

Health Science Matters

Faculty of Health Sciences

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Faculty of Health Sciences launches a case book on HIV & TB Drug Resistance

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The Authors: Dr Richard Lessells (Africa Centre for Population Studies), Dr Theresa Rossouw (UP) and Dr Tulio de Oliveira (Africa Centre for Population Studies),

Drug resistance is one of the main challenges confronting HIV and TB programmes in Africa. Facing these challenges requires understanding how drug resistance develops as well as up-to-date knowledge of how to diagnose and manage drug-resistant HIV and TB disease.

On the Friday 15 March 2013, the Faculty of Health Sciences, in partnership with European Delegation to South Africa, MRC Inflammation and Immunity Unit and the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies, UKZN, hosted the launch of the 'HIV and TB Resistance & Clinical Management Case Book' that is authored by Dr Theresa Rossouw of the University of Pretoria, Drs Richard Lessells and Tulio de Oliveira of the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies.

The event was attended by the EU Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Roeland van de Geer and the EU Health Attache' Esther Bouma. There were also representatives from the various industry bodies such as Right to Care, CDC, NICD, Paser and South African HIV Clinicians Society.

This book uses a case-based learning approach to present to health care workers the most important information needed to offer their patients the best possible care; and to improve their programmes to prevent the emergence and spread of drug resistance.

The focus is on the interpretation of diagnostic tests related to drug resistance. This book will help health care workers to; learn how drug resistance develops in HIV



**EU Ambassador-
Mr Roeland van de Geer**



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Faculty of Health Sciences

From the Dean's Office



Dear colleagues,

For the Deans message for this newsletter I thought I would share with you the brief 2012 report I prepared on the Faculty. Thank you again for all your efforts on behalf of the Faculty and UP.

The Faculty of Health Sciences had a successful 2012, continuing to build on our proposition as an academic home of first choice. We continued to grow our values-based culture of teaching and learning, commitment to excellent patient care and health research of benefit to society. We welcomed Prof Dianne Manning as Deputy Dean: Education and Prof Mavis Mulaudzi's election as Chair of the School of Health Care Sciences, but were sad to face the retirements of Prof James Ker, our Deputy Dean and Professor of Internal Medicine; Prof Hennie Becker, long standing head of the Department of Surgery and Prof Ronnie Anderson, Head of Immunology and Director of the Medical Research Council Unit for Inflammation and Immunity.

Prof Gerhard Lindeque was elected President of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa and Prof Mavis Mulaudzi chairperson of the Forum of University Nursing Deans in South Africa (FUNDISA), while Prof Sam Mokgokong continued as the President of the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Prof Eric Buch was appointed by the Minister of Health to the Steering Committee of the Academy for Leadership and Management in Health and Prof Lekan Ayo-Yusuf to represent South on the inaugural steering committee of the WHO's Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa. Staff members continues to serve on many other global and national bodies and

receive accolades, including Professor Kurt Bütow being awarded a Life-time Achievement Award by the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation. This is a testament to the quality of leadership and expertise' that the Faculty has as well as the respect that the national and international community has for our staff members.

Research reached an all-time faculty high, with provisional outputs of 267 accredited publications amounting to 169 publication units. The faculty's reorganised and enhanced research support systems are proving enabling, including introduction of postgraduate students' and supervisors' forums. A clinical research fund now allows for replacement of academic staff in their patient care role so that they can focus on completing PhDs and publications.

Twenty staff hold prestigious National Research Foundation ratings, including Profs Bob Pattinson and Maryna Steyn being awarded coveted B-ratings. Prof Riana Bornman was first runner-up in the Women in Science Awards for her research on the development of rural women. Environmental Chemical Pollution and Health became the newest Research Unit in the Faculty. Prof Bob Pattinson received a major DFID grant for research on preventing maternal and neonatal mortality, Prof Tiaan de Jager an NIH grant for investigating the effects of pesticides on neurodevelopment and Prof Eric Buch one for advancing executive leadership in health.

Various active international collaborations continue to enhance our research value. These include Prof Anton Stoltz's new collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health on infection control; Prof Michael Pepper's long standing collaborations with the Centre for the Study of AIDS at Yale University and the Department of Pathology and Immunology at the Geneva Medical Faculty. Prof Tiaan de Jager's collaboration with the University of California Berkeley led to more collaborative research projects in rural Limpopo; and Prof Mike Sathekge's collaboration in nuclear medicine was extended to Cambridge University.

Student success rates remained high, with undergraduate pass rates above 90% - we believe attributable to our pedagogical standards and unique student support systems. Demand remains high – 10 697 applications were

received for the 652 places available in first year. In addition to this, we received 848 applications for the nursing BCur (1 et A) and were able to admit 225 to the first year, giving a total first year intake of 877. There were 4 665 undergraduate and 1 496 postgraduate students registered in 2012. The Faculty graduated 696 bachelors, 80 honours, 151 masters and 12 doctoral students, as well as awarding 103 postgraduate diplomas.

Prof Jannie Hugo and Dr Marietjie van Rooyen of the Department of Family Medicine led a team awarded the first ever University Ultimate Laureate award for Education Innovation. The Faculty proudly hosted the examinations and graduation ceremony of the College of Medicine for the first time. Health Professions Council accreditation reviews of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy were positive. Human Nutrition and Radiography students took a professional oath for the first time so all our graduates are now ethically committed to their professions.

Plans were completed for progressively increasing the health sciences student intake – a national priority. Grants totaling R350 million were received from government for the necessary expansion of facilities, including a new lecture hall complex, skills laboratory and residence. During the year the Prinshof Western parking and sports complex and the 400 seat IT laboratory were completed. Plans are afoot for Mamelodi and Tembisa Hospitals to become academic hospitals in 2013. While practice based learning remained strong, a real challenge came from the pressure on our service learning platform at Steve Biko, Kalafong, Weskoppies and Witbank Hospitals because of financial and other difficulties facing the Gauteng and Mpumalanga Health Departments, but relationships remained strong and we foresee an improved situation going forward.

