Student Admin)
- Mev M Viljoen (Student Admin)
- Mev K Ainslie (Family Medicine)
- Mev AE Tocknell (Human Resources)
- Mev NC Brits (Human Resources)

10 Years of Service:

- Mev CJ Abrie (Witbank)
- Prof RSK Apatun (Physiology)
- Dr AK Beke (School of Health Systems & Public Health)
- Mev SR Fouche (Radiology)
- Dr DC Janse van Rensburg (Sports Medicine)
- Mev AS Jefferson (Family Medicine)
- Dr AM Koorts (Physiology)
- Mev FE Korkie (Physiotherapy)
- Mrs SE Kruger (Physiology)
- Dr EN L'Abbe' (Anatomy)
- Mev LB Mahabeer (Ophthalmology)
- Me H Malherbe (Education Office)
- Me A Marais (Student Admin)
- Mr MS Mmatli (Pharmacology)
- Mr AP Moloto (Anatomy)
- Dr N Navsa (Anatomy)
- Dr MS Nel (Witbank)
- Mev A Sutherland (Physiotherapy)
- Me C Vermeulen (Klinikala)
- Prof KVV Voyi (School of Health Systems & Public Health)

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- **12 April 2012:** BCMP Graduation Dinner
- **02 May 2012:** Prize Winners Function
- **11 May 2012:** Fun Day for Children with Disabilities
- **19 May 2012:** UP Open Day (Hatfield Campus)
- **28 - 29 August 2012:** Faculty Day

STORY SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to see your department and the staff members featured in the next issue of Health Science Matters, please send your story and pictures to Jane Moshoeshoe at jane.moshoeshoe@up.ac.za or Marianna Kotze at Marianna.kotze@up.ac.za. The next issue will coming out in May 2012 and the closing date for submissions is 28 March 2012. For more information, you can contact us on **012 354 1669 /1386**