Warm Regards,

**Prof Eric Buch,
Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences**

Faculty of Health Sciences launches a case book on HIV & TB Drug Resistance



Prof Eric Buch with Dr Tulio de Oliveira and Dr Theresa Rossouw



Dr Annatjie Peters from CDC



Prof Eric Buch with Prof Tobias Rinke de Wit (Director: PASER)

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the University of Pretoria, Prof Cheryl de la Rey, appreciates and acknowledges not only the authors and the work, but also the partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is a strong advocate of partnerships between South African universities which she says 'enhance the contribution of the academic proposition to our country and to the continent'.

Prof Eric Buch, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria, also reiterates the same sentiment and says that the collaboration of the two institutions fills a void in dealing with the HIV/Aids and TB epidemics. *'The challenge of the next decade is going to be drug resistance, and if we don't get that right, we are going to face resurgence of HIV/Aids and tuberculosis that is going to overturn all the public health gains that we have achieved,'* he explains.

Prof Buch concludes by stating that the book is a pioneer that sets a path in going forward towards good quality care for patients with drug resistance in HIV and TB, and it would help ensure that patients get the correct treatment. A resulting reduced number of infections would not only benefit the patients, but society as a whole.

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and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, understand when to suspect drug resistance and which diagnostic tests can be used to diagnose resistance, get up-to-date knowledge on how to interpret genotypic resistance tests for HIV and new diagnostic tests for TB, including Xpert® MTB/RIF as well as acquire information on how to select second-line regimens for HIV and TB and how to offer comprehensive care for patients with drug-resistant HIV and TB.

The book is published by the MRC and was funded by the MRC with grants from the European Delegation to South Africa, the US CDC/PEPFAR & the Wellcome Trust. It is published under an open access license. Approximately 2,000 copies of the book will be sent to health facilities and medical personnel in South Africa.

This book is part of the long-standing capacity building program of the Southern African Treatment Resistance Network (SATuRN), which has trained 1,650 clinicians, nurses and pharmacists in Southern Africa via free capacity building workshops. The book launch is preceded by a workshop to 50 'front-line' clini-

cians and nurses in uMkhanyakude district, which is one of the most deprived districts in South Africa and at the epicentre of the HIV and TB syndemic, with particularly high levels of drug-resistant TB.

Dr Theresa Rossouw, HIV Clinician and Researcher at the Department of Immunology at the University of Pretoria and also the author of the book, says that the cases presented in the book were produced from years of experience in treating patients with drug-resistant infections and from training junior clinicians. She goes on to say that the cases should cover many important aspects of managing patients not responding to ARVs and anti-TB medication. *'The purpose of the book is to raise awareness among the health workers to the possibilities of drug awareness development, explaining how this resistance develops and how it can be prevented; and also how the consequences of this resistance can be limited so that it does not get worse in cases of patients who have already developed resistance,'* she emphasised.

Prof Sathekge making waves in Nuclear Medicine

Prof Mike Sathekge from the Department of Nuclear Medicine, was unanimously elected as the fifth president of the International Society of Radiolabelled Blood Elements (ISORBE) following the society's 16th congress, hosted recently by the Faculty of Health Sciences. During the congress, attended by nuclear medicine specialists from 14 countries, 15 international speakers addressed the delegates on a wide range of topics.

The University of Pretoria is the first institution in Africa to host the international ISORBE Congress, which aimed to educate both local nuclear medical practitioners and those from other countries in Africa on new developments in their field. As an institution that offers training to specialists in the field of nuclear medicine, as recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Faculty of Health Sciences' Department of Nuclear Medicine is highly regarded on the continent.

The speakers covered a wide range of updates regarding the imaging and management of conditions involving infections and inflammation that occur in the case of, for instance, vascular grafts, prosthetic joints, diabetic feet, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), neuro-inflammation, sarcoidosis, tuberculosis, atherosclerosis, gastrointestinal tract (GIT) infections and apoptosis. Presentations were also given on the most recent developments and research in the field of radio-labelled cells, including stem cells, dendritic cells and natural killer (NK) cells, and novel techniques such as Gallium-68 labelled peptides and Tc-99m-UBI.

The topic of Prof Sathekge's presentation was the utilisation of 18F-FDG positron emission tomography (PET) scans to predict the effectiveness of treatment for multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis in HIV patients. He demonstrated how PET scans can be used to determine at an earlier stage whether treatment for tuberculosis is effective, or whether a patient is multidrug-resistant.

The attendance of the OSORBE Congress was outstanding and Prof Sathekge said



Prof Mike Sathekge

that South Africa had benefitted from the excellent scientific programmes presented by various reputable researchers in the field of nuclear medicine and the subsequent discussions and resolutions, especially with regard to the problem of infectious diseases, which seems to be a problem in this country.

Prof Mike Sathekge has presented papers in several countries and served on the Board of Directors of the ISORBE on account of his impressive contribution and sterling research in the field of nuclear medicine, hence his recent unanimous election as the new president of the society. He will replace Turkey's Prof Kutlan Ozker, a specialist in the field of nuclear medicine, who had voluntarily resigned and had nominated Prof Sathekge as his successor. This nomination was seconded by the majority of the executive members as well as the Board.

Regarding his appointment as the new president, Prof Sathekge said this *"I am humbled by having been elected and that regards it as a great honour. I am stepping into the shoes of past presidents who are not only prominent and reputable researchers who have published numerous scientific papers, but who have also discovered a new labelling for blood elements"*. He said that he was looking forward to new ground-

breaking research during his tenure as president and promised to steer the Society in the right direction and make a notable contribution in terms of research.

Following his appointment, Prof Sathekge opted to resign as the national chairperson of the South African Medical Association's (SAMA) Education, Science and Technology Division. During his term at SAMA, Prof Sathekge initiated PhD funding/scholarships to encourage research by young medical clinicians in the country. The scholarships are awarded to two medical doctors biennially. *'I identified a need to establish a scholarship so as to assist physicians since they often do not continue to pursue their PhDs. This scholarship assistance by SAMA addresses the shortage of clinical research in the country and shows the profession investing in itself* he said.

Prof Sathekge is also the president of the College of Nuclear Physicians in South Africa, which is the examining body for all the nuclear medicine specialists in the country.

The former president of ISORBE, Prof Kutlan Ozker, described Prof Sathekge as one of the leading physicians in the area of infection and inflammation imaging who is not only

Prof Sathekge making waves in Nuclear Medicine

..story continued from page 4.

an outstanding physician, but also one of the rare scientists in the global nuclear medicine community. *'His contributions in this dynamic field are not limited to infection and inflammation imaging. He has initiated novel techniques and has introduced very valuable methodologies and new radiopharmaceuticals in nuclear medicine. There is no doubt in our minds, as the ISOBRE presidium, that we are very fortunate to have him as our president.'*

Prof Ozker further acknowledged the good output of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Pretoria in respect of TB and HIV. He mentioned the developments already made by the Department and said that he was looking forward to seeing them taking further steps towards developing new radio-pharmaceuticals for the treatment of tuberculosis (TB). According to him, 'the University of Pretoria is the centre most likely to develop new tracers for specific new strains of TB'.

Prof Matthew Thakur, the founding president of ISORBE, which is based in Philadelphia, USA, also acknowledged the contribution made by the Department of Nuclear Medicine to the radio-labelling of blood cells. He said: *'I am looking forward to Prof Sathekge's labelling white blood cells and taking it further to stem-cell labelling using gallium-68 (g-68)'*. Prof Sathekge replied that although this would be difficult to achieve, he viewed it as a challenge his Department would be willing to accept.

At its previous conference the ISORBE resolved to continue to hold informative conferences and also to offer courses in the radio-labelling of white blood cells and the labelling of new radio-pharmaceuticals. Another resolution was to increase collaboration between



different centres and to revive the writing of position papers on infection imaging.

Although he is widely known in international medical circles as a nuclear medicine physician for TB and HIV, he also investigates other therapeutic roles of nuclear medicine.

He has pioneered a special new procedure to remove cancerous liver tumours without surgery in South Africa. This procedure, known as Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT), uses the SIR-spheres' microspheres (yttrium-90 resin microspheres) as an innovative form of internal radiotherapy for removing liver

cancers. The yttrium-90 resin microspheres are inserted through the hepatic artery that feeds the vessel of the tumour. This goes directly to the affected area and dissolves or reduces the size of the cancerous tumour without damaging the tissue surrounding the liver.

This form of liver radiotherapy has been used successfully in the treatment of patients with different forms of inoperable liver tumours. Recently peptide radionuclide therapy for the treatment of neuro-endocrine tumours has also been introduced in South Africa and Africa.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- **08 May 2013:** Prize Winners Function (BMS, Rm 3.30)
- **10 May 2013:** Fun Day for Children with Disabilities (Sports Complex)
- **16 May 2013:** Launch of the Albertina Sisulu Leadership Programme in Health (Cape Town)
- **18 May 2013:** UP Open Day (Hatfield Campus)
- **20 - 21 August 2013:** Faculty Day (Prinshof Campus)

Prof Mulaudzi appointed Chairperson of FUNDISA

Prof Mavis Mulaudzi has been appointed as the Chairperson for FUNDISA effective November 2012 for a period of three years. FUNDISA was established to be a unified platform to pursue excellence in nursing scholarship at universities in South Africa.

The aim of FUNDISA is to promote university nursing practice, research and education in collaboration with other stakeholders. In so doing, FUNDISA aims to strengthen University education for nurses in South Africa and to represent the collective concerns of University Schools of nursing at national and international level, in order to further the provision of quality health care.

FUNDISA currently has 22 institutions made up of universities and universities of technologies that are members. The Heads of all university schools of nursing meet at least four times a year, and work on different projects through the portfolios of Education, Research, Practice and Advocacy.

FUNDISA works closely with national partners such as the Nursing Education Association, College Principals Association and the SA Nursing Council. They



Prof Mavis Mulaudzi (in red) with other board members of Fundisa

also work with international partners, such as the Global Alliance for Leadership in Nursing Education and Science (GANES).

Prof Mulaudzi's role is to give strategic directions to nursing education in higher education institutions. Her aim is to take nursing as a profession to higher levels. As part of its growth strategy, the organisation has now established an office in Queenswood, appointed a CEO and other critical staff members who will oversee its day to day operations. There is a move towards being an

all-inclusive organisation that accepts all members who offer higher education qualifications in nursing.

Prof Eric Buch had this to say about Prof Mulaudzi's appointment; *'This appointment will give the Faculty and the University of Pretoria national and international recognition for producing leaders who are recognised in their fields and are able to influence industry bodies. The Faculty of Health Sciences would like to wish Prof Mulaudzi well on her new appointment'*.

Nursing Class of 1964 Celebrated their 50th Year Reunion!



The class of 1964 held their 50th year reunion at the Faculty on 12 April 2013. The event was attended by 11 retired nurses. They started the day by visiting Curlitzia where they had lunch at the dining hall. They then had a short tour through the residence and were amazed to see the iron rooster in the garden is still there. They rounded off their visit with a tour of the Tshwane District Hospital and the lighting of candles at the Chapel at the hospital.

Rand Water Chair in Public Health

Prof Maureen Taylor from the Department of Medical Virology has been awarded the Rand Water Chair in Public Health.

The University of Pretoria regards the water challenges facing South Africa and the African continent of upmost importance and water research and water-related activities, which are co-ordinated by the UP Water Institute, are addressed by a number of the University's Faculties.

The Faculty of Health Sciences provides a well-balanced combination of basic science and clinical skills which supports health-related water research in the Departments of Medical Virology, Medical Microbiology and Urology in the School of Medicine, and in the School of Health Systems and Public Health.

The Rand Water Chair in Public Health will develop a more co-ordinated approach to and expand water-related training and research within the Faculty of Health Sciences to address the research needs identified by Rand Water, i.e. drinking water human health risk assessment and epidemiology.

Rand Water advertised seven research chairs positions in November 2012 and all universities were invited to tender. The University of Pretoria, through its Water Institute (headed by Acting Director: Prof Hannes Rautenbach and the Chairperson of the Advisory Board: Prof Anton Ströh), applied for six of the chair positions.

The UP Water Institute, which is recognised internationally for quality education and research in water, was successful in



Prof Maureen Taylor

four of the six Rand Water chair positions it applied for. The chair positions are set for five years each with a grant of about R1m each per year.

Cooperation ties strengthened with the University of Adelaide



Prof Eric Buch and Prof Johann de Vries (sited) during the signing of the MOC while Prof At Ligthelm and Prof Francois de Wet look on.

A Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the University of Pretoria and the University of Adelaide, Australia, was signed during a visit of Prof Johann de Vries, Dean of the School of Dentistry at the University of Adelaide, to the School of Dentistry on Wednesday 27 April 2013.

This MOC was initiated by Prof Francois de Wet who has had ties with the University of Adelaide for a number of years. He has been lecturing to undergraduate as well as postgraduate students for short periods at Adelaide for the past 3 years, and has also been involved in the manufacturing of educational videos in collaboration with their Audio-visual department.

The two deans of the Dental Schools, Prof At Ligthelm (UP) and Prof Johann de Vries (Adelaide) soon became enthusiastically involved, and after some discussions and negotiations, a Memorandum of Cooperation was developed.

During the signing ceremony our Faculty of Health Sciences was represented by the Dean of Health Sciences, Prof Eric Buch. The MOC had previously been signed and approved by the Principal of UP, Prof Cheryl de la Rey. Prof De Vries took the MOC back to Adelaide for their Principal's signature, after which the document will be active and official.

A number of areas of cooperation are already foreseen e.g. joint research projects, as well as the exchange of staff and later maybe even students.

Fitness Friday kicked off with a bang!

The School of Health Care Sciences hosted first Fitness Friday on 01 March 2013. Fitness Friday is an exercise campaign aimed at promoting good health by encouraging all UP staff members and students to get active.

A 45 minute aerobics exercise session was presented by Physiotherapy students in room 3-68 during the lunch hour. The session was followed up by a massive dance extravaganza on Friday 19 April, which got everyone present 'boggling down' to the sound of Brenda Fassie's Vulindlela.



Faculty welcomes new Heads of Departments

The Dean of the Faculty Health Sciences, Prof Eric Buch, is pleased to welcome the new Heads of Departments: Prof Tahir Pillay, Dr Nontombi Mbelle, Prof Taole Mokoena, and Prof Riana Cockeran.

Their appointments will help in strengthening the core of what the Faculty is all about which is academic excellence, high impact research and producing the best healthcare workers in the country who are able to complete successfully with the rest of the world.

PROF TAHIR PILLAY HOD: Chemical Pathology

Prof T S Pillay was appointed as the Head of Department in the Department of Chemical Pathology, with effect from 01 March 2013.

Prof Pillay was the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UKZN, College of Health Sciences from 2010 until 2011. He has a MBChB (*cum laude*), PhD, FRCPath(UK) and FCPATH(SA).

Prior to his post at UKZN, Prof Pillay was the HOD for the Chemical Pathology Department at University of Stellenbosch. One of his successful initiatives at University of Stellenbosch was the intern scientist project whereby he was asked by the HPCSA to draw a scientist programme to be used across the country.

Prof Pillay is an astute scientist who is committed to build research capacity within SA. He trained at the USA and the UK and understands global and SA research and built up programmes. He has also played a role in renovating the UKZN Bio-Medical Research Unit so that it may accommodate mouse TB and the first mouse TB infections will be done shortly. His areas of expertise are in Molecular Cell Biology, Molecular biology, intracellular signalling, Biochemistry, Chemical Pathology, Obesity and Endocrinology.

Q&A session with Prof Pillay:

What are your future plans with regards to the department that you are currently heading?

I would like to see the department regain pre-eminence in laboratory medicine to become the premier department of Chemical Pathology in Africa. I would like to help strengthen the undergraduate programme by introducing greater use of

e-learning to reinforce the departmental teaching that is currently offered. I would like to drive an expansion of the research activity in the department in the directions of molecular medicine and genetics, metabolomics, biomarker discovery and evidence-based laboratory medicine.

would like to develop greater interest and awareness of pathology and laboratory medicine amongst the undergraduates by offering a vacation attachment or elective in the department to interested students and by campaigning for Pathology week to generate greater awareness of laboratory medicine in the wider community. I would like to see the department play an integral role in the development of a multidisciplinary forensic scientist training programme with Forensic pathology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Chemistry, amongst others to meet urgent national needs in South Africa.

How do you think your role will impact/influence the rest of the Faculty?

I have a unique background and blend of experience having worked and trained in medical institutions spanning three continents (Cambridge University, Imperial College Hammer-smith Hospital and the University of California San Diego, University of Cape Town, University of KwaZulu-Natal). I believe this gives me a global and transnational perspective on numerous aspects of the strategic, academic and operational side of a medical/ health sciences institution and I believe this will benefit the Faculty.

I am a specialist Chemical Pathologist but my scientific training is in molecular cell biology and biochemistry. I am deeply committed to postgraduate and University training in the sub-Saharan African region and see myself playing a key role in developing strategic initiatives to enhance the training and practice of pathology. I am a committee member of the Communications and Publications Division of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and editor for the IFCC newsletter. My role in the IFCC has enabled me to develop networks across many different countries in sub-Saharan Africa through the membership of the IFCC, the premier international association in the discipline of Chemical Pathology.



Prof Tahir Pillay

gy.

Prior to my role in the IFCC, I developed networks with a number of countries where there was good pre-existing infrastructure for laboratory medicine. These include Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe. I developed an exchange programme for registrars in Chemical Pathology between the University of Lagos and the University of Cape Town and this has successfully hosted several candidates. I will be delivering a laboratory medicine management programme which will be held as a satellite meeting to the annual Laboratory Medicine conference, to be held in Cape Town in July 2013.

In addition to the aforementioned countries, I have established international academic links in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Japan, United States, China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, South Korea. I previously served on the Board of Directors of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-funded KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for HIV and TB(K-RITH) in Durban, South Africa. I am a member of the Board of the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa, Medical and Dental Board (MDB) of the HPCSA, Board of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies, Executive Editorial Board of the Journal of Clinical Pathology (BMJ group), Undergraduate Education committees of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) Task force on Paediatric Laboratory Medicine and the IFCC Public Relations Committee. I have been discipline editor (Chemical Pathology) for the Journal of Clinical Pathology, a BMJ journal, for the past sev-

Faculty welcomes new Heads of Departments

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en years. I have served two terms (2006-2012) as the secretary of the national Association, the South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry and helped to champion the specialty and discipline in South Africa.

I also assisted in leading the bid for IFCC Worldlab 2017, the largest international conference of laboratory medicine which will be held at the Durban International Convention Centre. The IFCC Executive Board awarded the bid to the South Africa from a total of 8 competing bids. Around 4000 international delegates are expected and it is predicted that this will inject an additional R68 million into the Durban economy alone, in addition to the commercial and corporate sponsorship from the major diagnostic companies that will be generated.

From a clinical perspective, up to 70% of clinical decision making involves the laboratory – therefore there is a great cross-cutting opportunity for my department to interact with disciplines across the faculty at the level of service delivery. At a research level, interaction with departments across the Faculty has the potential to drive the development of innovative multi-disciplinary research projects. Taken together, there are therefore a number of different areas where I can make a significant contribution to and impact on the future development of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria.

What are your special interests: academically or socially?

My interests are eclectic but I would say that my current special academic interests lie in the area of molecular modelling and computational structural biology and the development of single chain antibodies in the camelid and shark families for use in diagnostic and therapeutic laboratory medicine. My special social interest or hobby is skiing. I am an advanced intermediate skier. This is something I took up during my several decades of living in Europe and I went through the trials and tribulations of learning to ski as an adult!! My teenage daughter has undoubtedly benefitted from this interest, having learnt to ski as a young child and progressing to an advanced level.

One thing that you would like people to know about you?

My dream is to be the next Michael Crichton or Robin Cook and produce a bestsell-

er or two in the medical fiction, scientific fiction and thriller genres.

PROF RIANA COCKERAN HOD: Immunology



Prof Cockeran was appointed as the Head of Department in the Department of Immunology, with effect from 01 January 2013.

Prof Cockeran has been a member of the Department of Immunology since 1995, she is an Associate Professor/Principal Specialist and was Acting Head of the Department from 1 August 2012. She is actively involved in teaching and training at most levels, Student Medical Technicians/Technologists, BSc, BSc (Hons), Intern Medical Scientists, MBChB, BChD, Registrars.

She is responsible for evaluation, implementation and supervision of sophisticated laboratory technologies, including the flow cytometry, multiplex suspension bead array technology for application in proteomics, radiometric assessment of ion channel utilization by both eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells, PCR-amplification and electrophoretic detection of pathogen-derived nucleic acid, as well as a range of procedures used to isolate and detect the activation status and function of immune and inflammatory cells. This has resulted in frequent requests to supervise on an informal basis, students, not only from UP, but also from other academic institutions, including several HDU's.

Prof Cockeran is a committed, capable and productive researcher who has published her research findings in good-to high impact biomedical journals. In recognition of her work she has also received several invitations to write review articles, mainly on the role of the pneumococcal toxin, pneumalysin, in the pathogenesis of severe pneumococcal disease, underscoring the significance of her research, especially in relation to the antimicrobial/anti-inflammatory chemotherapy of this condition, as well as for vaccine design.

It is difficult to perform research without suf-

ficient funds and Prof Cockeran has proven herself more than competent in sourcing such funds. She has been part of a team that has sourced a large amount of money from the NRF KFD incentive funding for rated researchers and the MRC Unit funding.

Prof Cockeran has a hands-on approach to everything that takes place within her department, she does the placing of all research orders and following up on outstanding orders. She does the management and monitoring of all research funds and ensuring that research consumable stock levels are at appropriate levels at all times, obtaining quotes and placing orders as required. She is the CPD officer: keeping records of all CPD activities and issuing of certificates and acting Radiation Protection Officer. She also does the planning and arrangement of annual Department of Immunology Research.

Prof Cockeran has a PhD in Medical Immunology and she obtained her MSc in 1998 at the University of Pretoria.

Q&A session with Prof Cockeran:

What are your future plans with regards to the department that you are currently heading?

I would like to improve and extend our current range of diagnostic tests, ensuring that we stay on the forefront of technology, and offer our patients the best and most accurate testing procedures possible. On the research forefront we are presently continuing and extending our investigations into the innate immune system, as well as the effect of infectious diseases (HIV, TB and the pneumococcus) on this system. We are in the process of introducing more molecular based studies in our department, specifically looking at drug resistance development and the role of miRNA in auto-immune diseases.

How do you think your role will impact/influence the rest of the Faculty?

I am positive that the collaboration between departments, not only those in basic sciences, but also between clinical and basic science

Faculty welcomes new Heads of Departments

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departments, will be beneficial to both departments, as well as broaden the faculty's research potential. We have already established some of these collaborations, and will broaden these in future.

What are your special interests: academically or socially?

Personally, my specific research interest is in the field of pneumococcal infections, the role of environmental and other factors on viability, colonization, biofilm formation and drug resistance, as well as how these affect the innate immune system. I strive to ensure that our research has translational value, which could impact on patient care or disease prevention. Academically I strive to guarantee that the curriculums we present to our undergraduate and post-graduate students are up to date with relevant and cutting edge information at their fingertips.

DR NONTOMBI MBELLE HOD: Medical Microbiology



N M Mbelle has been appointed as permanent full-time Head of Department in the Department of Medical Microbiology, with effect from 01 February 2013.

Prior to her appointment here at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Mbelle was the Principal Pathologist at the NHLS, Medunsa. She has a BSc (Biology & Chemistry), MSc(Microbiology), MBBCh, DTM&H, FCPATH (Microbiology) and MMed (Microbiology).

Dr Mbelle has distinguished herself in various areas with the NHLS, most particularly in improvement of service quality standards, the teaching and training of medical technologists, scientists and registrars, as well as her keen interest in and participation in research. Her careful selection of research involvement has been impeccable in that most of those studies became renowned

publications. There are a number of examples: the Pneumococcal Vaccine Clinical Trials, a study performed in Soweto, which helped in the nationwide implementation of haemophilus influenza type b and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines. The other outstanding research input came through her being a protagonist in driving the research agenda in Medunsa, in the Department of Microbiology, which is now doing exceptionally well.

Some of evidence of her academia is visible in the outcomes of the students she has mentored, in among others, research methodology for up and coming researchers. She has been able to produce scientists with distinction, through her meticulous and relentless manner she pursues in grooming future researcher cadres. She immersed as a remarkable leader during her years as an Executive Manager for Central region between 2007 and 2008.

She has gained a wealth of experience in various key strategic areas, both in service and academia, which has crafted the type of a leader that she is today, with great potential to still go places. She has good standing nationally as well as a figure well known in the international arenas. She serves in a number of committees with integrity and dependability that give guidance in the field of microbiology such as the expert committee, regarded as the brains behind the determination of guidance, in this particular field. She has established links with seasoned international organisations and individuals through quality presentations of a myriad of papers in international platforms. Faculty welcomes new Heads of Departments

Q&A session with Dr Mbelle:

What are your future plans with regards to the department that you are currently heading?

I would like to see the department positioned for the single College of medicine exit examination and an increase in PhD output which includes clinical staff.

How do you think your role will impact/influence the rest of the Faculty?

I think I bring a different perspective and experience which can only enhance an already dynamic faculty.

What are your special interests: academically or socially?

I am interested in the vaccination of

preventable diseases and antimicrobial resistance in an african perspective.

One thing that you would like people to know about you?

I am passionate about engendering excellence in our institution.

PROF TAOLE MOKOENA HOD: Surgery



Prof T R Mokoena has been appointed as the Head of Clinical Department in the Department of Surgery, with effect from 01 January 2013.

Prof Mokoena was previously appointed as Professor/Chief Specialist in the Department of Surgery at Kalafong Hospital from May 1994 right up until his appointment as HOD. During this period he established himself as part of the Senior Management team in the School of Medicine. Prof Mokoena obtained his DPhil (Immunology) at the University of Oxford in 1986. He is a well-respected surgeon since 1983.

Prof Mokoena is committed to leadership and plans to run and revitalise the department and research growth and outputs for the Department. This post as Head of Clinical Department carries a joint appointment between Steve Biko Academic Hospital and the University of Pretoria. The academic level of appointment is on the level as Full Professor that Prof Mokoena has been on since 1995.

Prof Mokoena's leadership skills, honed already during his student days and later as an activist and leader in the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA), are evidenced by his appointment, election or selection to serve (often in a position of leadership) on a wide range of committees and task teams in professional organisations such as the SA Medical Association, the HPCSA, and the Association of Surgeons of SA Executive Committee.

Department of Ophthalmology making a difference in the lives of patients with glaucoma

The World Glaucoma Week took place from 10 to 16 March 2013 and it was a time that eye healthcare workers globally, commit to raise awareness and demystify this condition, often referred to as a 'silent thief' of sight. Indeed, it creeps in like a thief and 'snatches away' sight silently and painlessly. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness in the world. The Department of Ophthalmology conducted the annual free eye tests at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital during this time. Dr Seipati Makunyane also wrote an opinion piece for the Pretoria News in a bid to raise awareness of this condition. The opinion piece has been used in this article.

A typical scenario that is encountered by the Department of Ophthalmology on countless occasions is that of puzzled and agitated adults who walk into the consulting room, bumping into desks and objects because they have lost their peripheral vision but are able to see where they are headed. They would give a typical history of a slowly progressive, painless visual deterioration that they have ignored or casually managed with reading glasses. Ultimately, they noticed that when crossing a busy intersection, they are unable to see cars appearing from either side. Patients with glaucoma lose their peripheral vision first, then much later, their central vision. Glaucoma leads to irreversible blindness and often does so without warning signs such as pain, except for the type referred to as acute angle-closure glaucoma.

Another common scenario is of a young adult who, by chance, noticed that her one eye was blind whilst casually covering the other eye. Glaucoma can affect one eye, but the common type of glaucoma, called open-angle glaucoma, affects both eyes and the speed of progression of the disease may not be the same in both eyes.

This will then result in one eye becoming blind, whilst the other eye still has good vision.

Another common scenario is that of a patient coming to consult an ophthalmologist for treatment of a minor ailment like dry eyes. On examination, the specialist then incidentally discovers that the patient has glaucoma. There are a large number of individuals who only discover that they have poor vision when they go to the traffic department for their traffic licence.

It can also be hereditary. This means that people should all invest some time into studying the disease profiles of their biological families and take appropriate action – have their eyes checked regularly. Primary closed-angle glaucoma has a high prevalence in individuals of Far-Eastern descent.

Glaucoma can also arise as a complication of, or in association with, many other conditions such as blunt injuries to eyes, various inflammations, infections and tumours of the eye. Summarily, glaucoma results in damage to the optic nerve and gives characteristic visual field defects due to a high intraocular pressure.

An attempt to explain or describe what actually happens to the eye affected by glaucoma is rather difficult without the use of visual aids such as pictures or models of the eye. Dr Makunyane therefore urged readers to consult ophthalmologists and/or optometrists for screening for this disease and to ask relevant questions regarding glaucoma.

Glaucoma has some similarities to high blood pressure and diabetes in its nature. They are all conditions that are controllable, but not curable. They run in families and if left untreated, they result in irre-

versible end-organ damage. If discovered early, glaucoma can be treated and visual loss can be halted or significantly slowed down.

Glaucoma treatment can be either medical, with the use of eye drops and/or tablets, or surgical. After a careful assessment, treatment options will be determined by the treating ophthalmologist. Treatment compliance is of utmost importance in averting blindness.

The best thing one can do for themselves is to have their eyes checked annually by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist if they are at a high risk of developing glaucoma, and every two years if they have a low risk. The second best thing one can do is to encourage their loved ones, friends and colleagues to have their eyes checked regularly too.

Socio-economic implications of irreversible blindness are enormous, negatively impacting family units, standard of living and the economy as a whole. Blindness naturally leads to psychosocial issues such as depression and anxiety due to loss of independence, unemployment and neglect by family and friends.

In closing, Dr Makunyane says '*I would like to remind all the eye healthcare workers to check their own eyes and their family members' for glaucoma. We tend to neglect ourselves as we take care of our patients*'.

Pfizer sponsored 6th year MBChB Scrubs



Julian Basson (6th year student) receiving the scrubs from Mr Brian Daniels (CEO & Country Manager for Pfizer) while Jane Moshoeshoe and Prof Dianne Manning look on.



Some of the student leaders who were present at the hand-over ceremony which took place on 18 January 2013 at Pfizer's Head Office in Sandton.

Faculty Staff Members groomed to be Academic Leaders through PAL



Back Row:

Prof Chimimba (Zoology), Prof Schoeman (Veterinary Science), Prof Cloete (Procedural Law), Dr Muhr (Modern Languages), Prof Titntinger (Internal Medicine) and Prof Maharaj (Electrical Engineering)

Front Row:

Prof Buhlungu (Sociology), Prof Meyer (Biochemistry), Prof Barnard (Programme Coach - GIBS) and Dr Mothabeng (Physiotherapy)

The University of Pretoria piloted a new Programme for Academic Leadership (PAL) in partnership with the Gordon's Institute for Business Science (GIBS) in 2012. The purpose of the program was to equip participants with academic leadership knowledge and skills, in order to assist them to be effective in their career progression. Initially 15 participants from various disciplines in the faculty were nominated. The number was shortlisted to 10 and the faculty of Health Sciences was proudly represented by two members; Prof Gregory Tingtinger (Family Medicine) and Dr Joyce Mothabeng (Physiotherapy).

The main objectives of the programme are to give the participants an opportunity to:

- Explore the impact of global change, the role of universities in emerging markets and the implications thereof for tertiary educational institutions, in order to broaden their perspectives.
- Develop strategies for future roles in educational leadership through experiential immersion and be exposed to educational

leadership in a dynamic market context.

- Make use of action learning projects and coaching, work in teams to develop innovative ideas in educational leadership.

The PAL programme was facilitated by Professor Helena Barnard from GIBS and ran for 11 days over a three month period between September and November 2012. The programme was made up of two study blocks in South Africa (4-6 September 2012 and 26 - 27 September 2012) as well as exposure to academic leadership in Singapore from 5 - 18 October 2012.

The experiential immersion was used to exposed participants to educational leadership in dynamic market contexts, and Singapore was chosen for this purpose. Two Singaporean universities, National University of Singapore and Nan Yang Technical University, were visited. These universities have moved

up the international rankings and are known for having created a talent hub and necessary infrastructure to attract top researchers, in addition to attracting top junior students through their high admission standards. They demonstrate the interaction between industry and academic learning well.

The PAL examination was in November 2012, with the graduation ceremony on 20 November 2012. All participants successfully completed the programme. The programme was positively received by the participants.

In February 2013, some of the participants met with Prof De la Rey and based on the participant's feedback, the university has decided to roll out the program on a yearly basis with a cohort of potential leaders, in line with its mission of being a leading global university.

Soccer club aims to restore self-worth



Edith Malan, Blondi Seele and Mervyn Malan from the Panthers Centre of Excellence, a girls' soccer club in Eersterust, hope to instil a sense of pride and self-worth in their players.

as a woman in the team to help deal with girl issues. Her duties as the secretary are to execute the administrative issues of the organisation and team related issues such as recruiting new players, answering inquiries, ensuring that the players outfits are complete and clean. Her mission is to help the girls reach National Player Status and to ensure they maintain their feminine identity in a predominantly "male" sporting item.

Edith and Mervyn's twin girls also participate in soccer at school level and have done it since primary school days, they are also part of this team. The idea was to encourage the girls to believe that possibilities are there to make one's dreams come true through hard work, dedication, self-control and discipline. They just need people to help them keep their focus in what they believe in.

Respect for self and love for the game. That is the mission of Panthers Centre of Excellence, a non-profit soccer club in Eersterust, which strives to instil a sense of self in the girls of the community. Blondi Seele, founder and one of the coaches, said he created the soccer club in the hope of bringing a positive change within the community and especially among the youth. He said that girls of all ages are allowed to participate in the club. *"Soccer is not only a man's game, but girls and women can also participate. It teaches you self-discipline, respect for self and taking responsibility for your actions."*

Seele and Mervyn Malan, chairperson of the soccer club, agreed that they had come across many girls who were enslaved by drugs or who had fallen pregnant at a young age. Through this club they aimed to prevent teenage pregnancy as well as rid the community of negative influences by teaching the girls to take pride in their lives as well as see themselves as worthy human beings. Seele said that although life

coaching played a big role in the club, they were also hoping to evolve into a fully functional soccer club that participated in major tournaments across to the country.

He said they had a lot of potential and an example of this was Shenell Jacobs who played for the u.17 national soccer team. *"Playing soccer has its challenges but it is very rewarding. It boosts your confidence, self-esteem and you learn to become a team player,"* Jacobs said.

Edith Malan from the Department of Student Administration at the Faculty of Health Sciences joined the team as the club's secretary. She says that her expertise in the field of teaching as she previously served as a teacher for 17 years has come in handy. She can be strict and firm when the need arises. The fact that the Panthers Centre of Excellence is a girl soccer team, she believes that she contribute positively

Seele said that although many parents had their doubts about their daughters playing soccer, they had seen the good fruits it had delivered. Malan and his wife, Edith Malan from the Department of Student Administration, who is the club's secretary, said they were interested in what their daughters were up to at soccer practice and when they saw the good efforts that Seele and his co-coach, Ashley Farmer had made, they decided to become actively involved.

Edith said such as any other non-profit organisation they were relying on the charity of the community to make the club a success. *"We are in dire need of equipment and gear. We hope that the community would see the positive potential the club could have in the community and get involved in achieving success."*

The story and the picture was first published in the Rekord (Pretoria community newspaper).

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 Marianna Kotze at Marianna.Kotze@up.ac.za

The next issue will coming out end April 2013 and the **closing date for submissions is 17 May 2013.**

For more information, you can contact us on **012 354 1386**

From the Office of the Deputy Dean Research: Prof Tiaan de Jager

Upcoming Research Related Events

Intellectual Property Workshop

Presenter: Senior Patent Attorney from Spoor & Fischer (law firm)

Date: Friday 03 May 2013

Time: 12h00 - 14h00

Venue: UP Library auditorium in Carnegie Centre for Library leadership and Training

Identifying Funding Opportunities Workshop

Date: Thursday 09 May 2013

Time & venue: tbc

Research Information Session

Date: Tuesday 28 May 2013

Time: 14:00

Venue: HW Snyman

Research Brochure

The Faculty's research brochure is one of the marketing items used by the Dean's office for visitors and networking.

The brochure is due for an update. You can view the brochure on <http://www.faculty-research.co.za/> - it's the first link under Announcements / News.

If you want your research featured in the updated brochure please send a short paragraph and a recent relevant photograph to Samantha.hodgson@up.ac.za. If your research is already featured you are welcome to send an update for the new version.

Guidelines for Postgraduate Supervision

Over the next few months the focus of the Deputy Dean: Research's office will be to improve the postgraduate processes within the Faculty. As a starting point it is recommended that academics download and review the Guidelines for Postgraduate Supervision compiled by Professor Stephanie Burton. The document is available as a link from the Research Web under guidelines and templates / Academic supervision.

FACULTY DAY 20-21 August 2013

Registration is available now on www.facultyday.co.za/

DEADLINE REMINDER

Nominations for Best Publications

2 July 2013

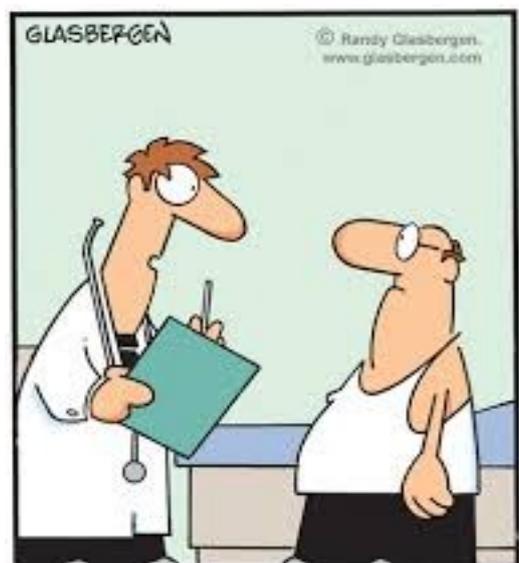
Where to Publish

Accredited journals are recognized research output which meet specified criteria and therefore qualify for subsidisation by the [Department of Higher Education and Training \(DHET\)](#).

To receive subsidy or recognition for an article you have written, you should select a journal from The Department of Higher Education and Training's List of Accredited Journals

For more information and a list of Accredited journals go to: <http://www.library.up.ac.za/journals/journalsaccredited.htm>

On the lighter side...



"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"

Staff Achievements & Highlights



Dr Paul Stevens, Department of Paediatric Surgery. The Senate of the College of Medicine of South Africa has awarded the Brebner Award for 2012 to Dr Stevens for his brilliant performance in the Intermediate examination for the College of Surgeons. The medal will be presented at an admission ceremony of the CMSA in Cape Town scheduled for Thursday 23 May 2013. Congratulations on this excellent achievement.



Dr Etienne Kok, Department of Urology, have obtained two qualifications in 2012.

The one is a Postgraduate Diploma in Practical Dermatology from the University of Cardiff [DPD(Cardiff)] and the other a Fellowship of the European Committee of Sexual Medicine [FECSM]

Long Service Awards

Prof Eric Buch would like to congratulate the following people who have received their long service awards. The Faculty of Health Sciences appreciates and values the contribution in making this the Faculty achieve its objectives of becoming the best place to train medical professionals in the country.

10 Years:

- MF Nawn (Surgery)
- S Sithole (Dentistry)
- G Pritchard (Surgery)
- JE Wolvaardt (SHSPH)
- DM Magolego (SHSPH)
- J Ker (Internal Medicine)
- KK du Preez (Operations)
- BF Smit (Human Nutrition)
- Prof MC Bosman (Anatomy)
- V Steenkamp (Pharmacology)
- NA Chokwe (Sports Medicine)
- DJ Mothabeng (Physiotherapy)
- SL Hodgson (Research Office)
- ME Shikwambane (Operations)
- MK Neluvhalani (Sports Medicine)

* SHSP = School of Health Systems & Public Health

15 Years:

- YS Ellis (Skills Lab)
- AM Xaba (Mpumalanga)
- LT Mnguni (Pulmonology)
- BJP de Wet (Oral Pathology)
- PN Mogadima (Mpumalanga)
- RM Modise (Nursing Sciences)
- SH Rossuw (Forensic Medicine)
- M Van Rooyen (Family Medicine)

20 Years:

- JG White (Dentistry)
- NJ Smith (Operations)
- SJ Kroukamp (Dentistry)
- MM Geyser (Family Medicine)
- FAM Wenhold (Human Nutrition)

25 Years:

- RS Modungwa (Anatomy)
- SA Mahlango (Health Sciences - General)

30 Years:

- NF Ramoadi (Anatomy)
- MS Molekoa (Dentistry)
- DN Dipyedi (Physiotherapy)
- MJ Thema (Medical Virology)
- E Eksteen (Student Administration)

35 Years:

- CJ Jacobs (Anatomy)